



Honor Thy Children

Archdiocese of Louisville continuing education for the awareness and prevention of child abuse

SAFE ENVIRONMENT TRAININGS CONTINUE INTO THE NEW YEAR

As we close out 2020 and look back at the last year it's safe to say the word "challenged" would be an understatement.

Through these challenging times parishes and schools have remained committed to providing a safe environment for our youth. With the exception of a 3 month pause, Safe Environment Trainings have been well received during the COVID 19 pandemic this year to accommodate social distancing. Barring any unforeseen circumstances, expect those to continue into the new year and beyond.

As we continue to see news of vaccine roll out, there is light at the end of the tunnel and hopefully a return to normalcy.

As local regulations allow, we will continue to increase capacity at Safe Environment Trainings. Be sure to check www.archlou.org/safe for the latest on capacity limits and upcoming trainings. It's a good idea

to bookmark this site as any last minute changes to trainings will be posted here (i.e. inclement weather, etc.)

Remember anyone working regularly with minors must attend a Safe Environment Training and have a satisfactory background check completed by an Archdiocese of Louisville parish or school within the last five years.

Do you think you'll be volunteering or serving in your parish or school in 2021? While it may be hard to say now, this is an ideal time to ensure you're up to date or bring yourself current.

Not sure of your status? Feel free to reach out to your school/parish Safe Environment Coordinator. If you're unsure of who that is, contact Scott Fitzgerald, Archdiocese of Louisville Safe Environment Coordinator (sfitzgerald@archlou.org) or 502.471.2132.

Why is this training so important? The USCCB

Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People is a comprehensive set of procedures originally established in June 2002 and directs action when it comes to creating a safe environment for children and young people. This includes mandating that safe environment programs are in place to assist parents and children—and those who work with children—in preventing harm to young people.

The Archdiocese of Louisville is subject to a yearly audit and each year has been found to be in compliance. Should you have any questions on regarding Safe Environment please feel free to reach out to either Scott Fitzgerald or Archdiocese of Louisville Victim Assistance Coordinator Martine Siegel anytime (502.636.1044)

Archdiocese of Louisville

December 2020

If you need support or someone to talk to:

- ☺ Prevent Child Abuse Kentucky or Indiana: 800.CHILDREN/ 800.422.4453 www.pcaky.org www.pcaain.org
- ☺ Childhelp National Child Abuse Hotline 800.4.A.CHILD 800.422.4453 www.childhelp.org

Are You Safe Environment Compliant?

Are you working regularly with children?

If so you must have attended an Archdiocese of Louisville Safe Environment Training.

You must also have a satisfactory background check not older than 5 years.

See your Safe Environment Coordinator today to verify your compliance!

SAFE ENVIRONMENT REFRESHER QUESTION...

A former student now in high school helped out with some online tutoring for my students. They mentioned in conversation they need a rather expensive piece of equipment for sports in the fall. I'd like to give them said equipment as a gift. Can I do that?

...flip to page 3 for the answer



THE COMMITMENT TO A SAFE ENVIRONMENT FOR CHILDREN CONTINUED IN A SOCIALLY DISTANT 2020



St. Joseph (Bardstown)



St. Gabriel



Holy Spirit (Louisville)



Also a special thank you to Incarnation, St. Albert the Great, St. Bernadette, St. Margaret Mary, St. Francis Xavier (Mt. Washington) St. Augustine (Lebanon) & St. Helen (Glasgow) for offering their socially distant facilities for trainings this year!

CHILD ABUSE AFTER NEARLY A YEAR INTO A PANDEMIC

Child abuse related visits to the emergency room of children dropped by just over 50% in mid-March compared to the same time frame in 2019, that according to a new analysis by the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention this month.

Concerning however, is the number of abused children who required hospitalization remained the same as last year, "suggesting that injury severity did not decrease during the pandemic," according to the report.

Dr. Robert Sege, who directs the Center for Community-Engaged Medicine at Tufts Children's Hospital in Boston says "What appears to be good news -- a decline in child abuse emergency room visits -- might instead be families failing to bring in children with less significant injuries". He goes on

to say "Most child abuse is caused by neglect, and physical abuse doesn't always cause a kind of serious injury that requires hospitalization," Abuse tends to increase when families are overwhelmed. The pandemic has moved this environment to the forefront with school closures, social isolation, separation from loved ones and job loss. This has authorities concerned as they fear a hidden epidemic of abuse that has so far gone undetected. Child abuse is most often recognized by mandated reporters such as teachers, social workers and pediatricians, who are required by law to report suspected abuse. Yet, when schools shut their doors and doctor visits slowed during the pandemic, no one was available to see and report on what might be happening to children at home.

Ways to look for abuse in a socially distant environment include asking kids questions like "how did you sleep last night?" or "what did you have for breakfast?" Are kids complaining of soreness or is there yelling or raised voices in the background of virtual classes. Ask children what they've been doing for fun or if they miss in person school and why.

UPCOMING TRAININGS

In accordance with local, state and federal guidance amid the Covid-19 outbreak, all Safe Environment Trainings continued to be limited to **25** people. If this changes will get word out to all parish/school Safe Environment Coordinators as well as post to www.archlou.org/safe

Attendance is on a first come/ first served basis.

No one under 16 will be admitted to the training. This includes infants.

Masks are required and must be worn properly (over the nose and mouth) during the duration of the training

(We do have some extras, but participants are encouraged to bring their own)

1.12.21

St. Albert The Great

1.13.21

St. Gabriel

1.25.21

Incarnation

1.26.21

St. Albert

2.4.21

St. Gabriel

2.8.21

Incarnation

2.16.21

St. Albert

3.8.21

St. Gabriel

3.18.21

Incarnation

3.23.21

St. Albert

Keep checking www.archlou.org/safe for updates



\$1.3 MILLION GRANT WILL CONTINUE TO HELP SCHOOLS

Kosair Charities awarded \$1,300,000 to Kentucky Youth Advocates, continuing their commitment to fund the Face It Movement to end child abuse and neglect. A portion of the funds will support statewide organizations. The funding provided will allow community partners to conduct abuse recognition and prevention trainings.

Kosair Charities' commitment to the Face It Movement is making a significant difference in ending child abuse in Kentucky. They recognize the importance of tackling complex policy issues, and investing in programs and best practices that aim to prevent maltreatment from occurring in the first place. A focus on strengthening families and supporting parents is especially important as we all continue to face immense stressors during the COVID-19 pandemic," said Terry Brooks, executive director of Kentucky Youth Advocates.

The Face It® Movement, launched in 2013 as a response to the public outcry against the increasing number of child abuse deaths in the Commonwealth, is funded by Kosair Charities and facilitated by Kentucky Youth Advocates through annual grant support. Face It® directly addresses the unacceptable incidences of child abuse and

neglect in Kentucky by the promotion of best practices in child abuse prevention and intervention, engaging the community, and advocating for effective policies to improve the child welfare system. Kosair Charities has contributed over \$9,000,000 to KYA and the Face It Movement since its inception. "Every child deserves to grow up safe and healthy with the support to reach their fullest potential," said Keith Inman, president of Kosair Charities. "Kosair Charities works diligently towards that goal, more crucial amidst an isolating pandemic." Kosair Charities and the Face-It Movement fund the Archdiocese of Louisville school's "Speak Up Be Safe" curriculum designed to build safety skills within the child while addressing today's societal risks, such as bullying and internet safety. The program focuses on enhancing the child's overall sense of confidence with regard to safety and promotes respect for self and peers that can be applied to general as well as potentially harmful situations. The overarching goal with this curriculum is always to provide children with the skills to identify and be able to approach a safe adult should they ever be in a situation in which they are unsure if they are safe.



SAFE ENVIRONMENT REFRESHER QUESTION (ANSWER)

The answer is "no". Page 37 of the Archdiocese of Louisville Code of Conduct states "Refrain from giving inappropriate or expensive gifts to young people."

MONTHLY SAFE ENVIRONMENT TIP

As we prepare to usher in 2021, this is where we typically remind people the spring safe environment season can be a busy one with field trips, theater performances, sports and other numerous opportunities to work with children in our schools and parishes.

Granted 2020 has curtailed most of those activities, but as we've seen with the vaccine roll out there is optimism we'll again be back to doing those and other activities soon.

When that time comes there will no doubt be a run on individuals needing to update or certify their compliance.

A friendly reminder that anyone working regularly with children, must have completed the Archdiocese of Louisville's Safe Environment Training Course and have a satisfactory background check issued by the Archdiocese of Louisville not older than 5 years.

We do not accept another diocese's training given we cover our Diocesan specific code of conduct in our trainings.

Now would be a good time to check your compliance with your parish/school Safe Environment Coordinator.

Should you have any questions regarding compliance fee free to reach out

Scott Fitzgerald
Archdiocese of Louisville
Coordinator of
Safe Environment Services
sfitzgerald@archlou.org
502.471.2132



ARCHDIOCESE
OF LOUISVILLE

www.archlou.org

**Archdiocese of Louisville
Office of Safe Environment**

Martine Bacci Siegel, MSN, RN, CNS
Maloney Center
1200 South Shelby Street
Louisville, KY 40220

Phone: 502.636.1044
Fax: 502.634.3381
E-mail: msiegel@archlou.org

No child or adult should ever experience abuse by anyone, especially a church minister. We all have the right to be treated with dignity and to expect our church to reflect the goodness of God in all of its dealings.

We hope that this information is helpful to all in our communities who are working to prevent and respond to childhood sexual abuse. Please let us know if you need further assistance or information by calling or emailing our victim assistance coordinator, Ms. Martine Siegel, at 502/636-1044; victimassistance@archlou.org or the Pastoral Center at 502/585-3291.

We must heed God's call to care for the most vulnerable among us and to continue our efforts toward wholeness and health in dealing with sexual abuse.

SUPPORT FOR FAMILY MEMBERS AND CAREGIVERS

Many times in cases of abuse, support for family members is overlooked.

Offer support to the caregivers (parent/guardians) of the abused child. The caregiver is probably hearing these allegations for the first time and will likely be very distressed. Caregivers will feel a great deal of guilt, anger, confusion, pain, and betrayal. Inform them as to what you know and have done. Listen to their fears and concerns and assist them by providing the names of community resources.

If you know someone who is a family member or caregiver of an abuse victim and have questions or concerns please feel free to reach out to Archdiocese of Louisville Victim Assistance Coordinator Martine Siegel anytime at 502.636.1044 or 502.585.3291. If you prefer you can email (msiegel@archlou.org).

