

PROMISE TO
PROTECT



PLEDGE TO
HEAL

CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH
RESOURCE GUIDE

APRIL 2017



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HOMILY HELPS—TALKING POINTS

- Throughout the Gospel, Christ calls upon his followers to care for the most vulnerable among us, especially children. Our faith also calls for us to uphold the value of human life and the dignity of the human person. The protection of children is the responsibility of the entire Church, including the faithful.
- During Child Abuse Prevention Month, we are reminded of the call to be instruments of justice, working for the common good of all, which includes the protection of children. As Jesus entrusts to Peter the care of the flock, we are reminded that this responsibility belongs to everyone as a matter of charity and justice. Child Abuse Prevention Month should lead to heightened awareness of the need to be vigilant about providing a safe environment for all within the Church and for our communities.
- Recent statistics tell us one out of every four girls, and one out of every six boys, are assaulted before they turn 18. If those statistics are correct, on every Sunday in our congregation are people who have been abused and are feeling the pain of that abuse. Reaching out to all victims of abuse is critical in bringing hope and the love of Christ to them. Our diocese is here to provide anyone suffering from abuse with steps towards healing.



HOMILY HELPS—BIBLES VERSES

- * Honor your father and your mother, that you may have a long life in the land the LORD your God is giving you. (EX 20:12)
- * Hear, my son, your father's instruction, and reject not your mother's teaching; A graceful diadem will they be for your head; a pendant for your neck. (PV 1: 8-9)
- * Train the young in the way they should go; even when old, they will not swerve from it. (PV 22:6)
- * At that time the disciples approached Jesus and said, "Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" He called a child over, placed it in their midst, and said, "Amen, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven. Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. And whoever receives one child such as this in my name receives me." (MT 18: 2-6)
- * "See that you do not despise one of these little ones, for I say to you that their angels in heaven always look upon the face of my heavenly Father." (MT 18:10)
- * Taking a child he placed it in their midst, and putting his arms around it he said to them, "Whoever receives one child such as this in my name, receives me; and whoever receives me, receives not me but the One who sent me." (MK 9: 36-37)
- * And people were bringing children to him that he might touch them, but the disciples rebuked them. When Jesus saw this he became indignant and said to them, "Let the children come to me; do not prevent them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. Amen, I say to you, whoever does not accept the kingdom of God like a child will not enter it." Then he embraced them and blessed them, placing his hands on them. (MK 10: 13-16)

PETITIONS

- For the Church and its leaders, especially our Holy Father, the bishops and all entrusted with the care of the Lord's flock, that they may truly fill the role of shepherd and protect all in their flock, especially children and young people, we pray to the Lord...
- For civic leaders entrusted with upholding the common good and justice for all that they may act in ways that show their commitment to the protection of all, especially children and young people, we pray to the Lord...
- For parents, mentors, teachers, coaches and all who work with children and young people, that they may look after them with the watchful eye of the shepherd, we pray to the Lord...
- For families who are the first to show God's love, that they may have the necessary support to provide safe and nurturing environments for children and young people, we pray to the Lord...
- For those who have suffered abuse, that they may experience God's profound love for them and God's healing powers, we pray to the Lord...
- For those who provide help for the abused: counselors, therapists, and advocates that they may act with wisdom and compassion in their healing ministry, we pray to the Lord...
- For those affected by abuse in anyway, that they may have the courage to tell their story, to reach for healing, we pray to the Lord...

SUGGESTED SONGS

- Amazing Grace
- There is a Balm in Gilead
- Envia Tu, Espiritu
- As Grains of Wheat
- Flow River, Flow (Hurd)
- You Know Me, Lord
- Shelter Me, O God
- May the Lord Bless You (Grayson Brown)
- I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say
- Heal Me, O God (Norbet)
- Restless is the Heart
- Prayer of St. Francis
- Here I am, Lord
- Blest are They
- All Are Welcome
- In Every Age (Whitaker)



BULLETIN BLURBS

April 1-2

Did you know?

The *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People* was established by the USCCB in June 2002. It is a comprehensive set of procedures for addressing allegations of abuse of minors. The *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People* includes guidelines for reconciliation, healing, accountability, and prevention of future acts of abuse.



April 8-9

Did you know?

The *Charter* calls for annual audits of dioceses and eparchies to ascertain compliance with USCCB guidelines. Annual Audits have been conducted since 2003. Results of the audits are published online in May for the public.



April 15-16 (Easter Sunday)

Did you know?

All dioceses and eparchies have Victim Assistance Coordinators, assuring that victims of abuse will be heard. In 2016, dioceses and eparchies provided outreach and support to 250 victims/survivors and their families who came forward to report abuse. Continued support was also provided to 1,510 victims/survivors and their families who reported abuse in prior years.



April 22-23

Did you know?

There is no statute of limitations for removing a cleric who has sexual abused a minor from public ministry in the Catholic Church. A cleric against whom there is an established or admitted act of child sexual abuse is permanently removed from the priesthood., regardless of when the abuse occurred.



April 29

Did you know?

Safe Environment training is taking place in all dioceses of the United States. Over 2 million clergy, employees, and volunteers have been trained to prevent and respond to the abuse of children. Contact your local coordinator to find out how you can get involved.



BULLETIN INSERTS AND HANDOUTS

You can include these resources inside your Sunday bulletins or as separate handouts for parishioners. You can print them out yourself or purchase them from the USCCB (contact scyp@usccb.org).

Promise to Protect Prayer Card

[Bilingual](#)

Promise to Protect Bookmark

[English](#) | [Spanish](#)

Graphics/Posters:

Pope Francis on Abuse

[English](#) | [Spanish](#)

Child and Youth Protection Facts and Figures

[English](#) | [Spanish](#)

Child and Youth Protection Milestones

[English](#) | [Spanish](#)



SAMPLE PRAYER SERVICE FOR HEALING

Opening Song: Here I am, Lord

Opening Prayer:

May the grace and peace of Christ be with you.

R. And with your spirit.

No one is far from you, O God. We come together in joy – mindful of the burdens we carry, the hurts and sorrows we have. We come together in gladness – never forgetting God’s love. We come together with praise – for each other and those who assist us on this journey.

No one is far from you O God and we call upon your power in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Responsorial Psalm:

Psalm 142

R: You, O Lord are my refuge

With full voice I cry to the LORD; with full voice I beseech the LORD.

Before God I pour out my complaint, lay bare my distress.

My spirit is faint within me, but you know my path.

R: You, O Lord are my refuge

Along the way I walk they have hidden a trap for me.

I look to my right hand, but no friend is there.

There is no escape for me; no one cares for me.

R: You, O Lord are my refuge

I cry out to you, LORD, I say, You are my refuge, my portion in the land of the living.

Listen to my cry for help, for I am brought very low.

Rescue me from my pursuers, for they are too strong for me.

R: You, O Lord are my refuge

Lead me out of my prison, that I may give thanks to your name.

Then the just shall gather around me because you have been good to me.

R: You, O Lord are my refuge

Other suggested readings:

Isaiah 59:6b-8, 15-18 - *The Lord is appalled by evil and injustice.*

Job 3:1-26 - *Lamentation of Job.*

Lamentations 3:1-24 - *I am one who knows affliction.*

Lamentations 3:49-59 - *When I called, you came to my aid.*

Micah 4:1-4 - *Every person shall sit undisturbed.*

The Gospel reading:

Matthew: 10:28-33 - *Do Not Fear*

And do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather, be afraid of the one who can destroy both soul and body in Gehenna. Are not two sparrows sold for a small coin? Yet not one of them falls to the ground without your Father's knowledge. Even all the hairs of your head are counted. So do not be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows. Everyone who acknowledges me before others I will acknowledge before my heavenly Father. But whoever denies me before others, I will deny before my heavenly Father.

Other suggested readings

Matthew 5:1-10 - *The beatitudes.*

Matthew 5:43-48 - *Love your enemies, pray for those who persecute you.*

Luke 10:25-37 - *The good Samaritan*

Intercessions:

R: Christ graciously hear us.

For community and political leaders to model justice and right living; Christ hear us.

R. Christ graciously hear us.

For priests to truly mirror Christ's goodness and love; Christ hear us.

R. Christ graciously hear us.

For families to nourish and foster their children; Christ hear us.

R. Christ graciously hear us.

For teachers to respect and call forth the goodness and wholeness in children; Christ hear us.

R. Christ graciously hear us.

For all adults to enrich the lives of children; Christ hear us.

R. Christ graciously hear us.

For all who support and contribute to our ministry; Christ hear us.

R. Christ graciously hear us.

For all the needs of the world; Christ hear us.

R. Christ graciously hear us.

Litany for Healing:

(During the Litany candles can be lit)

Our response will be **Save, heal and protect them, O Lord!**

For children wounded and tearful; **save, heal and protect them, O Lord!**

For children confused or alone; **save, heal and protect them, O Lord!**

For children afraid or abandoned; **save, heal and protect them, O Lord!**

For children beaten; **save, heal and protect them, O Lord!**

For children who sleep in fear; **save, heal and protect them, O Lord!**

For children afraid to go home; **save, heal and protect them, O Lord!**

For children afraid of their abusers; **save, heal and protect them, O Lord!**

For children assaulted and for children who assault; **save, heal and protect them, O Lord!**

For children whose innocence has been stolen; **save, heal and protect them, O Lord!**

For those who cannot trust; **save, heal and protect them, O Lord!**

For those who cannot love; **save, heal and protect them, O Lord!**

For those whose hearts are filled with fear; **save, heal and protect them, O Lord!**

After the intercessions and litany the minister, in the following or similar words, invites all present to sing or say the Lord's Prayer.

The Lord heals our wounds and strengthens us in our weakness; let us pray as Christ has taught us:

All: **Our Father...**

Blessing and Dismissal:

Lord God,
your own Son was delivered into the hands of the wicked,
yet he prayed for his persecutors and overcame hatred with his Blood on the cross.
Relieve the suffering of those present today (or name);
grant them (him/her) peace of mind
and a renewed faith in your protection and care.
Protect us all from the violence of others,
keep us safe from the weapons of hate,
and restore to us tranquility and peace.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

May God bless us with his mercy, strengthen us with his love, and enable us to walk in charity and peace.

R. Amen.

Song: Be not Afraid, or Prayer of St. Francis

SERVICIO DE LA PALABRA PARA SANACIÓN

(Ejemplo)

Canto Inicial: ¡Aquí estoy, Señor!

Oración Inicial:

Sacerdote/diácono: La gracia y la paz de Cristo este con todos ustedes.

R. Y con tu espíritu.

Laico: Que Dios, al que unánimes alabamos, nos conceda, por su Espíritu, estar de acuerdo entre nosotros.

R. Amén.

Oh Dios, nadie está lejos de ti. Nos reunimos en la alegría, conscientes de las cargas que llevamos, las heridas y los dolores que tenemos. Nos reunimos con alegría, sin olvidar el amor de Dios. Nos reunimos en la oración, por cada uno y por todos aquellos que nos ayudan en este viaje.

Oh Dios, nadie está lejos de ti y recurrimos a tu poder llamándote en el nombre del Padre, y del Hijo y del Espíritu Santo.

Primera Lectura:

Isaías 59:6b-8, 15-18 *El Señor está consternado por el mal y la injusticia.*

Sus obras son obras inicuas
y acciones violentas hay en sus manos.
Sus pies corren al mal
y se apresuran a verter sangre inocente.
Sus proyectos son proyectos inicuos,
destrucción y quebranto en sus caminos.
Camino de paz no conocen,
y derecho no hay en sus pasos.
Tuercen sus caminos para provecho propio,
ninguno de los que por ellos pasan conoce la paz.

La verdad se echa en falta
y el que se aparta del mal es despojado.
Lo vio Yahvé y pareció mal a sus ojos
que no hubiera derecho.
Vio que no había nadie
y se maravilló de que no hubiera intercesor.

Entonces le salvó su brazo
y su justicia le sostuvo.
Se puso la justicia como coraza
y el casco de salvación en su cabeza.

Se puso como túnica vestidos de venganza
y se vistió el celo como un manto.
Según los merecimientos así pagará:
ira para sus opresores y represalia para sus enemigos.
Dará a las islas su merecido.

Salmo Responsorial: Salmo 142

R: Oh Señor, Tú eres mi refugio

A gritos imploro a Yahvé,
a Yahvé suplico a gritos.
Derramo ante él mi lamento,
ante él expongo mi angustia,
cuando mi aliento se apaga;
mas tú conoces mi sendero.

R: Oh Señor, Tú eres mi refugio

En el camino por donde voy
me han escondido una trampa.
Mira a la derecha, y ve,
no hay nadie que me conozca.
No hay refugio para mí,
nadie que de mí se cuide.

R: Oh Señor, Tú eres mi refugio

Por eso, a ti clamo, Yahvé;
te digo: ¡Tú eres mi refugio,
mi porción en la tierra de los vivos!
Presta atención a mi clamor,
pues estoy del todo abatido.

R: Oh Señor, Tú eres mi refugio

¡Líbrame de mis perseguidores,
pues son más fuertes que yo!
¡Saca mi vida de la cárcel
para dar gracias a tu nombre!
Y me harán corro los justos
por tus favores conmigo.

Otras lecturas sugeridas:

Job 3, 1-26 – *Maldito el día que nació.*

Lamentaciones 3, 1-24 – *Yo soy quien conoce la aflicción.*

Lamentaciones 3, 49-59 – *Cuando yo callé, tú viniste en mi ayuda.*

Miqueas 4, 1-4 – *Cada persona deberá sentarse sin molestias.*

Lectura del Evangelio:

No tengan miedo a los que matan el cuerpo.

Lectura del santo Evangelio según san Mateo 10, 28-33

En aquel tiempo, Jesús dijo a sus apóstoles: No tengan miedo a los que matan el cuerpo, pero no pueden matar el alma. Teman, más bien, a quien puede arrojar al lugar de castigo el alma y el cuerpo.

¿No es verdad que se venden dos pajarillos por una moneda? Sin embargo, ni uno solo de ellos cae por tierra si no lo permite el Padre. En cuanto a ustedes, hasta los cabellos de su cabeza están contados. Por lo tanto, no tengan miedo, porque ustedes valen mucho más que todos los pájaros del mundo.

A quien me reconozca delante de los hombres, yo también lo reconoceré ante mi Padre, que está en los cielos; pero al que me niegue delante de los hombres, yo también lo negaré ante mi Padre, que está en los cielos.”

Palabra del Señor.

Otras lecturas sugeridas:

Mateo 5, 1-10 – *Las Bienaventuranzas.*

Mateo 5, 43-48 – *Ama a tus enemigos, reza por aquellos que te persiguen.*

Luke 10:25-37 – *El buen Samaritano*

Oración de los Fieles:

Por los líderes comunitarios y políticos para que sean modelos de justicia y de vida recta.

R: Cristo, escúchanos.

Por los sacerdotes para que reflejen realmente la bondad y el amor de Cristo.

R: Cristo, escúchanos.

Para que las familias puedan alimentar y cuidar a sus hijos.

R: Cristo, escúchanos.

Para que los maestros respeten y susciten la bondad y la integridad de los niños.

R: Cristo, escúchanos.

Por todos los adultos para que enriquezcan la vida de los niños.

R: Cristo, escúchanos.

Por todos aquellos que apoyan y contribuyen a nuestro ministerio.

R: Cristo, escúchanos.

Por todas las necesidades del mundo.

R: Cristo, escúchanos.

Letanía para la Sanación:

(Durante las Letanía las velas pueden ser encendidas)

Nuestra respuesta será: **R: ¡Salva, sana y protégelos, oh Señor!**

Por los niños heridos y acongojados: **R: ¡Salva, sana y protégelos, oh Señor!**

Por los niños confundidos o solos: **R: ¡Salva, sana y protégelos, oh Señor!**

Por los niños temerosos y abandonados: **R: ¡Salva, sana y protégelos, oh Señor!**

Por los niños golpeados: **R: ¡Salva, sana y protégelos, oh Señor!**

Por los niños que duermen con miedo: **R: ¡Salva, sana y protégelos, oh Señor!**

Por los niños que tienen miedo de volver a casa: **R: ¡Salva, sana y protégelos, oh Señor!**

Por los niños que tienen miedo de sus agresores: **R: ¡Salva, sana y protégelos, oh Señor!**

Por los niños ultrajados y por los niños que han ultrajado a otros: **R: ¡Salva, sana y protégelos, oh Señor!**

Por los niños cuya inocencia ha sido robada: **R: ¡Salva, sana y protégelos, oh Señor!**

Por aquellos que no pueden confiar: **R: ¡Salva, sana y protégelos, oh Señor!**

Por aquellos que no pueden amar: **R: ¡Salva, sana y protégelos, oh Señor!**

Por aquellos cuyos corazones están llenos de miedo **R: ¡Salva, sana y protégelos, oh Señor!**

Después de las intercesiones y las letanias el ministro, con estas o palabras similares, invita a todos los presentes a cantar o a decir el Padre Nuestro

El Señor cura nuestras heridas y nos fortalece en nuestras debilidades; oremos como Cristo nos ha enseñado:

Todos: Padre Nuestro...

Bendición y Despedida:

Señor, Dios,
tu propio Hijo fue entregado en manos de los pecadores,
sin embargo, él rezó por sus perseguidores y venció el odio con su Sangre en la cruz.

Alivia el sufrimiento de los aquí presentes (o nombre);
concédeles (a él / a ella) la paz de la mente
y una fe renovada en su protección y cuidado.
Protégenos a todos de la violencia de otros,
manténnos seguros de las armas del odio,
y restaura en nosotros la tranquilidad y la paz.
Te lo pedimos a través de Cristo nuestro Señor

Que Dios nos bendiga con su misericordia, nos Fortalezca con su amor y nos permita caminar en la caridad y en la paz. **R. Amén.**

Canto: No tengas Miedo o Hazme un Instrumento de tu Paz

ADDITIONAL SUGGESTIONS

- Schedule time throughout the month to say a [Rosary](#) for victims/survivors of abuse.
- Celebrate a [Holy Hour for Healing](#) for victims/survivors of abuse and reconciliation for the Church.
- Take time before or after Mass to recognize those who have both trained others in safe environment programs and those who have been trained.
- Celebrate the [Order for the Blessing of a Victim of Crime or Oppression](#). The blessing is intended to assist the victim and help him or her come to a state of tranquility and peace. These orders can be used by a priest or a deacon, and also by a layperson, who follows the rite and prayers designated for a lay minister.
- Hang these [posters](#) (also in [Spanish](#)) in your parish or school.

