



SECRETARIAT OF CHILD AND YOUTH PROTECTION • UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS

Did You Know?

april is child abuse prevention month



Keeping God's Children Safe

To know that we are children of God is to live in complete love, with deep abiding security and the ability to dream, to sing, to create, to laugh, and to play without worry. As we grow older, we face a new reality—we cannot approach all God's creation with the same trust and confidence. We learn, through sometimes hurtful and damaging experiences, that some people reject the ability that God gave them to love and respect others—they ignore God's call. The diocese's programs to safeguard children help remind us of these very facts. With the help of these programs, the faithful are guided and educated about the responsibility of how to keep God's children protected and safe. To learn more about these programs or to arrange for a live training, please call Ed Gaffney, Director of Mission Effectiveness, at 719-636-2345

Dangers of Cell Phone Cameras

Cell phones with photographic capability are a mixed blessing. Forget your camera? Whip out the cell phone, and your toddler's first step, friend's goofy mishap, or fender-bender is captured for posterity. But cell phones are also being used in a sinister way—to silently take pictures of unsuspecting children, adolescents, and adults in compromising positions and without their consent. Plus, unlike conventional photographs, digital photos can be placed on the Internet very quickly—within minutes of taking the photo—and distributed around the world. In fact, some Web sites have been created for the sole purpose of posting photos taken surreptitiously with camera phones. Have a healthy suspicion of anyone using a cell phone in an awkward way, such as not holding it up to his or her ear or facing his or her mouth in a walkie-talkie style. Be especially cognizant of any suspicious cell phone use in areas where people could be in various states of undress or where children are gathered. If you see someone using a cell phone in a way that appears suspicious, don't be afraid to ask what he or she is doing or to alert someone in a position of authority about your concerns.



A PRAYER FOR

Healing

Victims of Abuse

*God of endless love,
ever caring, ever strong,
always present, always just:
You gave your only Son
to save us by the blood of his cross.*

*Gentle Jesus, shepherd of peace,
join to your own suffering
the pain of all who have been hurt
in body, mind, and spirit
by those who betrayed the trust placed in them.*

*Hear our cries as we agonize
over the harm done to our brothers and sisters.
Breathe wisdom into our prayers,
soothe restless hearts with hope,
steady shaken spirits with faith.
Show us the way to justice and wholeness,
enlightened by truth and enfolded in your mercy.*

*Holy Spirit, comforter of hearts,
heal your people's wounds
and transform our brokenness.
Grant us courage and wisdom, humility and grace,
so that we may act with justice
and find peace in you.
We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.*

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ORACION PARA

Sanar

Victimas de Abuso

*Dios de amor infinito,
siempre bondadoso, siempre fuerte,
siempre presente, siempre justo:
Tú diste a tu único Hijo
para salvarnos por la sangre de su cruz.*

*Jesús Bueno, pastor de paz,
une a tu propio sufrimiento
el dolor de todos quienes han sido heridos
en cuerpo, mente y espíritu
por aquellos quienes traicionaron
la confianza puesta en ellos.*

*Oye nuestro llanto mientras sufrimos
por el daño causado a nuestros hermanos y hermanas.
Infunde sabiduría en nuestras oraciones,
alivia nuestros corazones intranquilos con la esperanza,
enderezá los espíritus tambaleantes con fe:
Muéstranos el camino hacia la justicia y la entereza,
danos la luz de la verdad y cúbreonos con tu misericordia.*

*Espíritu Santo, consolador de corazones,
cura las heridas de tu pueblo
y rescátanos de nuestra dispersión.
Danos valentía y sabiduría, humildad y gracia
para que así actuemos con justicia
y encontremos paz en ti.
Te lo pedimos por Cristo, Nuestro Señor. Amén.*

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Procedures for Reporting Sexual Misconduct

If you are aware of an incident of sexual misconduct and the suspected offender is a priest, deacon, deacon candidate, seminarian, religious, lay minister, employee or volunteer, you are encouraged to report the matter to the Diocese of Colorado Springs.

The report can be made to the Human Resources Manager or to the diocesan Director of Mission Effectiveness. The report may be given by phone or in writing.

If the report is made by phone, contact Terri Sortor, Human Resources Manager or Ed Gaffney, Director of Mission Effectiveness at 719-636-2345.

If the report is made by mail, send it to the attention of either Terri Sortor or Ed Gaffney:

(Name and Title of the Person)
The Diocese of Colorado Springs
228 North Cascade Ave.
Colorado Springs, CO 80903

Please understand that anonymous reports of misconduct compromise the ability of the diocese to follow up on such reports and to take disciplinary action or any other action.

It is the policy and practice of the Diocese of Colorado Springs to respond promptly and with compassion to all reports of misconduct. Be aware that if you report child abuse, the diocese will report the matter to law enforcement. You yourself may also, of course, report instances of sexual misconduct directly to your local Department of Human Services, your local police department and/or your local sheriff.