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**Liturgy Resource Guide**

**Child Abuse Prevention Month**

**April 2015**

Here are homily helps, sample intercessions and suggested songs. These can be used at daily masses if needed, special masses or healing masses.

* Because of the intrinsic value of human life and the dignity of the human person that is given as gift at birth; we are required to protect that dignity. Abuse of all kinds is harmful to the human dignity. Children being the most vulnerable require us to protect them from abuse. We can do that by first training all adults of our parishes that are around children and next by training children how they can protect themselves.
* 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 provision of healing for those who have suffered as victims of abuse. 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 the world.
* As members of the body of Christ we are all called on to protect the dignity of all human life. This might not be what we thought we wanted to do for the Lord, but protecting all life is what the body of Christ needs at this time. We can all do our part to ensure our children are in safe environments at home, at school, at church.
* Recent statistics tell us the one out of every four girls and on out of every six boys is assaulted before they turn 18. If those statistics are correct, on every Sunday in our congregations 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.
* Sexual abuse is not a problem in the Catholic Church is it a problem in society. The Church is in the unique position to bring this hidden scourge out in the open and offer help and protection to its victims no matter who the perpetrator is. Church assistance is not limited only to those who were hurt by its members.**Sample Intercessions:**
* 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, 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, 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 all members, 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

**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)