



NEWS

Department of Communications
3211 Fourth Street, NE
Washington, DC 20017
202-541-3200
Fax 202-541-3173
www.usccb.org/comm

FROM: Sr. Mary Ann Walsh
O: 202-541-3200
H: 301-587-4762

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH TO BE NOTED IN PARISHES, DIOCESES IN APRIL

WASHINGTON—Child Abuse Prevention Month will be marked in parishes and dioceses around the United States in April.

To assist church groups, the U.S. bishops' Secretariat of Child and Youth Protection has developed resources in English and Spanish to facilitate activities to highlight the need for prevention efforts. They include posters, liturgical guides, articles on church efforts to reach out to abuse victims and to protect children, and bulletin announcements. Many of the materials are available on a CD to enable church personnel to further distribute them.

The Secretariat of Child and Youth Protection has made care for minors a key priority and spearheaded nationwide safe environment programs through which 5,683,940 minors already have been educated on how to protect themselves from harm and 1,844,681 adults have undergone background screening and training on appropriate relationships with youth in their care.

“We can never rest when it comes to protecting children and teenagers,” said Bishop Gregory Aymond, chair of the bishops' Committee on the Protection of Children and Young People. “They are gifts entrusted to us by God and our future is in their hands. The prevalence of child abuse in our society calls for vigilance of parents, pastors, teachers, indeed, all responsible adults. Child Abuse Prevention Month deserves our attention in both prayer and action.”