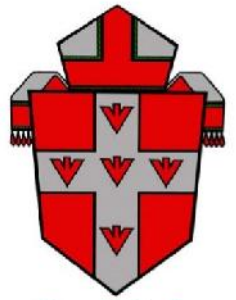


Safe Environment of the Archdiocese

Newslett

September, 2018



*Go Make
Disciples*

Dear Facilitators,

Who would have ever dreamt that we would be starting a new academic year facing the headlines that we have seen for the past several weeks! No doubt, the news of the abuse that has occurred in our beloved Church over many years, has shaken us all. In one of his recent statements Archbishop Coakley says, "In a crisis like this, it is important to rely on the strength that comes from the truth of the Gospel. In these moments when evil and sin are being revealed to us, we are provided an opportunity for clarity and redemption. We have worked diligently to establish protocols and systems to prevent and report abuse, but we must not rest. We must continue – all of us – to improve, evaluate and build on the progress we have made."

Yes, we have made progress over the years but we surely have a long way to go. The beginning of an academic year brings an important opportunity for all to renew our resolve to make sure that all of our programs—parish, religious education, youth ministry, Catholic schools, Scouts, sports, etc.—are providing the safest possible environment for our children, young people and vulnerable adults. Teachers, catechists, youth coordinators, and, all others who work with youth must be trained and reminded repeatedly of their serious obligation to provide adequate supervision for our youth. Children should **never** be left alone, in the classroom, in the playground or gym or in other various parts of the building. Supervisors of our various ministries must insure that children and youth are supervised at all times.

As we begin this 2018-2019 school year, let us all renew our resolve:

"Promise to Protect; Pledge to Heal"..

May God bless and guide you in the good work that you do and will continue to do. Know that Archbishop Coakley is very grateful for your willingness to do all that you can to protect our children.

Sister Catherine Powers, C.N.D.

From Maggie Beckham, Data Base Administrator, Assistant Coordinator...

I would like to take this opportunity to remind you about cleaning up your parish/school data base. The reruns will take place starting Monday, October 8th. More detailed instructions will follow in an email to all facilitators. Please archive anyone in your active data base who is no longer employed or volunteering at your parish/school. Remember, your parish will be charged for anyone whose background check is rerun.



Important Reminders



- 1) Our Archdiocesan policy states that every parish/mission/school **MUST** publish the Safe Environment bulletin insert four (4) times per fiscal year. Those months are July, **October**, January, April. If you neglected to do that in July, then please publish it in both September and October. Providing a safe environment requires that everyone be aware of his/her responsibility to report even the *suspicion* of abuse. (**Manual, Section VII, pg.**)
- 2) Oklahoma law requires that anyone who suspects abuse of a child in any form (emotional, physical, sexual, neglect) is required to report to the proper authorities. Please make sure that you keep this number handy:

Department of Human Services: 1-800-522-3511

If the suspected abuser is someone who works for the Church, as an employee or volunteer you must also call the **Archdiocesan Hotline at: 405-720-9878**

- 3) **No one** may work with children until they have completed **all aspects** of the Safe Environment Protocol.
- 4) Teen volunteers must be **at least fourteen** years old. They complete all parts of the Safe Environment Protocol, except the background check.
- 5) **All employees**, no matter what they do, must complete our Safe Environment Protocol. There are no exceptions.

Please adhere to these important reminders!

Have you seen our new website? If not, go to www.archokc.org. You will find the Safe Environment section in a rectangular box under the main headlines. You no longer need a user name to get into the safe environment coordinator area but the password remains the same. If you don't remember the password, please contact me or Maggie. We are very pleased with our new look and we hope that you will be as well.



At this point, everyone should have received the revised curriculum for *Circle of Grace, 2018*. This must be taught in all Catholic schools and all religious education programs. Parents should be advised as to when it will be taught, given the opportunity to look at the lesson plans, and given the opportunity to "opt out" if they so wish. There is a form in your Manual for this purpose. If you did not receive the revised curriculum via email, please contact Cheryl Clemons at cclemons@archokc.org. If any have any questions about the curriculum, please contact Dr. Jason Fugikawa at jfugikawa@archokc.org

Our on-site Audit is scheduled for Dec. 11th & 12th!

Our on-site Audit through Stonebridge Company is scheduled for December 11 & 12, 2018. It has been three years since our last on-site audit! Auditors will be looking for us to demonstrate how we are in compliance to the *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People*. In the near future, you may receive a Survey Monkey from Stonebridge. If you do, please make sure that you complete it. It will be of assistance in assessing how well our parish facilitators understand our protocol and its imple-

mentation. I do 't think that parish will be done at this time but nevertheless, please make sure that your Safe Environment records are in order.

Also, when you publish your bulletin announcement in October, I would appreciate it, if you would send me a bulletin or, if it is published on-line to let me know so that I can secure a copy. We do have to show written docu



Some new procedures:

1) As you know, our new DVD was distributed in May, 2014. Since that time, not only has our DVD changed but the Code of Conduct was revised in 2014. Therefore, we ask that in the course of these months ahead, you retrain anyone who was trained under the old DVD, that is, before August, 2014. Also, have them sign the updated Code of Conduct. We know that, for some, this will be a challenging task, but we do need to make sure that all employees and volunteers understand their obligations to recognize abuse

and how to report it.

2) **Teachers or catechists** returning to the classroom after a year or more interruption in service, must complete a new application and have a background check done before beginning to work with children. **We will no longer just take a teacher or catechist out of archive until the new background check is dor** .

Parent Resource Sectio

The Parent Resource section of this monthly newsletter will be continued this year. Because pornography is such a serious threat to our children, teens, young adults and marriages, we are going to continue articles on this topic. **PLEASE DO ANYTHING YOU CAN TO GET THESE ARTICLES INTO THE HANDS OF YOUR PARENTS OR GUARDIANS OF OUR YOUTH.** We need families on board if we are going to succeed in protecting our children from the dangers of porn and on-line predators.

PROMISE TO
PROTECT

PLEDGE TO
HEAL



The 8 Best Questions to Ask When Your Child Has Seen Porn

By Stacey Dittman, M..

Taken from: <https://protectyoungminds.c>



Naturally, you will want to find out as much as you can to help y understand how your child is processing the unwanted images. **Practice active listening as you ask your child about their experience.** You might want to take your child out for a drive or to a park where you can have some shared time in a more neutral environment.

When you keep your tone natural and conversational your child will be more comfortable sharing their feelings with you.

Here are some ideas of questions to help your child talk about the experience.

1. Can you tell me what you saw?

This takes some sensitivity! **Kids may not even have words to explain it.** They may also be afraid to say things they think their parents don't know about – what child wants to educate their parent on pornography? Some kids may not be quite ready to share it, so be patient without pushing, and let them know you will check in with them later.

2. Did you understand what you were seeing in the video or pictures?

This is an important step in the conversation, because you are getting a **“temperature check” on his or her understanding of human sexuality** – both healthy and unhealthy expressions of it. Make a plan to follow up with age-appropriate books on sex that are positive and healthy. This will be an ongoing conversation, so you don't need to cover everything at one time!

3. How did you feel inside?

Being able to express their emotions is important. Some younger children may use words like “yucky”, “sick”, or “scared” to describe emotions. **It is also normal to be curious and want to see more at the same time!**

4. How did your body feel?

Emphasize that there isn't a “right” or “wrong” answer here. Whatever your son or daughter felt was normal, even if the porn is certainly not! **It is natural to feel physical attraction – that means their body is working the way it should.**



5. Are the images coming back to your mind?

Our brain is specifically designed to remember things, especially when they pack the wallop of pornography. Assure a child there is nothing wrong with them, they are not bad and they are not in trouble. They can take charge of their thinking brain! Let them know they can talk to you any time these thoughts come back. Talking to a safe person really does help us feel better.

[Related: Ultimate Parent Hack: Teach Kids to Use Their “Thinking Brain”](#)

6. What activities could you do to help you feel better?

Getting busy with something enjoyable is a powerful way to release the disturbing feelings and images. What does your child like to do? Help them plan an activity and get going right away!

7. What can we learn from this to help you avoid this happening again?

One of the most effective strategies to prepare your child for any situation is through role play. This involves practicing assertive communication skills, setting boundaries, and taking turns being on different sides of a situation. Effective role playing will help your child to speak out or walk away from unwanted situations.

In some cases, you may learn that your teen has been seeking out porn for some time and could use some help to stop. [Check out our friends at Fortify](#) – they have an online program that is helping many young people learn some skills for change and get support (www.joinfortify.com)

8. Do you have any questions for me?

Give them some space to share what is spinning around in their thoughts. Your child may even be curious about your own experiences with porn. In an age-appropriate way, you can share what you learned about the importance of boundaries and talking to a trusted adult. Or, your child may not say much at all. In that case, reassure your child that you will continue to be there for her and that you will check in with her again to see how she is doing.

**Help to keep your children
Safe from on-line predators and
porn addiction.**

