

## Bulletin Inserts from the Office for the Protection of Children/Youth Diocese of Erie ~ 2017

*Please run this in one of your January 2017 bulletins*

### **Child Protection and Creating Safe Environments**

**Online Safety Tips for Parents & Kids:** Place the computer in a well-trafficked area in the home where the whole family can use it. While this practice can help with younger children, parents need to realize that children today access the Internet in many ways: school, library, coffee shop, work or a friend's house. Devices such as cell phones, smart phones, consoles like Xbox and Play Station enable them to go online almost anywhere. Be aware of any other computers your child may be using. To see what the Diocese of Erie is doing to help create safe environments, check out

<http://www.eriescd.org/protectyouth.htm>

*Please run this in one of your February 2017 bulletins*

### **Child Protection and Creating Safe Environments**

**Online Safety Tips for Parents & Kids:** Have open conversations with your children about the kinds of websites they are allowed to visit. Clear, simple, easy-to-read house rules for use should be posted on or near the computer monitor. Once you establish guidelines, check to make sure that your users stay within these agreed limits. Encourage them to turn off the monitor and tell you immediately if something online makes them scared, uncomfortable or confused. To see what the Diocese of Erie is doing to help create safe environments, check out <http://www.eriescd.org/protectyouth.htm>

*Please run this in one of your March 2017 bulletins*

### **Child Protection and Creating Safe Environments**

**Online Safety Tips for Parents & Kids:** Chat rooms can be a treacherous place and parents need to talk to their children about the potential dangers. Children 'meet' new friends virtually but in the virtual world you never really know who you are talking to. Sometimes these 'friends' are adults trying to gain the friendship and trust of children and youth. Continual monitoring of children's participation in chat rooms is required to keep children safe! To see what the Diocese of Erie is doing to help create safe environments, check out <http://www.eriescd.org/protectyouth.htm>

*Please run this in your April 2, 2017 bulletin*

### **Child Protection and Creating Safe Environments**

**Child Abuse Prevention Month:** April is designated as *Child Abuse Prevention Month*. Parents, guardians and adults who care for children face constant challenges when trying to help keep them safe in today's fast-paced world. *The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children* (NCMEC) offers easy-to-use safety resources to help address these challenges. Visit the NCMEC web site at [www.missingkids.com](http://www.missingkids.com) and check out the helpful topics. Watch this space in the coming weeks for tips on how to create safe environments for children and youth! To see what the Diocese of Erie is doing to keep children and youth safe, check out <http://www.eriescd.org/protectyouth.htm>

*Please run this in your April 9, 2017 bulletin*

### **Child Protection and Creating Safe Environments**

**Child Abuse Prevention Month:** Sexual abuse of minors is a pervasive societal problem. Only concerted and sustained efforts by all adults in every segment of society can help to protect children and youth. It is every adult's **moral** responsibility to protect possible victims by reporting suspected abuse or neglect to the responsible authorities at the Pennsylvania Child Abuse Hotline, *ChildLine*, 1-800-932-0313. To see what the Diocese of Erie is doing to help create safe environments, check out

<http://www.eriescd.org/protectyouth.htm>

*Please run this in your April 16, 2017 bulletin*

**Child Protection and Creating Safe Environments**

**Child Abuse Prevention Month:** There is no better time than the Easter season to celebrate the protection of one of our most valuable gifts from God - our children. According to Scripture and Catholic teachings we are called to protect the life and dignity of all human persons, no matter how young or old. Child abuse remains a national problem and working to prevent this abuse is an important response to what we are called to do as Church. To see what the Diocese of Erie is doing to help create safe environments, check out <http://www.eriescd.org/protectyouth.htm>

*Please run this in your April 23, 2017 bulletin*

**Child Protection and Creating Safe Environments**

**Child Abuse Prevention Month:** “I don’t want to be the first to say anything.” “It’s none of my business.” “Let’s just pretend it didn’t happen.” “I’m not going to be the one to tattle.” The distinction between “tattling” and “telling” is a simple one. *Tattling* is done to get someone in trouble. *Telling* is done to stop a person from hurting themselves or someone else. So don’t be the one to “tattle,” but please be the one who “tells,” and save a child’s life. Call reports of disclosed or suspected abuse to the Pennsylvania child abuse hotline, *Child Line*, 1-800-932-0313. To see what the Diocese of Erie is doing to help create safe environments, check out <http://www.eriescd.org/protectyouth.htm>

*Please run this in your April 30, 2017 bulletin*

**Child Protection and Creating Safe Environments**

**Child Abuse Prevention Month:** A child’s safety is an **adult’s** job. Children are often taught how to keep themselves safe from sexual abuse – and that’s important to learn – but that’s no substitute for adult responsibility. We make sure our children wear seat belts, we keep poisons out of reach, we teach them to drive safely. When would we leave the job of preventing child sexual abuse solely to children and youth? To see what the Diocese of Erie is doing to help create safe environments, check out <http://www.eriescd.org/protectyouth.htm>

*Please run this in one of your May 2017 bulletins*

**Child Protection and Creating Safe Environments**

**Online Safety Tips for Parents & Kids:** Instruct your children to never give out personal information online. This includes their address, telephone number, the name or location of their school, or their parents' names. They also need to be careful of any photos they might post. A simple picture of your daughter in a cheerleading uniform, standing in front of your house, could provide enough information for a stranger to physically locate her. Online predators have ways to innocently ask simple questions over a period of time that gives them enough information to know who children are and where they live. To see what the Diocese of Erie is doing to help create safe environments, check out <http://www.eriescd.org/protectyouth.htm>

*Please run this in one of your June 2017 bulletins*

**Child Protection and Creating Safe Environments**

**Online Safety Tips for Parents & Kids:** Talk to your children about never, for any reason, agreeing to meet someone face to face that they met online. This could potentially be very dangerous. You simply just don’t know who you are talking to online. Over the course of two years, one social media site removed 90,000 known registered sex offenders off its website. To see what the Diocese of Erie is doing to help create safe environments, check out <http://www.eriescd.org/protectyouth.htm>

*Please run this in one of your July 2017 bulletins*

**Child Protection and Creating Safe Environments**

**Online Safety Tips for Parents & Kids:** Parents should consider having internet accounts in their name with parents having the primary screen name, controlling passwords and using blocking and/or filtering devices. Children should not complete a profile for a service provider and children’s screen names should

be nondescript so as not to identify that the user is a child. To see what the Diocese of Erie is doing to help create safe environments, check out <http://www.eriescd.org/protectyouth.htm>

*Please run this in one of your August 2017 bulletins*

#### **Child Protection and Creating Safe Environments**

**Online Safety Tips for Parents & Kids:** Be sure to talk to your kids about cyber bullying. Four out of ten kids have been bullied online and five out of ten have said mean things about others online. Cyber bullying continues to grow and the ultimate tragic result can be suicide. Most kids who suffer or experience cyberbullying do not tell their parents as they are afraid they will lose their online privileges. To see what the Diocese of Erie is doing to help create safe environments, check out <http://www.eriescd.org/protectyouth.htm>

*Please run this in one of your September 2017 bulletins*

#### **Child Protection and Creating Safe Environments**

**Diocesan Child Protection Policies:** The Diocese of Erie, along with all dioceses of the United States, has policies and procedures in place to address the national problem of child abuse and to aid in creating safe environments. The diocese is committed to on-going screening and training of paid or volunteer persons who have regular contact with our children and youth under the age of 18. It is also committed to the yearly inservicing and training of our children, youth and parents regarding touching-safety and safe environments. To see what the Diocese of Erie is doing to help create safe environments, check out <http://www.eriescd.org/protectyouth.htm>

*Please run this in one of your October 2017 bulletins*

#### **Child Protection and Creating Safe Environments**

**Code of Conduct:** The Diocese of Erie is committed to protecting the children and youth who are entrusted to its care and to ensuring that those in ministry with our young people are in right relationship with the children/youth receiving services. To share in the ministry of Christ is a great privilege as well as a tremendous responsibility. The *privilege* is the joy of sharing in the mission of Jesus Himself. The *responsibility* is acting in a way that conforms to the attitude and actions of Christ. In this spirit, the diocese has issued a ministerial Code of Conduct, which can be accessed at <http://www.eriescd.org/pdf/codeofconduct.pdf>. The code is included in the diocesan *Policy for the Protection of Children*, which also includes mandates for creating safe environments. To read the policy, go to <http://www.eriescd.org/pdf/protectionpolicy.pdf> For more information, contact Mrs. Karen Streett, at the diocesan offices at 814-824-1195.

*Please run this in one of your November 2017 bulletins*

#### **Child Protection and Creating Safe Environments**

**Online Safety Tips for Parents & Kids:** Even the most trusted adults can't always be trusted. Coaches, teacher and parents are authority figures children feel they can trust. Yet, a large percentage of those who sexually abuse children come from this group. These are adults who have the opportunity to 'groom' children with affection and attention, making it difficult for children to identify certain attention as abuse. And they know that children have been taught to 'mind' them. Adults must be vigilant and trained to recognize 'red flags' of predatory behavior. To see what the Diocese of Erie is doing to help create safe environments, check out <http://www.eriescd.org/protectyouth.htm>

#### **None for December**

*Please run this in one of your January, 2018 bulletins*

#### **Child Protection and Creating Safe Environments**

Five Steps to Safer Environments - The Diocese of Erie mandates that all people who work with children and youth in our parishes and schools undergo child abuse prevention training. The training details five steps to prevent child sexual abuse.

1. Know the warning signs!

2. Control access to children by carefully selecting the adults who work with children and youth.
  3. Monitor all programs for the safety of children and youth.
  4. Be aware of and sensitive to what is going on in the lives of children.
  5. Communicate concerns to the appropriate person in authority. (Source: [www.virtusonline.org/virtus](http://www.virtusonline.org/virtus))
- To see what the Diocese of Erie is doing to help create safe environments, check out <http://www.eriecd.org/protectyouth.htm>

**Include the following announcements at least once a year in the parish bulletin. As you may have noticed, these announcements have been included in this list of bulletin announcement for the months of September 2017 and October 2017.**

**To inform parishioners of diocesan policies regarding child protection**

The Diocese of Erie, along with all dioceses of the United States, has policies and procedures in place to address the national problem of child abuse and to aid in creating safe environments. The diocese is committed to on-going screening and training of paid or volunteer persons who have regular contact with our children and youth under the age of 18. It is committed to the yearly inservicing and training of our children, youth and parents regarding touching-safety and safe environment. To see what the Diocese of Erie is doing to help create safe environments, check out <http://www.eriecd.org/protectyouth.htm>

**To inform parishioners about the Code of Conduct**

The Diocese of Erie is committed to protecting the children and youth who are entrusted to its care and to ensuring that those in ministry with our young people are in right relationship with the children/youth receiving services. To share in the ministry of Christ is a great privilege as well as a tremendous responsibility. The *privilege* is the joy of sharing in the mission of Jesus Himself. The *responsibility* is acting in a way that conforms to the attitude and actions of Christ. In this spirit, the diocese has issued a ministerial Code of Conduct, which can be accessed at <http://www.eriecd.org/pdf/codeofconduct.pdf>. The code is included in the diocesan *Policy for the Protection of Children*, which also includes mandates for creating safe environments. To read the policy, go to <http://www.eriecd.org/pdf/protectionpolicy.pdf> For more information, contact Mrs. Karen Streett, at the diocesan offices at 814-824-1195.