

**APRIL IS
NATIONAL
CHILD ABUSE
PREVENTION
MONTH**



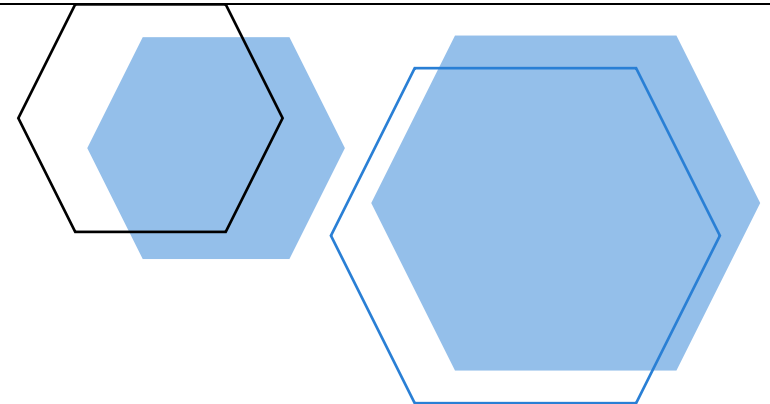
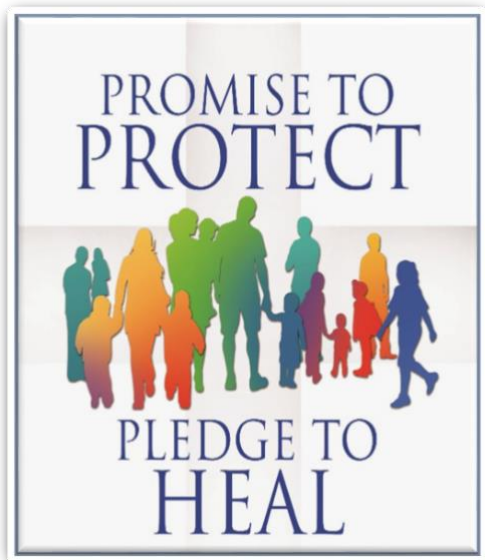
**CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION
MONTH RESOURCES-
APRIL 2023**

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April is designated National Child Abuse Prevention Month. Child Abuse Prevention Month has been observed each April since its first presidential proclamation in 1983. We are called through scripture and teaching to protect the life and dignity of the human person. Throughout the year, but especially in the month of April, all are asked to increase awareness, to educate ourselves and the community, and to seek healing for those who have been so tragically impacted by this horror.

Please see attached some resources that can be incorporated throughout the month of April to observe National Child Abuse Prevention Month.



USCCB VIDEO

APRIL IS CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH

Click [here](#) to view the video.



CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

- ❖ We pray for the Holy Spirit to guide Church leaders as they promote justice and healing for victims and survivors of abuse.
- ❖ We pray for our Holy Father, that he may fulfill his role as good shepherd, and protect the most vulnerable in his flock.
- ❖ May all civic leaders act in ways that show their commitment to the protection of all, especially children and young people.
- ❖ May all who work with children and young people be vigilant in protecting them from harm.
- ❖ We pray that all families strive to provide safe and nurturing environments for children and young people.
- ❖ May those who have been abused experience Christ's profound love for them and God's healing grace.
- ❖ May God the Merciful Father bring comfort and healing to victims and survivors of sexual abuse within the Church.
- ❖ We pray that all who provide help for the abused may act with wisdom and compassion in their healing ministries.
- ❖ We pray that God may grant those affected by abuse in anyway the courage to tell their story and seek healing.
- ❖ May all priests and religious, through their teaching and witness, lead children and young people to holiness.
- ❖ We pray that the bishops continue to carry out their promise to protect, and pledge to heal, the most vulnerable in their dioceses.
- ❖ We pray that all parish communities affected by abuse find healing and reconciliation through the Blessed Virgin Mary.





A PRAYER FOR HEALING

VICTIMS OF ABUSE

Holy Spirit, comforter
of hearts,
heal your people's wounds
and transform brokenness
into wholeness.

Grant us the courage
and wisdom,
humility and grace, to act
with justice.

Breathe wisdom into our
prayers and labors.

Grant that all harmed by
abuse may find peace
in justice.

We ask this through
Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

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PRAYERS FOR HEALING



UNA ORACIÓN DE SANACIÓN

VÍCTIMAS DE ABUSO

Espíritu Santo, consolador de
corazones,

Cura las heridas de tus hijos
e hijas

Y devuelve la integridad a lo
que ha sido quebrantado.

Concédenos el valor y la
sabiduría,

La humildad y la gracia, para
actuar con justicia.

Sopla tu sabiduría en nuestras
oraciones y empeños.

Que todos los que han sido
heridos por el abuso
encuentren paz y justicia.

Te lo pedimos por Cristo,
nuestro Señor.

Amén.

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CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION BLESSING

Dear Lord, We ask You to bless us “Your holy people” who have gathered to learn new ways to help stop child sexual abuse.

Open our hearts to Your call to be the “eyes, ears and voice of children and young people everywhere.” Give us the vision and grace we need to fulfill the special “commitments” that each of us has made to “Protecting All God’s Children” in our homes, churches, schools and communities. Amen.

Our local **Victim Assistance Coordinator**, Cheryl Sopo, is available to help anyone who has been abused or victimized by someone representing the Catholic Church. Cheryl can be reached at (219)588-9089.



For information about ...

The Thirty-Third Annual IUN Forum on Child Abuse & Neglect:

More information will be available [here](#).

Friday, April 28, 2023

8:30 AM to 12:15 PM

Indiana University Northwest



COMMUNITY RESOURCES

Office of Justice www.ojp.gov Programs provide a wealth of resources about the prevalence of abuse, how to prevent abuse, and ways to respond.

Department of Health and Human Services - www.childwelfare.gov includes media graphics, conversation starters, publications and facts including National Child Abuse Prevention Month resources.

Child Help USA www.childhelp.org -provides resources for children, teens and youth

National Center for Missing and Exploited Children www.missingkids.org includes victim resources, educational programs ([Netsmartz](#) and [Kisdsmartz](#)), professional training,

National Child Advocacy Center www.nationalcac.org
Provides advocacy for youth and families as they navigate the legal system and seek healing, guidance for community service providers, training for professionals, promotes research in the prevention of abuse.

Prevent Child Abuse America www.preventchildabuse.org
Chapters throughout the nation provide services to families and resources for the community.

