

# CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH

Be a Part of the Safety Net of Protection for Children

The Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph • April 2019

## #BEAPARTOFTHESOLUTION



The Pennsylvania grand jury report, published in August of 2018, brought the scandal of clergy sex abuse in the US to the forefront once again. In the following months, headlines about abusive priests, indifferent bishops, predatory cardinals and Vatican corruption ensued. Pope Francis held a world-wide summit in Rome in February, the “Protection of Minors in the Church” ([www.pbc2019.org](http://www.pbc2019.org)). A number of issues have been identified with strong calls for reform including more leadership by laity in the handling of clergy sex abuse. Now, more than ever, we have an opportunity to change the way the world and our Church responds to sexual abuse and to help those who have been harmed. Since each of us make up the Church, how will you impact this movement?

## #JOINTHECONVERSATION

### DID YOU KNOW?

- 1:4 girls and 1:6 boys will be sexually abused by the age of 18
- Abusers of children are people we know and trust
- 73% of child sexual abuse victims do not tell anyone for at least a year
- 45% of victims do not tell anyone for at least 5 years
- Some victims wait decades to disclose while some never disclose their abuse
- The residual effects of having been abused can last a lifetime
- Predators entice children online through games, apps and sites they frequent

*“The pain of the victims and their families is also our pain, and so it is urgent that we once more reaffirm our commitment to ensure the protection of minors and of vulnerable adults.”*

*Pope Francis*

## #PRAY

### Participate in the Annual Diocesan Day of Prayer in Atonement and for Healing

April 26, 12:15PM

- Attend mass presided by Bishop James V. Johnston Jr. at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception
- Pray the Rosary for healing and protection
- Pray the Novena for protection and healing from abuse (*look for prayer resources at [kcsjocyp.org/resources](http://kcsjocyp.org/resources)*)
- Check with your parish or school for more Day of Prayer events

## #PREVENTION

### SUPPORT OUR PROMISE TO PROTECT

- Attend a VIRTUS® Protecting God’s Children Workshop
- Teach children how to be safe online - [Netsmartz.org](http://Netsmartz.org)
- Learn how to protect child athletes - [safetocompete.org](http://safetocompete.org)
- Watch for warning signs and take action - [preventchildabuse.org](http://preventchildabuse.org)
- Trust your instincts – If you see something, say something!
- Report all suspicions of child abuse to the civil authorities
- 800-392-3738 Missouri Child Abuse Hotline

## #HEALING

### SUPPORT THOSE WHO ARE HURTING

- Recognize the impact of sexual abuse
- Listen, offer care, compassion, and prayers for those who suffer
- Subscribe – [thehealingvoicesnewsletter.wordpress.com](http://thehealingvoicesnewsletter.wordpress.com)
- If you are a survivor of sexual abuse and would like support, please contact Kathleen Chastain for resources



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