

Child Abuse Prevention Month Video: <https://vimeo.com/531900073>

TRANSCRIPT:

Happy Easter, everyone!

As many of you know, April is Child Abuse Prevention Month; not only in the United States across our country, but especially within our church community we use this as an opportunity to focus again on all the initiatives that we're taking—trainings, various things that we do on a daily basis to make sure our parishes and our schools are safe places for our children. We also pray for those who have been harmed by child sexual abuse—sometimes within the Church tragically; also in other places, within families and other settings. So we have an opportunity again this year to pray at an annual Mass, it's on April 26th this year at the cathedral in Saint Joseph. It's the day that we set aside for prayer in atonement and for the healing of those harmed by sexual abuse. Also on that day, many of our schools and our parishes will be having prayer services, various activities to draw our attention to this important topic. You know, I've been honored and privileged to be chosen by my brother bishops to serve on the Bishops' Committee for Child and Youth Protection, and so I'm very involved with my brother bishops and all those who assist them in making the entire Church in the United States stronger in this area. I was also thinking, this is a special year of Saint Joseph; Pope Francis has called us to set that figure, the person of Saint Joseph in front of us as a model. And one of the things that we look to him for is really as a protector of children, the Christ Child. So in this year and in this month of April this year, let us really have before us that figure of Saint Joseph—someone who not only models courage and responsibility, but also someone that we can call upon to be an intercessor.

So God bless you all, and I hope you have an opportunity to take part in some of the activities, the events that are part of this Child Abuse Prevention Month this year. God bless!