

March 14, 2018

**Update from the Safe Environment Office:**

April is Child Abuse Prevention Month and National Sexual Assault Awareness Month. This is the month we try to do much to promote all that we have learned through Safe Environment to encourage awareness to all our people throughout the Diocese of Rapid City. USCCB has gathered many materials to help dioceses in this effort. While you may not use all of the attachments included with this topic, I do hope you will use some of them throughout the month, as well as encourage your faith formation programs and other parish groups to consider them at the times they meet as well.

There are three different posters (one in Spanish) that may be placed in various gathering areas. The Rosary Booklet could be used by classes, groups, or rosary leaders before mass with the reflections given on each decade mystery. "A Prayer for Healing" (one side English, one side Spanish) can obviously be used at church, with groups, or individuals if made available. We never know what will touch a heart!

The Resource Guide is pages full of many possible ways to incorporate aspects throughout liturgies, group meetings, and activities from family to whole parish. The Bulletin Blurbs I will send out each week through Laurie for inclusion in parish bulletins. Page 7 is entitled "Prayers," which could be said as prayers, as a litany-type format, or even in the Petitions at daily mass. They have also noted some Petitions on page 12 that allows one to select a couple to include each Sunday in April without repeating. There is more to explore in this resource guide.

These first weeks of the Church's Easter Season, when we celebrate the resurrection of our Lord and new life for all of us, are a great time to recommit our efforts to help give each child a chance to grow up in a safe, stable, and nurturing environment free from abuse and neglect. Let us support them to mature and become all they were meant to be in God's eyes with healthy relationships with our Risen Savior and others. Thank you!

*Charlotte*

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