



DIocese of Raleigh

Office of the Bishop

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April 2022

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Each April we observe *Prevent Child Abuse Month*, a time to remind us that everyone shares a responsibility for the protection of all of God's children. Especially this month, I ask you to pray for those who have experienced the pain of abuse and for those who give them the help they need so that they may begin to encounter the Compassionate Heart of Jesus.

It is an adult's job to keep children safe as they grow in "wisdom and age and favor before God and man." (Lk 2:52 NABRE) Our relationship with our children is essential for their formation and protection. Please consider ways that you can be a faith filled companion in the life of a child or teen. As a teacher, coach, or leader in youth activities, you will participate in our Diocesan Safe Environment Training which helps give you the capacity to recognize and report child abuse and neglect. This training also equips you to be a community leader in giving our young people safe places to encounter our Lord Jesus in the sacraments, the Holy scriptures, the Holy Mass and in the fellowship of Christian communities.

As we mark this observance, I renew my gratitude to the members of the local Safe Environment Teams and to all those who minister to children and teens in the Diocese of Raleigh for your commitment to these important priorities and those emphasized by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) in the *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People*.

Please accept my gratitude for the good work you have already done to show our children and young people how much they are loved. As we celebrate Easter, may our Risen Lord Jesus bless us with His peace.

In Christ,

  
† Luis Rafael Zarama, J.C.L.  
Bishop of Raleigh