



Voluntary Reporting of Suspected Child Abuse and Neglect:

Attached are resources from Denise on the subject of suspicion of child abuse and neglect. I just received a call yesterday on my way to Council Bluffs from a colleague who had attended and used some of the information provided with her catechist. For those who were not able to attend, I hope the PowerPoint and the resource sheet will be helpful in case you and a catechist or youth ministry volunteer suspect abuse or neglect.

Please know talking this out confidentially with trusted sources is one of the best steps you can take as you consider making a voluntary report. Some of those trusted sources are:

- Sr. Jude Fitzpatrick (at the Diocese)
- John Gaffney
- Cheryl Fournier
- a local School Principal (public or Parochial)
- Denise Mulcahy (Diocesan Catholic School's Office)
- your county or regional DHS Office

Please know that I am a phone call away in case you need to discuss any issues relating to reporting child abuse/neglect. Thank you to Denise Mulcahy and Ellen Stemler for volunteering their time and talent in helping us cover this important topic.

Guided Meditation for Confirmation:

Attached is a wonderful guided meditation that has been used by Tara Menke, St. Mary's parish in Shenandoah, regarding Confirmation. I was with her, her candidates and sponsors last week and found the session delightful. Although it was one of their final sessions, it was a wonderful mix of content, prayer, community building and discussion.

Please know that it is my intent to come to each program over the next few years to support you and your community. Do not worry when you receive an e-mail from me asking to attend an upcoming session.

Upcoming Webinar on April 2 from the Center for Ministry Development:

Jane Angha from the Center for Ministry Development will provide a webinar on April 10 at 1:00 pm on how to involve parents beyond chaperoning children/teens. This webinar is for both new and experienced youth ministers and catechetical leaders. You will learn ways to invite,

nurture and involve parents in the faith development of their children. The cost for this Webinar is \$25.00.

To register follow this link: <https://cmdnet.org/cmd-store/product/118-webinar-h-beyond-chaperoning-involving-parents-in-youth-ministry>

Questions local teens have about their Catholic faith:

Recently I have been spending a great deal of time visiting with high school students about their faith. Each time I ask them to give me a few questions that they have about being Catholic that doesn't make sense to them. Up through Easter I will share these with you. Perhaps your teens and pre-teens have similar questions? Perhaps by knowing these questions, we can boost formation in younger grades to help answer these questions before they become teens or pre-teens?

1. Why is Mass necessary? I understand that Eucharist is important but I do not know why I have to attend every week.
2. Why can't a divorced Catholic person get married without an annulment?
3. Does the Pope have direct control of what happens in our diocese and parish?
4. What happens if I don't feel connected to God at all?
5. How do I talk to my parents about Mass if they don't want to go but I do?

Prayer for a Holy Week:

O gracious God, infuse in our hearts the spotless light of Your Divine Wisdom and open the eyes of our mind that we may understand the teachings of Your Gospel.

Instill in us also the awe of Your blessed commandments, so that we may lead a spiritual life, both thinking and doing everything to please You.

For You, O Christ, our God, are the enlightenment of our souls and bodies; and to You we render glory, together with Your eternal Father, and with Your all holy, life-creating Spirit, now and ever, and forever.

Amen