



DIOCESE OF RALEIGH

Office of the Bishop

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April 3, 2016

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Each April, the Church in the United States observes National Child Abuse Prevention Month. In this Jubilee Year of Mercy, this observance provides us with the opportunity to express deep regret and sorrow for any such abuse, to continue to work for healing and forgiveness among those who have been so affected and to restate our commitment to provide the best pastoral and spiritual care for our children and youth. As your Bishop, I join with you in renewing our Diocesan commitment to provide a safe environment, where our children and young people may gather, study, pray and grow in their Catholic faith.

This commitment includes providing training in current best practices and resources for our clergy, seminarians, consecrated religious, lay leaders, parents and students. The Diocesan Office for Child and Youth Protection, in cooperation with our parish based safe environment teams and Prevent Child Abuse North Carolina, join each year in updating and creating these resources. Parents, the first to form their children in the faith, are always invited and encouraged to participate in these training sessions, so that we may work together to fulfill our commitment to ensure a safe environment.

I extend sincere gratitude to the priests, deacons, religious and laity serving in ministry in our Diocese, who so effectively exemplify our Diocesan commitment to the protection of our children and young people. Kindly keep each of these, as well as all of our youth, among your intentions. May Our Lord safeguard and nurture their Catholic faith and may Mary, Mother of the Church, watch over you and guide you, during this Jubilee Year of Mercy and always.

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend Michael F. Burbidge
Bishop of Raleigh