

ARCHDIOCESE OF BALTIMORE

DEPARTMENT OF EVANGELIZATION

Dear Parish Parent:

The safety of children and youth is a top priority for the Department of Evangelization. We work with children and youth in a number of ways. Our Office of Deaf Ministries helps with the faith formation of students, the Office of Worship knows the importance of young people serving at the altar and all the various liturgical ministries they assume, the Office of Disabilities advocates for children with a variety of special learning needs, while the Division of Catechetical and Pastoral Formation works with catechists who are involved in the lives of children every day. Our Prison Ministry ministers to adolescents who are incarcerated. The Division of Youth and Young Adult Ministry and the Msgr. O' Dwyer Retreat House gather thousands of young people each year who take time to reflect on God's presence in their lives and aide in their spiritual development. Our College and University Campus ministers make sure that young adults on campuses in the Archdiocese hear the Gospel call. We join in prayer with you for your children and youth, and all who minister to them.

Your parish's staff is working very hard to create safe environments for the children and youth of the Archdiocese of Baltimore. You, as a parent, have contributed greatly in our mission to protect children. You have been supportive of the Archdiocese's Child and Youth Protection policies and procedures. We thought it may be helpful to share in detail with you come of the key components of our Child Protection policies.

Reporting of Allegations

The Archdiocese of Baltimore complies with Maryland laws requiring reporting suspected child abuse to civil authorities. Under Maryland law any person who has reason to believe a child has been subjected to abuse must report the suspected abuse to civil authorities, even if the potential victim is now over 18 years old and even in cases where the alleged perpetrator is deceased. If someone associated with the Church, including clergy, employees, or volunteers in the Archdiocese of Baltimore, is suspected of abuse, then the suspected abuse must also be reported to the Archdiocese's Office of Child and Youth Protection (OCYP) at 410-547-5348 or the Victims Assistance Hotline at 1-866-417-7469.

Service Ineligibility of an Offender (including Registered Sex Offenders) and/or Those Who Have Been Charged with a Related Offense

Anyone credibly accused of child abuse will be excluded from ministry, employment, and volunteer service in the Archdiocese of Baltimore. Therefore, registered sex offenders are not allowed to serve as volunteers in any capacity in the Archdiocese of Baltimore. We do not screen the background of all parents, only those who are serving with children and youth.

Campus Ministry to Colleges and Universities • Catechetical and Pastoral Formation • Marriage and Family Life
Deaf Ministry • Disabilities Ministry • Msgr. O'Dwyer Retreat House • Prison Ministry • Worship
Youth and Young Adult Ministry

320 Cathedral Street, Baltimore, Maryland 21201-4421 / (410) 547-5321 / Fax: (410) 625-8481 / www.archbalt.org

If it is learned that a registered sex offender's child attends an Archdiocesan school or parish, then restrictions are placed on the parent regarding their participation in school/parish activities. The parent may not attend any school event and the parent's access to a school is limited to times when children are not present. A registered sex offender may participate in liturgical celebrations in the Archdiocese, however, his/her presence on Archdiocesan property other than attending a liturgical celebration will be considered trespassing. Similarly, restrictions are placed on a parent who has been charged with a related offense.

Screening of Applicants

The Archdiocese of Baltimore is committed to healthy ministry, and seeks to engage competent, qualified people. To protect children and youth, Church personnel are screened for their fitness to work with minors. This process includes mandatory completion of criminal background checks for all clergy, employees, and for all volunteers having substantial contact with children.

Training and Education

The Archdiocese of Baltimore's safe environment training program, *STAND* (online or video) educates Church personnel on preventing, recognizing, and reporting child sexual abuse. All clergy, employees, and all volunteers having substantial contact with children are required to receive this safe environment training. Volunteers under the age of 18 receive age appropriate safe environment training, *Worthy of the Call*. Family Life Catechesis is mandated for children in our schools and parish religious education programs. Resources are made available to parents as well.

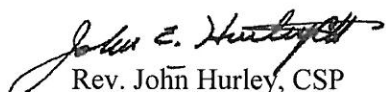
Outreach to Victims


The Archdiocese of Baltimore reaches out to those who have been harmed by Church personnel. The Archdiocese recognizes the importance of not only offering support to those who are abuse survivors, but to their family members as well. The Office of Child and Youth Protection offers survivors counseling and pastoral services with a therapist of their choosing.

We encourage you to obtain information about registered sex offenders in your area on the Maryland Sex Offenders Registry website at <http://www.dpscs.state.md.us/sorSearch/>. Searches on the site may be done by name or by zip code.

Thank you for everything you do to help create safe environments for the children! If you have any questions or concerns, please call the Archdiocese's Office of Child and Youth Protection at 410-547-5348.

Sincerely,


Rev. John Hurley, CSP
Executive Director of Evangelization


Alison D'Alessandro
Director of Child and Youth Protection