DIOCESE of TYLER

PUBLIC OUTREACH TO VICTIMS OF ABUSE

The Diocese of Tyler is committed to fostering a safe environment and respecting the sacred dignity of all people. As part of this ongoing commitment, the diocese requests parishes, missions, and institutions to consciously reach out to possible victims of abuse. Outreach is concerned with reaching out to victims of abuse whether they have recently been harmed as well as those who may have been harmed many years ago. To accomplish this, the diocese requests that the following steps be taken by parishes, missions, and institutions:

1. Basic outreach information should be posted in places where people have access to important announcements, such as public bulletin boards and parish websites.

2. Basic outreach information should be in the bulletin regularly, at least once a month, preferably on the 3rd Sunday of the month.

3. Every literature rack in church offices, parish foyers, or school offices should include at least a one-page sheet on identifying and responding to possible cases of abuse. This should include contact information for reporting criminal abuse as well as contacting Church authorities.

To accomplish these goals, the following is a model of a message that should be included in all outreach efforts:

> If you know or suspect that a minor or vulnerable adult is currently being abused or is in danger, immediately report it to state/local law enforcement or the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services at (800) 252-5400 or txabusehotline.org.
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> The Diocese of Tyler is committed respecting the dignity of all persons and to helping anyone who may have been hurt or abused by a priest, deacon, religious, or anyone working in the name of the Church. Any current or past cases of abuse involving Church personnel should be reported to civil authorities and also to the victim assistance coordinator at (903) 266-2159 or vac@dioceseoftyler.org.
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> *Si sabe o sospecha que un menor o un adulto vulnerable está siendo abusado actualmente o está en peligro, denúncielo inmediatamente a la policía estatal/local o al Departamento de Servicios Familiares y de Protección de Texas al (800) 252-5400 o txabusehotline.org.*
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> *La diócesis de Tyler está comprometida a respetar la dignidad de todas las personas y a ayudar a cualquier persona que hubiera haber podido ser herida o abusada por un sacerdote, diácono, religioso, o cualquier persona que trabaje en nombre de la Iglesia. Cualquier caso de abuso, bien sea actual o en el pasado, que involucre al personal de la Iglesia debe ser reportado a las autoridades civiles, así como al coordinador de asistencia a las víctimas - al (903) 266-2159 o vac@dioceseoftyler.org.*

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