



Office of the Bishop

August 31, 2011

Dear Clergy, Consecrated Men and Women Religious, and Lay Faithful,

Our program for Ethics and Integrity is entering its ninth year. By working together the people in the Diocese of Tyler have made significant progress in fostering a Safe Environment for people of all ages. The awareness of grooming behaviors has increased significantly. Stopping grooming behaviors in their earliest stages is essential in preventing abuse. As awareness of the sad reality of abuse has increased within the Church, we have found people more willing to address the problem of abuse in other areas of their lives. Through training, more people accept the obligation that abuse of minors or vulnerable adults must be reported to the local police or the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services. While we can appreciate the progress that has been made, we must continue our conscious efforts to foster a Safe Environment for all people.

The fostering of a Safe Environment for all God's children is an important part of the mission of the Church. The cooperation of all parishes and missions is essential. For the Safe Environment Program for 2011-2012, I establish the week of November 12-18, 2011 for the Fall Safe Environment Week and January 21-27, 2012 for the Winter week. Please also plan to observe April as Child Abuse Awareness Month.

The November week, I ask to focus once again on prayer and awareness of the commitment of all those who serve in the name of the Church to respect the sacred dignity of every person. Materials will be sent out for encouraging prayer for healing of victims of all abuse. Hopefully all parents will take the opportunity to explain in age appropriate ways the sad reality of abuse, and more importantly to help children learn how to seek help if someone engages in grooming behaviors or abuses them in any way.

Details for the January Safe Environment Week will be sent out in the future and will contain materials to help parents and catechists to help form children and young people to understand how they can stay safe and help their friends stay safe as well.

As I prepare to leave the Diocese of Tyler, I entrust the efforts for Ethics and Integrity to our Blessed Mother, patroness of the diocese, and to Maria Goretti, patroness of abused children.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Alvaro Corrada, SJ
Bishop of Tyler

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