

St. Joseph's Child Protection Task Force

Mission

To work for protection and healing from childhood sexual abuse within our parish, community and diocese.

2007 Membership

Current membership reflects a blend of committed parish volunteers and staff, along with key community leaders with valuable knowledge and experience in the area of child sexual abuse.

Vicki Andrews	Gwynne Bobich	Kay Furlong	Marsha Miller	Teresa Matetich
Kathleen Nuccio	Lori Dowling	Diane Dick	Mary Richie	Heathyr Lazo
Fr. Jerry Weiss	Sherry Palkki	Lisa Adamich	JoAnn Ryan	Kim Geislinger
Karen Karls	Kathleen Blake	Anna Koller		

Current Projects

Professionals Workshop

An Introduction to Understanding the Dynamics of Sexual Violence: Victims, Offenders and Their Families (A Community Symposium and Planning Session)

This workshop, for professionals, will be held at the Blandin Foundation on Friday, November 30th. This event stems from the 'Families of Sex Offenders' project that St. Joseph's Child Protection Task Force implemented in 2006. Challenged by the fact that no specific support services existed in Itasca County (or most of Minnesota) for individuals who have had their lives turned upside down by reports of child sexual abuse by a friend or family member, the Task Force developed a plan to change that reality. Flyers and business cards, with support information on what to do when the offense is discovered, when the offender is incarcerated and when the prisoner is released, were distributed throughout Itasca County. Supportive, professional listening was implemented through a partnership with the Institute for Psychological and Sexual Health in Duluth (218-259-4089). In an effort to increase the knowledge of this service, raise awareness of child sexual abuse, and provide crucial continuing education for area professionals, a ½ day workshop was planned. Presenters will include Christos Petsoulis and staff from the Institute and Lisa Adamich Executive Director of Itasca Alliance Against Sexual Assault. The workshop will be from 8:00am to 1:00pm. The cost, including lunch and 4 CEU's through ICC, is \$35.00. Information on this workshop is in the Gathering Space. To register call Itasca Alliance Against Sexual Assault 218-326-5008.

John Crudele

Our youth are influenced by television, music, the internet, peers and the world at large. John Crudele, of Holy Family in St. Louis Park, is a local author and speaker who targets Catholic teens and their parents on issues of faith and morals, with the virtue of chastity as one of his major topics. The Task Force is bringing John to Grand Rapids on March 26, 2008 to speak to our area youth. John customizes each program focusing on theme, group and event. He incorporates faith-based principles, personal stories, and challenges young people and adults alike to live their faith in an authentic way. The plan is to have separate presentations for adults and youth. Our hope is to include surrounding school districts as well. For more information on John Crudele you can visit his web site www.johncrudele.com

Ritual of Healing

A Ritual of Lament for the Broken Body of Christ – for abuse survivors, their families and friends, those who have been hurt by the betrayal of abuse, all who seek forgiveness and healing, and all those who love the broken Body of Christ – is offered annually during Lent. The service incorporates readings, reflection, signing of the senses and laying on of hands, and is part of a continuing journey of recognition, apology and hope. Watch the Bulletin for further information.

Partnership with Itasca Alliance Against Sexual Assault

The Task Force continues its active support of the mission and work of the Itasca Alliance Against Sexual Assault. St. Joseph's hosts an annual fundraising dinner, silent auction, and raffle in the spring of each year. This is a collaborative effort of area churches and the IAASA staff and board.

Interested? St. Joseph's Child Protection Task Force members invite you to consider joining them in their work. The Task Force meets monthly here at St. Joseph's Church. If you would like more information please call Kay Furlong (259-3977) or Gwynne Bobich (322-4592)