

# April Child Abuse Prevention Month

*safe environment efforts continue throughout diocese*

**Washington** - April is Child Abuse Prevention Month. The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops Secretariat of Child and Youth Protection has made care for minors a key priority and spearheaded nationwide safe environment programs through which 5,683,940 minors already have been educated on how to protect themselves from harm and 1,844,681 adults have undergone background screening and training on appropriate relationships with youth in their care.

"We can never rest when it comes to protecting children and teenagers," said Bishop Gregory Aymond, chair of the bishops' Committee on the Protection of Children and Young People. "They are gifts entrusted to us by God and our future is in their hands. The prevalence of child abuse in our society calls for vigilance of parents, pastors, teachers, indeed, all responsible adults. Child Abuse Prevention Month deserves our attention in both prayer and action."

(Visit: [uscgb.org](http://uscgb.org) for further information.)

*"Let there now be no doubt or confusion on anyone's part: For us, your bishops, our obligation to protect children and young people and to prevent sexual abuse flows from the mission and example given to us by Jesus Christ himself, in whose name we serve."*

*- Excerpt from the USCCB Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People*

## 2008 Safe Environment Sessions

All employees in the Diocese of New Ulm, as well as volunteers who work unsupervised with minors, are required to attend a "Protecting God's Children" training session by VIRTUS. (See scheduled sessions listed below) Parents and other interested parishioners are also welcome to attend at any scheduled site. Note: If you are unsure if you are required to attend, please call your local parish/school office.

Only NEW volunteers or employees are to pre-register. If you have been employed or volunteered since 2003, do not pre-register. New volunteers and employees may pre-register at [www.virtus.org](http://www.virtus.org).

April 5	9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.	St. Peter, St. Peter
April 26	9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.	St. Aloysius, Olivia
May 15	6:30 p.m.-9:30 p.m.	St. Francis, Benson
June 7	9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.	St. Philip, Litchfield