




BEATIFICATION
 OF
FATHER STANLEY ROTHER
 Saturday, Sept. 23, 2017 — 10:00 a.m.
 Cox Convention Center — Oklahoma City, OK
 OPEN SEATING - NO TICKET NECESSARY
 stanleyrother.org  (405) 721-5651

Safe
Environment
 of the
Archdiocese

September, 2017

OFFICE OF SAFE ENVIRONMENT 405-709-2750

CPOWERS@ARCHOKC.ORG

A New Academic Year!

Welcome back to a new academic year! The summer months, hopefully, provided a little slower pace for each of you. However, now it is time to get back to the serious topic of keeping our children, youth and vulnerable adults as safe as possible. In parishes and Catholic schools, safe environment training gives children the skills necessary to protect themselves from would be offenders. Churches, schools, and youth organizations must ensure that children and youth who worship, study, or participate in activities sponsored by a parish can do so in the safest and most secure setting possible. This is the responsibility of every individual involved in parish life – clergy, employees and volunteers! It is the responsibility of the parish/school Safe Environment Facilitator to make sure that our policies are being implemented and that any adult who

works with children/youth or vulnerable adults completes the entire safe environment protocol of our Archdiocese. As the USCCB logo says, we, as a Catholic Church, "Promise to Protect" and Pledge to Heal" those who are entrusted to our care.

Our children encounter so much that many of us never had to face in growing up. Technology is moving faster than I can keep up! If we are to help our youth, parents, Catholic schools and parish Religious Education programs must work together. Therefore, I beg all Directors of Religious Education, School Principals, Youth Ministers, Parish Facilitators to do all that you can to get the information in these newsletters to your parents.

Go Make Disciples...



Welcome back!
Please help in making the parent articles in these newsletters available to parents in any way you can find.

Some parishes put the entire newsletter on their website. That is great! Others send it home electronically and still others reproduce it for the principal or DRE newsletter. Either way is helpful. What is not helpful is to do nothing!

Thank you and blessings on the school year!

Sister Catherine Powers

REMINDER: OFFICE HOURS

The Safe Environment Office is usually opened on **Monday and Tuesday from 8:30-4:30 and Wednesday from 8:30-1:30**. If you call outside of those times, I will return the call on Monday. If you email me at cpowers@archokc.org I usually check my email regularly and will respond if I am able.

If you have data base questions or difficulty getting into your data base you must call Rose Mary Story, data base administrator. She is here on **Monday through Thursday**. However, her hours on Wednesdays do not begin until 10:00am. Her email address is rstory@archokc.org.



OTHER THINGS TO REMEMBER:

- 1) **No one**, may work with children or vulnerable adults unless the entire protocol is completed and the individual is approved.
- 2) **All employees**, no matter what they do, must complete the entire protocol.
- 3) A major part of the training should be around **how to REPORT abuse**.
- 4) The Parish/School bulletin should publish the announcement a **minimum of four times** per year. This does not mean simply publishing the reporting phone numbers. The entire announcement is in your Manual, Section VII, page 2. This should be done in **July, October, January and April**. If you happen to forget one of these months, then make sure you do it the next month.
- 5) Checking and documenting **references** is extremely important before one is permitted to work with youth.
- 6) Make sure the **dates** of training, background check, etc. is put into the data base once the person is approved.



October is Domestic Violence Prevention Month

On the last page of this publication, you will find information about the annual conference on "Domestic & Sexual Violence and Stalking". It is being held September 13-14, 2017 at the Embassy Suites by Hilton in Norman, OK. Complete registration information can be found on this flyer.

The Archdiocese of OKC is one of the sponsors of this event and we are sponsoring the speaker, Cindy Cunningham who will be talking about, "Latinas and Sexual Violence". Please make this information available in your parish in any way possible.

I have attended this conference in the past few years and it is always excellent, educational and informative.



As we begin a new school year there are so many topics that need to be addressed in educating our children and youth. I become more and more aware that Safe Environment stretches far beyond just implementing our protocol to prevent abuse. As we know, abuse takes many forms. One important thing that many children face in growing up is **bullying**. In the August 29, 2017 issue of the *Daily Oklahoman*, the following article appeared. It is the work of **Charlotte Lankard**, a therapist in private practice. I contacted Charlotte to request her permission to reprint her article in this issue of our newsletter. She was delighted to give me that permission.

Bullying is not a normal part of growing up...

No child should be afraid of going to school, waiting at a bus stop or going to the restroom or locker room alone, and yet it can happen if they are being bullied. Bullying is not a fact of life. It is not a normal part of growing up. It is a form of abuse, harassment and violence.

Both boys and girls can be bullies. Boys tend to be more direct – hitting, kicking or making insults, sneering comments or threats. Girls usually are less physical – excluding someone from a group, backbiting and manipulating friendships.

If you live with or work with children, there is a helpful app you can download on your mobile phone – “Know Bullying” designed by SAMHSA (Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration). It offers suggestions for starting easy, meaningful conversations with your children; tips to learn strategies to prevent bullying for ages 3-6, 7-13 and teens; warning signs that help you teach children how to recognize if they are being bullied, witnessing bullying or engaging in bullying; reminders about finding the best time to talk about it with your child, successful strategies, and useful advice via Facebook, Twitter, email and text messages.

There is also a section for educators to aid them in preventing bullying in the classroom and how to support children who are being bullied.

Bystanders are not innocent if they are watching, laughing or not getting the victim help. The only way bullying prevention can be successful is intervention and consistent messages by the whole community that “bullying and harassment will not be tolerated.” Not in our homes, our work-places or our schools.

We are the children’s role models. Take the job seriously.

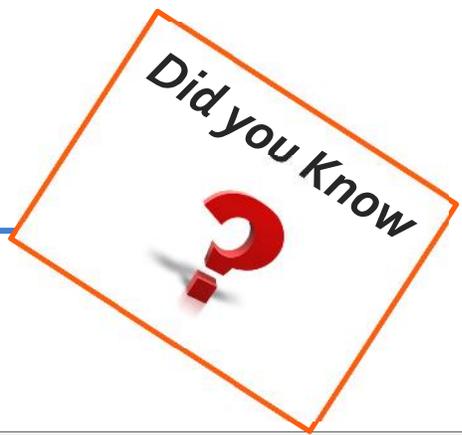
N.B. I have not seen this app so do not endorse it. However, we might take a look at it to see if it would be helpful in preventing bullying in our schools. (Sr. Kay)



Bystanders are not innocent if they are watching, laughing or not getting the victim help.

We are our children’s role models. Take the job seriously.

Charlotte Lankard



The following information appeared in a special bulletin that went out to all facilitators early last June:

◆ There is a **NEW APPLICATION** which should be used for all employees and volunteers. The changes are slight but important. On page 1 we have added a place for the email address of references. On page 4 there is an addition to the "Declarations" that people must initial and sign. The addition says, "I understand that background checks may be rerun on active volunteers/employees periodically but no less than every three (3) years." The old application has been removed from our website and the new one has replaced it. At the bottom of the application it says, "Revised May 11, 2017".

◆ The former "Technology Guidelines" have been changed and are now called the "**SOCIAL MEDIA GUIDELINES**". It is a whole new document. The Superintendent of Schools, Director of Religious Education, Director of Youth Ministry and Director of Hispanic Ministry have shared these with their constituents. They are posted on the Archdiocesan Safe Environment website under "Documents". **All employees, catechists, youth ministers, aides and volunteers who work with children and youth** must read the guidelines and complete the signature page at the end of the document. The signature page should be returned and placed in the personnel file.

◆ An employee or volunteer may carry to a receiving parish, a copy of their own Safe Environment record including the application, certificate and signed Code of Conduct. However, **references should not be shared with nor delivered by the applicant**. These should only be sent from one facilitator to another.

◆ Once again this year, we are going to focus on the topic of our youth and pornography. After this initial newsletter I will try to include a **Parent Page** in each one. It is imperative that you find some way of getting this information to your parents – through newsletters, bulletins, printing on your website or a paper copy. This is a vital topic for protecting our youth and we must fight the prevalence of pornography together. Parents need to be on board. Please do all that you can to **HELP!**

◆ **PLEASE REMEMBER THAT BACKGROUND CHECKS WILL BE RERUN ON OCTOBER 6TH. MAKE SURE YOU CHECK YOUR DATABASE FOR ANY INACTIVE PEOPLE.** Reruns will begin on that day. All those who are not archived and whose last background check was June 30, 2014 will be rerun. **Your parish will be charged for all reruns.**



Registration is open!!



**2017 Partnership Conference on
Domestic & Sexual Violence and Stalking**

September 13-14, 2017

**Embassy Suites by Hilton Norman – Hotel & Conference Center
2501 Conference Drive, Norman, OK 73069**

To Register:

<https://www.regonline.com/PartnersforChange2017>

Hotel:

There is a block of rooms available at the Embassy Suites Hotel

To make hotel reservations use the following instructions:

Booking Link: <http://group.embassysuites.com/2017partnersforchangeconference>

Reservations line (1-866-577-1273)

Group Name: 2017 Partners for Change

