



**S**afe

**E**nvironment of the

**A**rchdiocese, OKC

April, 2016

## Prayer to Patroness of Abused Children

The Archdiocese of Oklahoma City and its Safe Environment Office would like to provide a prayer to St. Maria Goretti, the patroness of abused children. In saying this prayer we honor the little bodies that have endured the pain of abuse, and those who work to protect the littlest of our parishes, schools and communities.

We suggest that it be said on a daily basis during April in observance of Child Abuse Prevention Month. What a powerful witness if we would all be faithful to saying this prayer during this important month.

In addition, you might invite all your catechists to join with you in prayer. Prayer can make a great difference in eradicating all forms of abuse of children.

*Dear God, we ask you to help all those who suffer from abuse. Help them find healing and peace in their lives. May Maria Goretti who was strengthened by Your Grace join with us in prayer for healing of all victims of abuse, particularly those abused as children or young adults. Grant us your love that we might reach out to them in your name with hope in times of trial. As Maria prayed for her attacker, grant us the grace to pray for the true conversion of all involved with the abuse, that they might seek your mercy through prayer and penance. Loving God, pour into our hearts and lives your healing Spirit, that the sacredness of every human person might be respected and protected as the precious image of God. Help us to live in the peace which Maria Goretti had found in Christ and in the love of his Mother Mary. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*



St. Maria Gore

Pray for us.

## Responsible Sharing on Instagram



In the March Newsletter I included an article for parents entitled “Top 5 Questions Parents Have About Instagram”. Hopefully, you distributed that in some way and parents found it helpful. This month I am continuing with the topic of *Instagram* and hope you will share it with catechists and parents alike. The more we know about social media, the more we can help our young people to be responsible in its use.

If your kids are using *Instagram*, the best way for you to learn about how it works is to ask them. Children are often glad to teach their parents about their favorite tech tools, and asking them about *Instagram* is not only a great way to learn about the app itself but also about how your children interact with their friends in social media. That’s very individual, which is why we suggest you ask them about it, but if you want a little general information about using and staying safe in *Instagram*, read the following:

◆ **You control your privacy.** By default, photos and videos you share in *Instagram* can be seen by anyone (unless you share them directly) but you can easily make your account private so you get to approve anyone who wants to follow you. To do that, tap Profile on the bottom right, then Edit Your Profile next to your profile picture. Scroll down to see if “Posts are Private” is turned on or off. If turned off, you can make your photos private by toggling the switch to on.

◆ **Instagram Direct is automatically private** Anyone, including people you don’t follow, can send you an image or video that only you and up to 14 other people can see or comment on. If you follow that person, the image will be sent to your direct folder. If you don’t follow the person, it’ll arrive in a Request Folder until you approve that person. If you choose to ignore the person, he or she won’t be able to send you an *Instagram* unless you go back and change that setting later.

◆ **Privacy can’t be perfect.** Even if your posts are private, your profile is public (anyone can see your profile photo, username and bio). You can add up to 10 lines of text about yourself, so parents and kids may want to talk about what’s appropriate to say on their bio screens.

◆ **Respect other people’s privacy.** If someone else is in a photo you post, make sure that person’s “ok” with your

sharing or tagging them in it.

◆ **Your posts have impact.** Think about how media you post affects others—whether they’re in them or not. Sometimes it’s the friends not in the photo or video who can be hurt, because they were excluded.

◆ **Think about your location sharing.** The “Add to Photo Map” feature gives you the option of adding a location to a photo. It’s turned off by default, but it’s “sticky” - so once turned on, it stays on until you turn it off. You can always turn it back on but, for each posting you share, think about whether you really want people to know where it was snapped or recorded.

◆ **Sharing beyond Instagram.** By default, you’re sharing your media only on *Instagram* but you have the option to share more widely by clicking on “email”, “Facebook” “Twitter”, etc. If you do share elsewhere, be aware of the privacy setting on that service. For example, unless your profile’s private, Twitter shares to everyone by default. Facebook, by default, will share media posted from *Instagram* to friends only. But after you share on Facebook, you can change that setting in Facebook by selecting it and changing the audience.

(Taken from: [ConnectSafely.org](http://ConnectSafely.org))

# Build a Blue Ribbon Tree



## Build a Blue Ribbon Tree

In April, a major activity sponsored by the State is the building of Blue Ribbon Trees. Hopefully, all of our parishes, schools and religious education program will participate in this awareness project.

Information about the Blue Ribbon Trees can be found on [www.ok.gov/health](http://www.ok.gov/health). To have your tree in the slide show on the Day at the Capital which is April 12th, you must submit the picture and registration

form by Wednesday, April 6th.

If you don't make the deadline for the State slide show, please send your pictures electronically to me as I again want to put together a slide show for our April 21st in-service day. **Please do that by April 13th as it takes a while to get the slide show together.** Be a part of this worthy project!



It's that time again! Yes, it is time to publish your final bulletin announcement on Safe Environment for this school year. **You may find a copy of the required insert in your Manual, Section VII., Page 2** Our policies require that you do this four times a year —July, October, January, and **APRIL**. Again, I remind you that merely publishing the hotline numbers does not fulfill this obligation. It must be the full length announcement found in the Manual.



## Observe Blue Sunday—April 24, 2016

Blue Sunday is a national observance and a time that we are asked to pray for the victims of abuse. The following intentions are offered by USCCB with the suggestions that some or all be incorporated into the Mass intentions. Please ask our pastor if this may be done in your parish.

- For the Church and its leaders, especially our Holy Father, the bishops and all entrusted with the care of the Lord's flock, that they may truly fill the role of shepherd and protect all in their flock, we pray to the Lord...
- For civic leaders entrusted with upholding the common good and justice for all that they may act in ways that show their commitment of the protection of all, we pray to the Lord...
- For parents, mentors, teachers, coaches and all who work with children and young people, that they may look after them with the watchful eye of the shepherd, we pray to the Lord...
- For families who are the first to show God's love, that they may have the necessary support to provide safe and nurturing environments for all members, we pray to the Lord...
- For those who have suffered abuse, that they may experience God's profound love for them and God's healing, we pray to the Lord...

## Making a Difference Conference

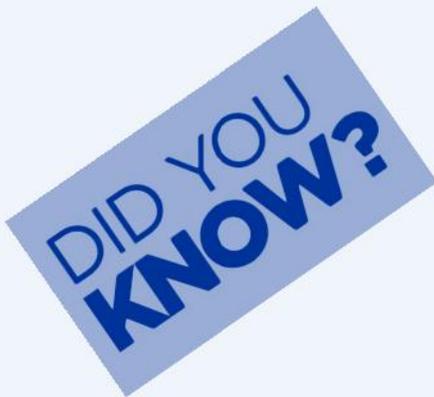
This conference is a faithful response of Faith Leadership to Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault. It is organized by the Interfaith Alliance Foundation. It will be held at Oklahoma City Community College, Visual & Performing Arts Center Theater. The address is 7777 S. May.

The conference is on **May 17th from 8:30-5:30**. It is advertised as a one-day education & training program for pastors and key leadership of all faiths. It is noteworthy that our very own Archbishop Coakley will be offering the Morning Prayer at 8:30.

To register go to: [www.makingadifferenceconference.com](http://www.makingadifferenceconference.com)



Stop domestic violence



- National statistics indicate that more than women in our nation have experienced physical violence, rape, and/or stalking by an intimate partner during their lives.
- Oklahoma has the 6th highest rate in the nation both domestic violence and rape, so incidence is undoubtedly even higher than 1 in 3 in our state.
- Oklahoma is third in the nation in the number of women who are murdered by their husband or an intimate partner.

### Next week I will send out the **Parish Compliance Survey**.

This is the report of your parish statistics for the audit year beginning **last July 1, 2015** to the coming **June 30, 2016**. Although the report will not be due until mid June, it is not too early to begin preparing your statistics on how many employees and volunteers you have, how many were trained, background checked, etc. My report to the audit company hired by USCCB is a compilation of the numbers that you send me. To see a sample of the form used please see your Manual.



Parish Compliance Survey