



DIOCESE OF RALEIGH

Office of the Bishop

7200 Stonehenge Drive Raleigh, NC 27613

984-900-3103

April 2024

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

In the joy of Easter, I am grateful for all those who journey with children and teens as they grow in age, faith and wisdom. All of us share a responsibility to help young people find their vocation as disciples of Jesus. Each April, our nation also reminds us of our duty to create and maintain a safe environment for our children and young people as we recognize Child Abuse Prevention Month.

As your Bishop, I invite you to renew your commitment to ensure safe environments in our parishes, schools and agencies. All of us must remain diligent in attending safe environment training, sharing resources to help families talk about difficult issues ([Resources for Families, Schools and Parishes | Diocese of Raleigh](#)) and helping those who have been hurt by abuse to find a path toward healing ([Victim's Assistance | Diocese of Raleigh](#)).

Safe environments foster faith environments. Every year, through our Diocesan Office of Child and Youth Protection, over 2,000 adults receive training on how to recognize and report suspected child abuse and neglect. This training prepares us to respond when a young person is in need or requires extra care and protection. Our clergy, consecrated religious, staff, catechists and volunteers serve as a witness to our commitment to this important endeavor.

We have been given the gift of our Catholic Christian faith and the gift of caring for children. May the Holy Family continue to watch over us and guide us in this work, in union with the Heart of Our Lord Jesus, now and always.

In Christ,

† Luis Rafael Zarama, J.C.L.
Bishop of Raleigh