

Jon and I spent last week preparing for our final high school graduation and open house party. We worked both inside and outside for hours on end. Most of you have been there and know exactly what I'm talking about. In the midst of all we were preparing for, we had multiple award and scholarship dinners to attend during the week and a house full of company during the weekend of graduation. So many emotions overwhelmed me last week but above all I just kept worrying. What if I cry at graduation? What if we aren't ready for this open house? What if Sam gets homesick while at school? What if, what if, what if. . . On Sunday morning, our company left, we took a break from yard work; my graduate was still in bed sleeping. I was drained and I was really in need of some quiet time with Jesus. As I opened my morning devotional book, look at what was chosen for that day.

I AM ALL AROUND YOU, like a cocoon of Light. My Presence with you is a promise, independent of your awareness of Me. Many things can block this awareness, but the major culprit is worry. My children tend to accept worry as an inescapable fact of life.

However, worry is a form of unbelief; it is a curse to Me. Who is in charge of your life? If it is you, then you have good reason to worry. But since I am in charge, worry is both unnecessary and counterproductive. When you start to feel anxious about something, relinquish the situation to Me. Back off a bit, redirecting your focus to Me. I will either take care of the problem Myself or show you how to handle it. In this world you will have problems, but you need not lose sight of me.

I just sat there. I didn't even have words. I just thanked HIM.

Reba Sommer
 Diocese of Lansing
 Safe Environment Coordinator
 rsommer@dioceseoflansing.org
 517-342-2551



Local Administrators

Thank you to those who have completed and submitted DOLDATA. A few of you have asked for an extension due to programs still currently going on in your parish or school and I certainly understand. For those who do not have Child and Youth programs still going on, please complete the Child and Youth Portion of DOLDATA by Wednesday, June 14. If you are not able to meet that deadline, please contact me. I am glad to give you extra time, I just need to know for planning purposes. I want to be sensitive to your daily demands.



The question has come up. "If I have been previously fingerprinted because I have a concealed weapons permit do I still have to be fingerprinted in order to work at a school. The answer is yes. The employee must still be fingerprinted as usual. MSP must use the SE code when fingerprinting an employee. The previous fingerprint for a concealed weapon would not use the SE code.



All clergy, employees and volunteers are to conduct activities in appropriate settings and never in a setting that is conducive to isolation. Places like private living quarters, out-of-the-way places or rooms that do not have open access (i.e., lacking windows in doors or walls so that others can not see or hear) are not to be used.

The Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People, affirms our deep commitment to creating a safe environment within our parishes and schools for children and youth. During 2017, a brief summary each month of what the seventeen Articles in the Charter means for us as a community, will be highlighted in our newsletter.

To Guarantee - Article 5

Requires that accused clerics be accorded the same rights as victims during an investigation of allegations. They should be offered civil and canonical counsel, accorded the presumption of innocence and given the opportunity to receive professional therapy services. For a copy of the Charter go to <http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/child-and-youth-protection/upload/2011-Charter-booklet.pdf>



Safe Environment Newsletter

In last month's newsletter I started to share the CYP survey results. I want to continue with question Q-11. It seems pertinent for this month. Please read the last paragraph with all sincerity and do not hesitate to act on it.

Q-11 Do you use DOL DATA to report your Child and Youth Protection information for the annual audit?

A. Yes 85% No 15%

Seeing an 85% to this question was a nice relief. Many of ministries at Central Offices use the DOLDATA website. We depend on you to gather and supply the information it asks so we can forward the data from our Diocese to the USCCB.

It is very important to provide a way for you to report the data in the CYP part of DOLDATA. Those figures that you supply are reported to USCCB and then compiled nationwide. If a parish or school does not report on a local level we have to provide a reason why. It is my hope that using the DOLDATA website is efficient for you.

If you find difficulties with the website or even difficulties with how to gather your information, I would be so happy to spend some time and help you. My contact information is at the bottom of the newsletter.