**WHAT CAN WE DO TO TAKE CARE OF EACH OTHER?**

The following notes are suggestions for a final wrap up conversation after each section of the training to insure concrete steps are taken within the parish and leadership of the parish. This conversation is meant to also highlight that this training is only a beginning point in creating safer churches for all members and visitors. How we take this information back to our churches and share it with many others matters a great deal to our success.

**Adults** (Exploitation and harassment)

* Exploitation and harassment do not start at the sexual level. How do we treat each other as adults and conduct our conversations and actions as adults that demonstrate that we "respect the dignity of every human being"?
* How do we demonstrate tolerance and acceptance of differences in our midst? What is our responsibility as Christian adults to do or say if we witness someone potentially crossing the line?
* What are the ways that we can inform all of our parishioners about these issues? Who is responsible for making this happen?

**Children and Youth:**

* How do we share with children the many ways in which we try to provide a safe and comfortable environment for them at church? Do we listen to their concerns? Do we provide clear rules and guidelines for behavior while at church? Who is responsible for sharing this information with parents and children, plus the wider church? We want everyone sitting in our pews, reading our website or newsletter, visiting our Social Media pages to know what we do to keep children and youth safe in our churches.
* How do we support our parents and grandparents to be proactive about helping them?

**Elder Abuse**:

* The quote “I used to be someone” was very moving. How do we participate in diminishing our elders identities in our communities? How do assure them of their importance in our midst?
* What are the signs of bullying prevalent in these situations? What can we do to prevent this from happening in our midst or in the homes of our elderly?
* Self-reflection about how I act with elder family members. Are their things I will now do differently to take care of our oldest members?
* What are the support networks needed when taking care of the elderly?
* Self-neglect is difficult to deal with if person does not want help. How do we earn peoples trust in these situations?
* How do we take care of the Caretakers to prevent burn out?
* What are the cultural perspectives we need to be aware of and sensitive to?
* What community resources are available in the area?
* How do we look out for those in our church communities that are most vulnerable. Who is responsible? And how do we train ourselves pastorally to assist these folks?

**Social Media:**

* How do we educate ***all*** age levels to protect them from misuse of social media? (discussions, classes for computer use for older members, articles on our websites and social media sites...?)
* Do we have clear rules and guidelines available and distributed to persons engaged in social media within the parish? updates regularly? Who is the key contact person in the parish to go to if there is a question or concern?

Submitted by the Rev. Susan Garrity 8/28/2014