

April 26th, 2022

Dear St. Mary's Springs Academy Parents and Families,

Each year in the month of April, which is recognized around the country as child abuse prevention month. The Archdiocese of Milwaukee recognizes April 24th – April 30th as Safe Environment Awareness Week. We want people to know that we are committed to maintaining safe environments in our parishes and schools through adult child abuse prevention training; criminal background checks for all clergy, volunteers working with minors, and employees; safety training for children in each grade level; and adhering to all mandatory reporting requirement laws.

This year join us at St. Mary's Springs Academy to mark our support for child abuse prevention by wearing the color blue on Friday, April 29th. This would be a blue top (spirit-wear or other) with uniform pants. Wearing blue helps remind us and encourage others to prevent child abuse and support healthy children and families.

In addition, a free will donation of "little needs" items is available to support Fond du Lac's Family Resource Center, who exists to support and help develop healthy families through their programming. This donation is not required, but an option to help support a local agency whose mission is tied to childhood abuse prevention. Donations can be dropped off in the boxes located in the front offices.

Donations could include:

Diapers, pull-ups, pull-up underwear, wipes, diaper rash cream, bottles, sippy cups, baby spoons, baby bowls/plates, pacifiers, teething items, baby/children's shampoo, lotion, nose cleaners and hairbrush/combs.

The Safe Environment Program in the Catholic Church is not only making our parishes and schools safe places for our children, youth, and vulnerable adults. We hope that all clergy, employees, and volunteers' task themselves with protecting the young and vulnerable in their workplaces, neighborhoods, communities, and even their own homes. Our goal is greater than just safe environments within the four walls of our parishes and schools, but safer communities for all God's children to live, learn and grow.

Thank you for your willingness to participate in SMSA's "Wear Blue Day" and your generosity in donating items to support the FDL Resource Center.