

No safer place...

The Catholic Church is the safest place for children anywhere

Reflections by Fr. Dave Heney

Clear description of the problem.

Abuse from clergy can cause lasting trauma in victims.

Cover up or lack of response from Church supervisors can allow abuse to continue.

Anger and hurt at discovery of both problems can also traumatize parishioners.

LA Archdiocese solution since 2003: *Safeguard the Children program.*

Fingerprinting and background checks of parish/school staff, and volunteers with children.

Mandated educational seminars every four years for staff, and volunteers with children.

Mandated *Safeguard the Children Committee* at each parish that monitors compliance.

Hotline numbers in pamphlets at all Church doors for parishioners to call.

Regular independent auditing to ensure full parish compliance.

Archdiocesan Victims Assistance Office with 24 hour hotline.

Zero tolerance for perpetrators of abuse.

St. Bruno Parish and School added protections.

Security Fence around school that is secured during school hours.

Identification Badges for staff, volunteers, and even vendors.

24 hour Camera surveillance at both parish and school.

All school parents attend mandated children safety seminar

We cannot promise what we cannot deliver: *total safety.*

We cannot totally stop sinful people from doing sinful or criminal acts.

Even God could not stop the sin of Adam and Eve in the perfect Garden of Eden.

Even Jesus could not stop sinful behavior from the disciples He personally chose.

We can promise and deliver *vigilance, justice and healing.*

We deliver educational programs to our children to help them defend against abuse

We deliver practical training that helps all adults *watch out* for children's safety.

We deliver compassionate accompaniment of victims and their healing.

We deliver a full investigation by local police agencies.

We deliver full accountability for those guilty of these crimes.

We deliver weekly ideas in our Bulletin on how to safeguard children.

We deliver *Safeguard the Children* brochures at the Church doors.

I believe no other institution today provides this high level of protection of minors.

You can feel proud of our LA Archdiocese and St. Bruno response.