

1. Sexual abuse can happen anywhere to anyone.

2. Sexual Abuse devastates the heart and soul of an individual and sometimes the scars of sexual abuse can last a lifetime.

3. On average 1 in 10 males is sexually abused before he becomes an adult; the number for females is 1 in 5.

According to the National Catholic Partnership on Disability Office, Children with disabilities are 200% more likely to be victimized. 7 out of 10 adult women with development disabilities will experience sexual abuse.

4. Perpetrators skillfully groom their victims, family members and communities to build trust, so they can gain easy access to victims.

5. Perpetrators are using virtual spaces to target and communicate with potential victims.

6. Sexual Abuse does not always include physical touch. Sexual Abuse may include non-touching behaviors that are abusive.

7. Many victims fail to see themselves as victims. They see the perpetrator as someone they are in love with, or as a good friend.

8. Perpetrators look for jobs, volunteer opportunities, or Internet sites that give them easy access to children, youth and individuals at risk.

9. Leaders in the Catholic Church are working to make sure that our children, youth and individuals at risk are safe from sexual abuse. You are an integral part in fulfilling that Plan.