

February 02, 2022

Awareness and Training Program:
FOCUS ON THE VICTIMS OF ABUSE VICTIM-CENTRED APPROACH - PREVENTION -
VIGILANCE - DISCLOSURE

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As part of the policy of the Office of Responsible Pastoral Ministry, the awareness and training program of the Archdiocese of Montreal, FOCUS ON THE VICTIMS OF ABUSE is fundamental and necessary.

A necessity that is founded on one's will and internal reason will never produce an external constraint. An internal necessity, deriving from one's own reason, is considered the basic rule of our behaviour and, consequently, of whatever good or bad any resulting action may have intrinsically. An external necessity is one that comes from the will of someone upon whom we recognize ourselves to be dependent, and who commands or forbids certain things. These two necessities are not opposed to one another; just as an external necessity can give renewed force to an internal necessity, so the whole force of the external necessity depends ultimately on the internal necessity; and it is in the harmony between these two necessities that the highest degree of moral necessity is achieved, the strongest bond and the motive most effective for the faithful, confirming them in a path of conduct that they will not abandon.

The necessity to participate in the Focus on the Victims of Abuse Awareness and Training programme and the commitment to further our common good as a necessary end derives from our 'sense of faith.' For the faithful, this entails the common necessity to follow the tenets of reason in order to establish fairness, happiness and goodwill for all reasonable being towards all others, and especially towards the vulnerable.

The purpose of this program is to raise awareness in the Catholic Church of Montreal regarding the impact of abuse on victims and the importance of being vigilant and reporting any abusive behaviour. The objectives of the VVA program is to provide all persons involved in the Archdiocese of Montreal with training regarding abuse, whether spiritual, psychological, physical, financial or sexual, in order to prevent all forms of abuse in the Church. To provide training on effective, transparent and supportive reporting policies and procedures and on protocols for processing complaints.

Thank you for your usual cooperation.
Benedicat Tibi Dominus †

« Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me. » Matthew 25:40


Christophe ESKAF, M.Sc., M.Th.
Responsible Pastoral Ministry,
514-925-4300 #356
ceskaf@diocesemontreal.org
pastroresponsable@diocesemontreal.org