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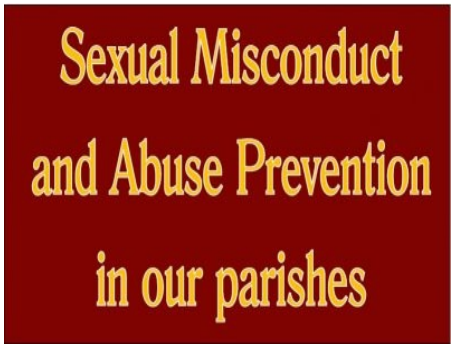
Sexual Misconduct and Abuse Prevention



A new feature has been added to the diocesan website reflecting the commitment of our diocese to do all possible in the way of education and training to reduce the possibility of sexual misconduct and accusations of sexual abuse in our parishes. By visiting the **"Sexual Misconduct and Abuse Prevention in our parishes"** link on the homepage, information will found regarding the OCA Policy, Standards, and Procedures [PSP] and a video of the special presentation by Michael Herzak offered at the three regional Church School Teachers Conferences during the month of August 2013. The dedicated webpage is:

nynjoca.org/sexual_misconduct_prevention.html

This video features a presentation on the "Prevention of Sexual Misconduct and Abuse in our Parishes." As part of the Diocese of New York and New Jersey's continuing dedication to addressing this matter concern, clergy and parish council members were invited to participate in three regional (by deanery) conferences during which Michael Herzak, a subject matter expert, presented valuable information and recommendations. The training was mandated by the Diocesan Assembly of 2012.

Rectors and parish council members are reminded that training is provided to ensure due diligence is followed in response to the challenges and dangers of sexual misconduct and abuse. Those who were unable to attend one of the conferences ought to avail themselves of the opportunity to view the video; parish councils should discuss the implementation of appropriate safeguards and procedures consistent with the recommendations presented in light of the OCA's PSP.

Additional information, guidance, and resources will be added to the webpage as available.

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