



Take 25
National Center for Missing & Exploited Children
April, 2010

The USCCB's Secretariat of Child and Youth Protection currently is collaborating with the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children by helping the Center get the word out about a child safety program called **Take 25**.

Take 25 encourages organizations to host their own child safety events. One can help to promote **Take 25** by completing child ID kits in your community, hosting a school safety presentation, or distributing important safety information to parents and children. The resources provided by **Take 25** include child ID kits, safety tips, and discussion guidelines, all of which help parents to begin an on-going conversation with their children about safety. All **Take 25** child safety materials are available **free of charge**. Each **Take 25** event organizer receives an outreach kit which includes a campaign overview, sample outreach documents, event planning resources, and other materials that can be distributed at each event.

Child sexual abuse is more common than people want to believe. In a 1997 report 15 out of every 1000 children were victims of some form of abuse. Retrospective surveys reveal that one out four of American woman and one out of six American men experienced some form of sexual abuse as children. This is not a problem of the Catholic clergy; it is a problem in our society. It is a problem our Catholic parishes and schools are in a unique position to help alleviate.

If just one parish or school in each diocese were to plan a **Take 25** event it would have an impact not only on child safety but the local diocesan safe environment efforts as well. It would be a visible way for everyone to support the bishops' safe environment efforts. PTO's, Knights of Columbus Councils, Council of Catholic Woman, Catholic Daughters, Boy Scouts, CYO groups and other diocesan organizations can be asked to join in this effort.

For more information, please contact Ms. Mary Jane Doerr, Associate Director of the Secretariat of Child and Youth Protection, to discuss the program in greater detail. Additional information may also be found on the **Take 25** website (www.Take25.org).