

## Mandatory Reporters of Child Abuse and Neglect

According to Wisconsin State law (S48.981) regarding the reporting of child abuse, Mandatory reports includes:

- any clergy, member of religious order/ congregation,
- school staff
- counselor
- nurse, childcare worker, or related professional.

In the Diocese of La Crosse, all catechists and volunteers who work with children or youth within the programs offered by the parishes or diocese are mandated-to-report.

Mandated reporters and those mandated-to-report by the Diocese of La Crosse who have reasonable cause (that set of facts which would cause a reasonable prudent person to conclude that abuse will occur or has occurred) to suspect child abuse or who have reason to believe that a child has been threatened with abuse and that the abuse will occur, or who suspect that a child has been neglected or has reason to believe that a child has been threatened with neglect, are obligated to report the case as soon as possible but within 24 hours, by telephone or personal visit to the local county child welfare agency, the office of the county sheriff or the city police department.

If there is reasonable cause to believe that the child is in imminent danger, both mandated reporters and those mandated-to-report are to **immediately contact law enforcement via 911** to keep the child from further harm. A list of phone numbers for social services and law enforcement for counties of the Diocese of La Crosse can be found on the next page.