Diocese Protects Kids from Pedophiles’ Lures

By Roger Payne

From the prisons of Tennessee to the PRIE a Sherlockian young computer hacker in London, Kenneth Wooden has spent a lifetime gathering information that will help keep children safe, not just children of sexual predators, but from becoming victims of many types of exploitation. He has testified before Congress, in 2010, and countless other prestigious law enforcement organizations and has tapped his expertise as a consultant, speaker, and trainer.

Last week, under the auspices of the diocese’s Environmental Program, Wooden shared his knowledge in awareness and “train the trainers” lectures at Our Lady of Angels, Bay Ridge, and the Immaculate Conception Center, Douglaston. Priests, pastors, principals, and diocesan BEds began learning about Wooden’s “Lures” program, which begins in January and will be a fixture in every parish school and religious education program in the diocese.

The expected result is that thousands of children will know how to keep themselves safe and resist the “lures” of pedophiles and other potential predators. According to Sister Pat Hudson, director of the Safe Environment Program, that’s the logical next step for the diocese.

“The Safe Environment Program has done a lot of work in training adults in sex abuse awareness over the past two-and-a-half years,” said Sister Pat. “We are going into directly helping children understand what they need to do to help protect themselves.”

“We’ve researched many programs,” she explained. “We’ve chosen this one because it’s the most reality-based, it deals with very specific situations, it’s manageable for the teachers, it’s also straightforward, and it’s what we want the kids to learn. It’s also broader than just sex abuse education, it’s really a personal safety program.”

“Many masked priests and pastors came to hear Ken. It attests to the serious commitment the priests have to doing something to avoid sex abuse of children. If you look at Ken’s back-t
tured presentation on 60 Minutes on ‘Kiddie Porn,’ that led to contact with a minister in Tennessee whose son for wayward boys turned out to be the center of a national child prostitution ring. Wooden got the assignment to negotiate how the ring operated, and his eyes were opened wide.

“Those people actually had a newsletter called PRIE — the Pedophile Information Exchange — and it included a feature called ‘Lure of the Month,’” explained Wooden. Essentially, each “lure” was a tip on how best to catch a child’s cooperation in their own destruction.

“There are many stories from this type of pervasive phenomenon, Wooden began lecturing nationwide, where he went, he visited prisons and interviewed pedophiles to learn how they operated and how they could realistically be thwarted. The PRIE program is the result. The program lists 17 specific types of lures pedophiles use on children, and trains children not only to resist those specific lures, but other inappropriate overtures as well. And the comprehensive four-part program includes training the trainers, a two-day in-school program, a Parent Night out, and a TV news series excerpted from Wooden’s appearances on national television.

“I’m not here to sell a program, I’m here to sell a partnership,” says Wooden. “It’s highly enlightening to teach the teachers how organized the predators are. This is true for audiences ranging from Congressional committees to PTA functions. It motivates them to take action.”

Of course, the program is not static. Wooden’s research continues. With PRIE becoming an ever more vital medium for pedophile operations, Wooden, a self-confessed computer illiterate, turned to experts for support.

“I read in the newspapers about a kid going to prison for hacking Microsoft,” Wooden said. “The judge gave me Michael Wilkins for 200 hours of community service, and I asked two hackers from elsewhere as well. He came to Vermont and brought his ‘representatives’ from Philadelphia and London. England.”

These kids were dynamic! They gave me a real insight into how pedophiles communicate, how they get their hits and the questions they ask. Off-the-record, they know that these websites before they even go off the ground.”

The bad news there, according to Wooden, is that pedophiles have no worst moments and fear them.

“The key question pedophiles ask is: ‘How do you do this, do this, do this?’ The normal conflict of pedophiles is that of the seducters, and parents do not use moments. Predators know that children have a lot of parents. They can split them or leave them, and they can build a rapport with the child. One’s child is talking, everything comes out, and the predator is home free.”

Parents need to talk about this with their children. We all train the children to understand that someone is asking about personal moments, that predator think, and kids need to tell parents immediately.”

The program now includes a simple internet use contract for parents with their kids, which includes classes like “I will not use the internet to look up the facts.” That is, which are based on specific research on pedophile techniques, that make Wooden’s program so strong. For of course, his very down-to-earth teaching approach.

“Neither like puppet show, McGred staff,” Wooden confesses. “But the kids can miss the point. I am direct. To train them that the Internet is not to run out into the street, I’ll tell them out into the neighborhood and show them a real person.”

“Knowing how organized predators are, I’ve designed something to prevent their specific techniques. Predators have told me in prison they couldn’t cry the training. For the first time in my kids caring specific boundaries.

“We have a very good teaching program. The kids enjoy it, and they really get it. We teach them that the Internet is not a tool — how do you do a fish? What’s another word for bait? What’s the largest computer in the world? It’s the human brain. Let’s program that computer to resist lures. The kids love it, and they really get it.”

It’s common sense, really,” Wooden concluded.

Power of Prayer Emphasized at Vigil for Unborn Children

By Marie Elena Giossi

“Never underestimate the power of Mary is good things and work miracles,” retails Father John V. Daily who told more than 50 devoted pilgrims who turned out for the Helpers of God’s Precious Infants monthly Rosary Prayer Vigil in St. Theresa Church on Dec. 11.

Two purple Advent candles adorned from the altar of St. Bernard Church, Mill Basin, greeting early risers and the first pew for 7:30 a.m. Mass, celebrated by Bishop Daily, Caputo, St. Bernard’s pastor, Magni Paul Reilly, pastor of St. Malachy, East New York, and Deacon Frank Hurd of St. Alphonsus, assisted.

“Can you see I’m beautifully draped in a headdress of Our Lady of Guadalupe,” Bishop Daily announced from the altar, showing off the gold and royal blue vest, covering Our Lady of Guadalupe’s likeness. The coat was a gift from the Franciscan Friars of the Missionaries of Guadalupe.

“I am always interested in the power of the Church,” Bishop Daily discussed his Mary with the Legion of Mary and how once joined in them in their door-to-door evangelization efforts. Although he had a new occupant named Charlie Fairbanks, Bishop Daily entered into conversations with parishioners, computers, communications, and the belief that the questions they ask are off the ground.”

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AN ICON OF OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE led the Helpers of God’s Precious Infants monthly pro-life prayer vigil last Saturday. The faithful gathered at St. Bernard Church, Mill Basin, at 7:30 a.m. to process before a local abortuary.