Well here we are. Another Super Bowl weekend has come and gone. Most of you know that our house celebrates with a Super Sensitive Party. Every year we serve the traditional foods and we all take our traditional places in the living room around the TV. My spouse Jon takes up space on the couch with a lap top and headphones. Sports is not his thing so he watches a Jane Austen movie, hence the sensitive. We pick on him, but he doesn’t care.

This year, things were quite different. We no longer have kids at home. Our two oldest now own their own homes and our youngest is away at school. When Sam our youngest left for school a year ago, Millie, our middle child moved out the next weekend.

I have surprised myself with my reactions to all the changes. In the beginning the quiet almost hurt my ears and from time to time I still have a bit of an ache that life is different and marching on.

I know it is the way life should be and the way God designed families. HE knows best and I am learning that no matter what and no matter what stage of life any of us may be in, HE is going to bring us through until the stage ends; then HE will bring us through the next and the next.

If I take time to count my blessings, they are the completion of the sleepless night stage, the diaper stage, the homework stage, the first broken heart stage, the lying in bed and waiting to hear the car pull up in the driveway stage. I can say, thanks be to God for seeing me through all of those stages.

As I write this, we are making plans to begin with kNOW 2019 and begin with kNOW 2020 school year. 

During our training sessions, we took in a lot of feedback from those who attended the training. We held the last kNOW training sessions. I am so happy to tell you that during those nine sessions 118 individuals in different ministries throughout our Diocese attended the training workshop and are now preparing to deliver the new program!

Monica Pope has done a beautiful job in training those in our parishes and schools who will in turn deliver this new K-8 safe environment program to parents and students in our Diocese. In each of the training sessions, Monica started the session out with the message to each attendee. “During this time, you will be discerning who at your location is the right person, who can effectively deliver this content and message to your students and parents.” What she meant by that is that there is a certain way the content in the program must be delivered. It does not come with a DVD that will provide the message. This program is 100% delivery by the instructor who stands before the class. It is simple, yet rich and profound.

During our training sessions, we took in a lot of feedback from those who attended the training. We made the final revisions and now you will find the content on the Diocese of Lansing website.

We have asked parishes and schools to work together and get creative with giving buy-in from parents to be a part of this important work. Ideas were brought up by those attending the training so I encourage you to talk with neighboring parishes and schools to get ideas and options for your location. Again, if you would like to use Safe Sheep K-5 through the remainder of this fiscal year, June 30 please do so and begin with kNOW 2019-2020 school year.