



Catholics For  
Family Peace

Education and Research on Domestic Abuse  
NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR THE FAMILY

## Study Questions

### *When I Call for Help:*

#### A Pastoral Response to Domestic Violence Against Women

UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS, 2002

1. How does the teaching of the Catholic Church guide our response to someone experiencing domestic violence?
  2. Before reading the Pastoral letter, what had you heard of the Church's teachings on the subject of domestic abuse?
  3. Abusers often misuse Scriptures to excuse their behavior. What story from the Scriptures helps you understand what you need to do in response to domestic violence?
  4. What is your experience with the subject of domestic abuse?
  5. What is the most important message you take away from reading the Pastoral Letter?
  6. What can Church members do to help break the cycle of violence in the home?
  7. What did you learn from the Pastoral Letter that helps you understand the situation of a survivor of domestic violence, i.e., why she does not leave?
  8. Domestic abuse is a learned behavior. What opportunities can you see for educating young people that will lead to more peaceful relationships?
  9. Who are your local domestic violence agencies?
  10. What steps will you take when someone discloses domestic abuse to you?
  11. What one action can you take to address the issue of domestic violence?
  12. What one positive action can your parish community do to help now?
- Read the US Catholic Bishops' Pastoral Letter, *When I Call for Help* here <http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/marriage-and-family/marriage/domestic-violence/when-i-call-for-help.cfm>
  - For more information and resources for a Catholic Response to Domestic Violence , visit [www.Catholicsforfamilypeace.org](http://www.Catholicsforfamilypeace.org)

Catholics For Family Peace Education and Research on Domestic Abuse

An Initiative of the National Institute for the Family

Dr. Sharon O'Brien, Director, [sharon@catholicsforfamilypeace.org](mailto:sharon@catholicsforfamilypeace.org) – Website: [www.catholicsforfamilypeace.org](http://www.catholicsforfamilypeace.org)