



Catholics For Family Peace

Education and Research on Domestic Abuse
An Initiative of the National Institute for the Family
Quarterly Newsletter - Spring 2023

Working Together to Promote Compassion and Care

Hello Lauri,

Thank you for all you are doing to promote awareness and compassionate response in the Catholic community about Domestic Abuse and Family Peace.

Plan now for October 2023

Encourage your diocese or parish to host a Domestic Violence Awareness Mass in October. Here is a [sample letter](#) for making your request.

View photos and past homilies [on our webpage](#).

**National Mass in Observance of
Domestic Violence Awareness Month
Oct. 7, 2023 at 4:30 PM**

National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception
Washington, D.C.



Effects of Domestic Violence on Children Plus - A Survivor's Story

[PowerPoint Presentation in English and Spanish](#)

Laura Yeomans, Coordinator for Catholic Charities Washington DC Domestic Violence Outreach, and parish volunteer Felix Laboy teach about the negative impact on children's mental and physical well-being when exposed to violence in their homes.

[Survivor's Story by DV Outreach Volunteer, Felix Laboy](#)

Your Input is Needed: Engaging Men and Boys in Abuse Prevention

CFFP is working on a project to help people of faith to prevent domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and stalking. Please take a short survey:

<https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/sv/f4oha07/EngagingMenandBoys>

What are Catholics doing to engage men and boys of faith in avoiding abusive behavior? Please respond by May 10.

[A Priest Tells What He Learned about Domestic Abuse](#)

Fr. Henry Ogbuji writes about how his eyes were opened in his book, [From Where Shall Come Our Help: The Lament of Abused Persons](#). He includes a Pastoral Counseling Guide for pastoral caregivers engaged in the pastoral care of domestic violence victims and survivors. "It is imperative to educate seminarians, clergy and lay ministers on how to minister to victims and survivors of domestic violence to aid their emancipation, empowerment and healing...Church leadership in every part of the world should speak and write in condemnation of the phenomenon of familial abuse; their position on the matter should be unambiguous." [Read more here.](#)

MEDIA TOOLKIT - Raise awareness with announcements and resources in [English](#) and [Spanish](#). Prepared by CFFP in collaboration with Catholic Charities-Washington-DC and the USCCB Office of Laity, Marriage, Family Life and Youth.



Interfaith Efforts for Family Peace

CFFP Director Dr. Sharon O'Brien participated in an interfaith panel presentation on *Religious Differences and Cultural Competencies* the **National Convening on Building an Inclusive Human Services System** in Washington, DC on March 28. She joined Jewish and Muslim experts to advise social service providers how to be sensitive to survivors' faith background when counseling them. Dr. O'Brien reported on the efforts of Catholics in parishes and dioceses for family peace.

[Best Practices to Support Families and Promote Peace in the Home](#)

<http://www.catholicsforfamilypeace.org/best-practices---webinar-series.html>

One-Hour Webinars from CFFP experts, in collaboration with Catholic Charities-USA

- Sharing Peace-Based Skills with the Families We Serve
- Strategies for Strengthening Families, Parish Pilot
- Supporting Survivors of Domestic Violence/Intimate Partner Violence
- Ways to Help People Who Use Abuse Learn to Change
- Effects of Domestic Violence on Children
- How to Help Survivors Assess their Risk of Death

New webinars coming October 11 and November 8, 2023! Stay tuned for details.

Help Us Design a National Survey:

If you could ask one question about responding to DV, what would you ask?

Example: Have Catholic teens in your diocese received training about how to recognize healthy, unhealthy and abusive relationships? Send your question to

catholicsforfamilypeace@gmail.com

Include Domestic Violence Awareness in Marriage Preparation

"Peace and Respect in Your Marriage," a 30-minute module from Catholics For Family Peace. Add to your existing Marriage Prep content.

[Available for free download](#) in English, Spanish, and French.

Get More Involved! Learn more about the [Domestic Violence Awareness Month Partners](#), a group from more than 35 Catholic dioceses, parishes, and organizations working to promote Domestic Violence Awareness Month Masses, events and education.

Next meeting, August 23, 2023 at 2 pm EST. Contact catholicsforfamilypeace@gmail.com

Join us in prayer at 3:00 pm daily for all harmed by domestic abuse.
[Click for more Prayer Resources](#) from Family Peace.



[Contact Us for More Resources](#)

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