



Catholics For Family Peace

Education and Research on Domestic Abuse
An Initiative of the National Institute for the Family
Quarterly Newsletter - Spring 2022

Working Together to Promote Compassion and Care

Greetings!

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



You Helped! Speaking Out about DV at the Synod

The 2023 Synod on Synodality committee wanted to hear especially from the margins--from those who are not usually heard. CFFP collected feedback from members of ministry organizations, survivors and anyone impacted by intimate partner violence. We distributed a nationwide online survey that reached 570 people--with 79 full thoughtful responses. We asked: "How is the Catholic response to DV going? What are Catholics doing well? What could Catholics do better?" We also collaborated with Catholic Charities USA to hold a virtual Listening Session to continue that conversation. We asked the attendees: "Why do you feel passionate about this issue? What could make a difference? Where have you seen the Catholic community responding well to other issues that has worked?"

Main Take-Aways from the Survey and Breakout Groups:

- Educate clergy, pastoral staff, and parishioners about the Church's teaching and how to respond with compassion and refer for help.
- Encourage the bishops and all homilists to be more vocal on the issue.
- Partner with existing helping and education agencies to increase awareness and improve response.
- Distribute resources that demonstrate Catholic outreach to parishioners and general public.
- Attendees said they are passionate about this issue because they have witnessed poor responses and lack of knowledge about what the Church teaches. Many are themselves survivors of domestic abuse.

Why are you passionate about this issue?

Here is a sample of responses from the participants in the Synod listening outreach:

- "I grew up in a Catholic home where verbal and emotional abuse was normalized. Mom sought counsel from parish priest, who dismissed her concerns and sent her home—did not match what the Church was teaching ideal of marriage/family life. Now I am working in marriage preparation and pro-life ministries for my diocese."
- "I have been a victim, survivor, overcomer and now a thriver. I am a mental health counselor and sit on local Domestic Violence Advisory Board."
- "I relocated from a large city to a small community and have worked in the field for the last 15 years. I have been a victim and seen fact of no recognition in my diocese on how topic

impacts indigenous peoples.”

We are listening! Tell Catholics For Family Peace why you are passionate about this issue. In future newsletters, we will share your story (anonymously). Email:

catholicsforfamilypeace@gmail.com

Our Work is Recognized by the Vatican! Catholics For Family Peace Initiative is featured on the Best Practices webpage of the Dicastery for Laity, Family and Life. <https://laityinvolved.org/project/catholics-for-family-peace/>



Plan now for October 2022 National Mass in Observance of Domestic Violence Awareness Month Oct. 1, 2022 at 4:30 PM

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

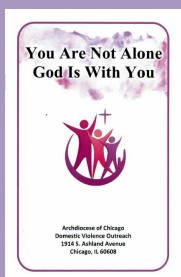
Bishop Bruce Lewandowski, Auxiliary Bishop,
Archdiocese of Baltimore, homilist and president.



Encourage your diocese or parish to host a Domestic Violence Awareness Mass in October. Here is a **sample letter** you may adapt to make your request.

In 2021, the dioceses of Atlanta, Camden, Charleston, Chicago, San Diego, Washington, and Wheeling-Charleston all held special Masses in October.

Learn more about the **Domestic Violence Awareness Month Partners**, a group from more than 35 dioceses, parishes, and organizations working to promote Domestic Violence Awareness Month events and education. Next meeting, August 24, 2022.



Archdiocese of Chicago Domestic Violence Outreach Resources

The Archdiocese of Chicago Domestic Violence Outreach has formed ministries for DV outreach in 141 parishes!

New Booklet: *You Are Not Alone*, free to survivors.

Contact Fr. Charles Dahm, director, cdahm13@gmail.com, to subscribe to ACDVO [quarterly newsletter](#) and support their mission.

Create a Parish Resource Display in English and Spanish

Free Downloadable resources are available from the

[Family Peace pages of Catholic Charities-DC.](#)

Spread DV Awareness with Media Toolkits, Brochures, Restroom Signs:

[Download for free from CFFP website.](#)



Best Practices to Support Families Impacted by Intimate Partner Violence

- four-part DV Awareness series in collaboration with Catholic Charities-USA. Recordings now available on our website <http://www.catholicsforfamilypeace.org/best-practices---webinar-series.html>

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.

Strengthening Families. Responding to DV: A Resource for Parishes

Camden Diocese Catholic Charities resource for parishes, [Strengthening Families](#), was created by director Sylvia Loumeau. It is exceptional in its message on strengthening families, raising awareness of domestic violence and a great resource guide for the parishes in the Diocese of Camden. Other dioceses may want to create their own resources with this as a model.

DV Ministry Training Online: "Pastoral Responses to Domestic Violence," a 40-hour course by Family Peace Fellow Christauria Welland, Psy.D., founder, [Pax in Familia](#).

Learn how to respond when confronted by violence in families and work towards healing and prevention. Receive a Level 1 Certificate of Training in Pastoral Responses to Violence in Catholic/Christian families.

Available in English, Spanish and French!

<https://health-transformations.learnworlds.com/home>



Learn More About the Catholics For Family Peace Initiative



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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