



Catholics For Family Peace

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

MEDIA TOOLKIT 2022 - 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.

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 presider.

Please Register Here for Reserved Seating

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/mass-in-observance-of-domestic-violence-awareness-month-washington-dc-tickets-344425454807>



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.



Looking for stories of Catholics abused by spouse

If you are a Catholic who has been impacted by intimate partner violence (IPV) in any way – as a victim or survivor, or if you have a friend or family member who's been abused – we want to hear your story! We'd also love to hear from clergy, lay Catholic ministers, and those who have used harm in their relationship but have come to full repentance and have gone through the work to achieve authentic change. Jenny duBay of [Create Soul Space](#), in conjunction with [Catholics For Family Peace](#), is compiling a book for Catholics to help increase awareness of and healing from IPV. To hear one another's stories – and to know we're not alone – is one of the most powerful ways to heal. Pseudonyms will be

used in this book to ensure discretion and your privacy. If you're willing to share your story, please [contact Jenny duBay](#) of [Create Soul Space](#). Please share this announcement with any Catholic you think may be interested. The deadline for initial contact is **October 15, 2022**.

You Helped! Speaking Out about DV at the Synod

CFFP collected feedback from members of ministry organizations, survivors and anyone impacted by intimate partner violence. We asked: "How is the Catholic response to DV going? What are Catholics doing well? What could Catholics do better? Why do you feel passionate about this issue? What could make a difference?"



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?

Participants in the Synod Listening Session told us:

- "As a former Shelter Director, I saw Catholic women in shelters with no knowledge of Catholic teaching, support, or resources. I want to share the richness of the Catholic faith on this issue."
- "My priest was supportive but he didn't know of any local resources or even the national resources of the US Bishops Conference, Catholics For Family Peace, Archdiocese of Chicago and Washington DC, and the Pax in Familia training."
- "There was a gap in support between my priest and the parish community. He cared and was basically knowledgeable but there was no one else to turn to. I did find support in a prayer group."

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/>



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.

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>



Adult children of divorce and separation often feel alone and lost, and are searching for lasting healing and love. Leaders are looking for Catholic ministries to help support them.

<https://www.lifegivingwounds.org/what-is-life-giving-wounds>

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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