



Domestic Violence: A Catholic Response

- A Presentation by Catholics for Family Peace Education and Research Initiative www.catholicsforfamilypeace.org, Consortium for Catholic Social Teaching at the National Catholic School of Social Service, Shahan Hall, The Catholic University of America, 620 Michigan Avenue, N.E., Washington, DC, 20064
- Contact: Sharon O'Brien, PhD, Director, at 301-651-8190. obriensa@cua.edu

Description: This interactive presentation aims to increase your understanding of domestic violence, identify opportunities to address this issue in parishes, and share ways to respond appropriately when people come for help. Gain practical ideas to raising awareness in the parish community and promoting healthy relationships in the home and/or workplace.

Presenter: Lauri Przybysz, DMin, is a Catholic family life minister, specializing in adult faith formation. She is a Faculty Associate for CFFP, a collaborative effort for a specifically Catholic response to domestic violence. Dr. Przybysz was the coordinator of Marriage and Family Life for the Archdiocese of Baltimore for 13 years, where she chaired the Archdiocesan domestic violence education team and served on the State of Maryland Interfaith Coalition for Domestic Violence Awareness Steering Committee. Dr. Przybysz has given presentations about healthy relationships and domestic violence to clergy, seminarians, parents, and parish ministers nationally and internationally.

Program Elements for 90-minute Workshop:

- Defining Domestic Violence, facts and myths
- Identifying the need for Clergy and Staff education about Domestic Violence
- Data on the scope of the problem
- Religion: Resource or Roadblock?
- Catholic teaching on Marriage and how it relates to this topic
- Positive approaches to promoting strong marriages and families
- Roots of abuse and how to help
- Guidance for preaching
- Who are the Victims? Who are the Abusers?
- Scriptural context for pastoral care of abused and abuser
- Understanding the Cycle of Abuse
- Recognizing the signs of abuse
- Identifying community agencies that help

A 60-minute workshop would hit the highlights. **A 3-hour workshop** includes skills practice, stories of survivors, more on Scriptures and preaching

Participants will learn

- What they need to know about Domestic Violence
- How to address Domestic Violence in their ministries
- Where to refer people when they turn to the priest, deacon, or staff member
- Practical steps they, their staffs, and their parishioners can take