“Hope, Help, and Healing:

A Catholic Response to Domestic Abuse and Violence”

An Invitational Symposium, July 7 & 8, 2016

at The Catholic University of America, Washington, DC

GOALS:

1. Explore the scope of domestic abuse and violence in the United States.
2. Educate on Catholic teachings which impact the issues of domestic abuse and violence.
3. Encourage Catholic community leaders to continue the conversation on ways to address domestic abuse.
4. Empower participants to develop prevention and response strategies to domestic abuse and violence that they can help implement in their dioceses and local agencies.

OBJECTIVES:

Participants will:

1. Consider a comprehensive definition of domestic abuse and violence.
2. Acknowledge that we as Church sometimes fail to respond adequately to the suffering of our sisters and brothers harmed by domestic abuse and violence.
3. Integrate Catholic teachings into the process of recognizing, responding, and referring to professional helpers those harmed by domestic abuse and violence.
4. Learn about Catholic and other programs and practices that aim to prevent domestic abuse and violence and/or foster hope, help, and healing to those harmed by it.
5. Learn how trauma affects those harmed by domestic abuse and violence so that we can share the Lord's love and mercy with people who seek our help.
6. Develop a local action plan that offers hope, help, and healing to those harmed by domestic abuse and violence.
7. Discuss how to promote communication among Catholic community leaders from across the nation to address the issues of domestic abuse and violence.