



Catholic Diocese  
of Cleveland

## Office of Marriage and Family Ministry Catholic Diocese of Cleveland, OH

As the Office of Marriage and Family Ministry, one of the Diocesan Offices of the Catholic Diocese of Cleveland, Ohio, we are responsible for helping spread awareness about family issues, supporting families as they prepare for marriage, accompanying them in crisis, and training parish staff and clergy about how to support couples and families in all phases and stages.

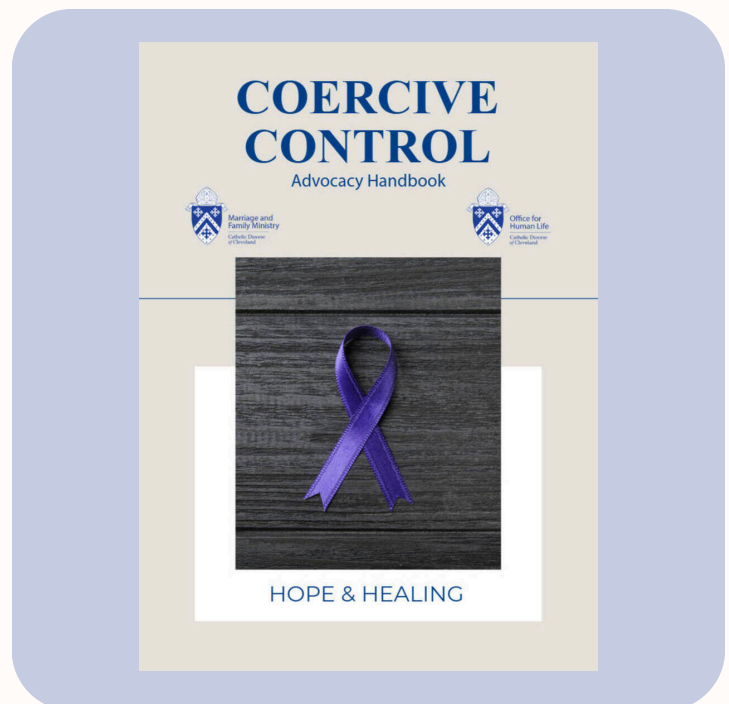
### The Office of Marriage and Family Ministry offers:

#### FOR DOMESTIC ABUSE VICTIMS

- A victim assistance coordinator that works with those who call in to the Office
- Referrals for survivors to Hope's Garden and other secular resources in the area

#### FOR ABUSERS

- Referrals to Safe Harbor offering virtual support groups for abusers that help them to recognize and be accountable for their abuse
- Education on Healthy Relationships
- Resources on Coercive Control and Unhealthy Relationships
- Referrals to Hope's Garden that offers support groups for those struggling with pornography addiction. .



**Office of Marriage and Family Ministry focuses on Marriage, Family, Pastoral Care (Hope and Healing) and Human Sexuality.**



<https://www.dioceseofcleveland.org/offices/parish-life/marriage-and-family-ministry>



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Joe Mikolajczyk, Ministry Specialist (left), Terri Yohman, Director (center), and Victoria Uhasse, Program Assistant (right)

Terri Yohman, Director of the Office of Marriage and Family Ministry, holds a Master's degree in Individual and Family Development. Her expertise in child development and healthy behavioral patterns continues to inform her professional practice. Previously, she worked in mental health and observed the impact of unhealthy relationships and their far-reaching consequences. Her dedication to accompaniment led her to receive training in prevention from Catholics for Family Peace. The Advocacy Handbook, available from the Office of Marriage and Family Ministry as a free download, is the result of a collaborative, year-long team effort and can be provided for editing by specific dioceses upon request.

## The Office of Marriage and Family Ministry programs:

- Provides training workshops for parishes addressing the question "How can we help to end violence in our Catholic families?" with an emphasis on fostering healthy relationships and preventing abuse. Facilitators undergo instruction based on the curriculum developed by Dr. Christauria Welland, founder and director of Pax in Familia (<https://paxinfamilia.org/>).
- Meets with school principals to discuss integrating healthy dating curricula into health classes. Through these classes, school staff can offer guidance, support, and intervention to help young people avoid unhealthy relationship patterns.
- Trains Youth Ministers to effectively address relationship problems among teens.
- Offers Adverse Childhood Experiences Risk and Protective Factors (ACEs) programming for high school students to raise awareness of childhood trauma. This empowers students to recognize risk factors, build resilience, and seek support contributing to safer and healthier family environments.
- Offers ACEs Risk and Protective Factors awareness and training for parishes. This can be particularly beneficial for adult parents and grandparents by providing them with the knowledge and skills to support their children and grandchildren in a healthy and secure environment.
- Posts a monthly newsletter addressing abuse and coercive control issues on its website under Reaffirming Individual Dignity: Exposing Coercive Control.



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