



# Catholics for Family Peace

## National Education and Research Center on Domestic Violence

Catholics for Family Peace supports dioceses and parishes to promote family peace and to prevent, recognize, and respond to domestic abuse with appropriate information and compassion.

### Catholics for Family Peace offers:

**Best Practice webinars to support families in partnership with Catholic Charities USA**

- Strengthening Families - a Parish-based Pilot Program
- Best Practices for Supporting Survivors of Domestic Violence/Intimate Partner Violence
- Effects of Domestic Violence on Children
- How to Help Survivors Assess Their Risk of Death
- Sharing Peace-Based Skills with the Families We Serve
- Domestic Violence and the Black Community

**Additional resources available**  
[www.catholicsforfamilypeace.org](http://www.catholicsforfamilypeace.org)



**Bishop Roy Campbell, Auxiliary Bishop for the Archdiocese of Washington, president, 2018 National Domestic Violence Awareness Mass standing with the planning committee.**

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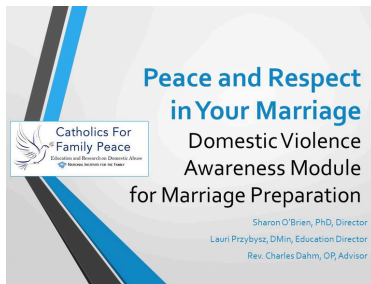
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**Sharon A. O'Brien, Ph.D., has served as Co-founder and Executive Director of Catholics For Family Peace Education and Research Initiative since its founding in 2011.**

**Lauri Przybylsz, D.Min., Co-founder of Catholics For Family Peace, specializes in adult faith formation and marriage ministry. She received the Doctor of Ministry in Pastoral Ministry at The Catholic University of America in 2012. Lauri is Past-President of National Association of Catholic Family Life Ministers and the Christian Family Movement-USA. She is currently Pastoral Associate for Evangelization at Our Lady of the Fields Parish in Millersville, Maryland.**

## History of Catholics for Family Peace

In 2011, the leadership of USCCB's Secretariat of Laity, Marriage, Family Life and Youth hosted a Workgroup that resulted in the creation of Catholics for Family Peace as a national resource center on awareness, education and research on domestic abuse and the Catholic teaching and pastoral response to it.

## Catholics for Family Peace Activities

- Promotes daily prayer for all people harmed by domestic abuse and for those who offer help.
- Coordinates Annual Domestic Violence Awareness Month (DVAM) Mass in October at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, Washington, DC. People listening to recordings of the homilies often say this is the first time they have heard the issue identified inside a church.
- Provides resources on the Catholics for Family Peace website including recordings of the homilies from previous Annual DVAM Masses, The Mass has been hosted annually since 2017.
- Promotes USCCB's Statement, **When I Call For Help: A Pastoral Response to Domestic Violence Against Women (2002)**.
- Coordinated the first national Catholic Conference on Responding to Domestic Abuse. Hosted by the National Catholic School of Social Service at The Catholic University of America. Attended by 350 people from 25% of the U.S. dioceses.
- Provides homily tips and social media kits on domestic violence for parishes.
- Accepted invitation to submit a description of CFFP's work to the Vatican's Dicastery for Laity and Family Life's Best Practices section on its website:  
<https://laityinvolved.org/project/catholics-for-family-peace/>
- In partnership with Catholic Family Life Ministers Association, supports dioceses in addressing the domestic violence section of USCCB's 2021 Coommittee of Laity, Marriage, Family Life and Youth's document, **Called to the Joy of Love: National Pastoral Framework for Marriage and Family Life**.