

CATHOLICS FOR FAMILY PEACE

Domestic Violence Awareness Month Resource Kit

OCTOBER IS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH. Catholics for Family Peace offers you this Media Resource Kit to enhance your efforts to address domestic abuse and violence and to promote family peace.

Catholics For Family Peace Education and Research Initiative is part of the National Catholic School of Social Service's Consortium for Catholic Social Teaching at The Catholic University of America.

We aim to inform the Catholic community on ways to promote family peace and to prevent and respond to domestic abuse and to provide resources and promote prayer for all families. Our initiative provides education, resources, and research that help pastoral leaders, clergy, and parishioners recognize domestic abuse and respond with compassion. To learn more, please visit www.catholicsforfamilypeace.org.

KNOW THE FACTS. Domestic abuse and violence refers to a pattern of violent and coercive behavior exercised by one adult in an intimate relationship over another. It is not a private family matter.

Domestic violence, also known as intimate partner violence (IPV) is defined by the Centers for Disease Control as a serious, preventable public health problem that affects millions of Americans. It refers to the physical, sexual, or psychological harm by a current or former partner or spouse and does include teen dating relationships.

A statistic from the Bureau of Justice indicates that from 1994 to 2010, about 4 in 5 victims of intimate partner violence were female. Domestic violence affects the whole family, including any children. Faith communities are called to offer hope, help, and healing to all harmed by domestic abuse and violence.

WHAT CAN I DO TO BE HELPFUL IF AN ABUSIVE SITUATION IS REVEALED?

- Listen, Believe, and Refer. Share that the abuse is not God's will. Say that help is available 24/7 at the National Domestic Violence Hotline (1-800-799-SAFE (7233) or at www.ndvh.org.
- Let her know that without intervention, abuse often escalates in frequency and severity over time.
- Seek expert assistance by calling the NDVH. Refer her only to specialized domestic violence counseling programs, not to couples counseling.
- If possible, encourage the abusive person to seek help. Attending an appropriate 12 step recovery group has been a source of recovery for many people.

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To learn more, please visit www.catholicsforfamilypeace.org.

SPREAD PEACE ON SOCIAL MEDIA

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SAMPLE SOCIAL MEDIA POSTS.

- Join us every day at 3pm to pray for all harmed by domestic abuse.
- Lord, protect all families in need of your healing touch.
- “Lord, make me an instrument of your peace. Where there is hatred, let me sow love.” -Prayer of St. Francis of Assisi.
- Catholic teaching about domestic abuse is explained in When I call for Help. Find it at http://bit.ly/usccb_dv.
- “If we have no peace, it is because we have forgotten that we belong to one another.” -St. Teresa of Calcutta.
- “What can you do to promote world peace? Go home and love your family.” -St. Teresa of Calcutta.
- “The time has come to condemn vigorously the types of sexual violence which frequently have women for their object and to pass laws which effectively defend them from such violence.” -Pope Francis
- Mary, Queen of Peace, pray for us and for peace in our families.
- Love is not abusive. Speak up against domestic violence and pray for family peace.
- “The LORD hears the cry of the poor; blessed be the LORD.” -Psalm 34.



CONNECT WITH CFFP.



Share your Domestic Violence Awareness Month outreach response and programs with Catholics for Family Peace. Initiatives will be highlighted on our website and social media pages.

Contact Dr. Sharon O'Brien, Director of Catholics for Family Peace at obriensa@cua.edu.

STAY IN THE LOOP WITH LEADING CATHOLIC AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS ORGANIZATIONS.



To learn more, please visit www.catholicsforfamilypeace.org.

SPREAD PEACE THROUGH PRAYER

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JOIN US ON
OCTOBER 28 FOR
A UNITED DAY OF
PRAYER TO ST.
JUDE, PATRON OF
IMPOSSIBLE CAUSES.

NOVENA TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

Join us during October as we pray a novena for peace in all families, especially those suffering injustice or abuse. We will use the form of a novena, which is a traditional nine-day Catholic prayer.

We will announce each day on our Facebook, and the full text can be found on our website at www.catholicsforfamilypeace.org.

HOW TO HELP THE ABUSED RECLAIM THEIR VALUE AND WORTH AS CHILDREN OF GOD

What would you do if your best friend or fellow parishioner told you about an abusive situation? Rose Folsom will show you how anyone can use three ordinary Christian virtues to safely walk with them toward healing.

Visit www.catholicsforfamilypeace.org each Monday in October for a multi-part lesson in providing hope, help, and healing using gifts you already have!

SAINTS: AN EVER PRESENT HELP

The Saints' lives can help us respond prudently with care and compassion to people dealing with difficult situations.

Visit www.catholicsforfamilypeace.org each Friday in October for an inspiring story by Melanie Rigney.

Photo courtesy of St. Jude Shrine

PRAY WITH US AT 3:00 PM EACH DAY FOR FAMILY PEACE.

Catholics believe that God loves and cares for everyone, and that God knows their pain and concerns. Catholics For Family Peace invites you to join us in a moment of prayer at 3:00 pm, wherever you are, for those suffering from violence and abuse and those who use violence to control others. We pray for them and for all who work to end domestic violence. **Would you set an alarm to join us each day to pray at 3:00 pm?**

SAMPLE ANNOUNCEMENT TO SHARE IN YOUR PARISH BULLETIN.

October is National Domestic Violence Awareness Month. To learn more about the Catholic response, visit the U.S. Bishop's website for their Pastoral Letter: "When I Call for Help" (http://bit.ly/usccb_dv) If you or a family member or friend needs help now, contact the National Domestic Violence Hotline, 800-799-7233 (24 hours); 800-787-3224 (TTY); www.ndvh.org. If you are in immediate danger, call 911.



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SPREAD PEACE THROUGH PRAYER

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PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

FIRST SUNDAY

For all people in abusive relationships. May they experience God's love and know that their abuse is not God's will. May they find in our parish community the courage and support to seek help, find safety, and free themselves from domestic violence.

SECOND SUNDAY

For children who are victims of abuse or are traumatized by witnessing violence in their homes. May they know that God loves them and receive comfort and assistance in our parish community.

THIRD SUNDAY

For the elderly who are abused. May they experience God's love and find the support and resources they need in our parish community.

FOURTH SUNDAY

For Teenagers in violent or controlling relationships. May they find in our parish the role models of kindness, care, and love that will show them how to recognize what a healthy and whole relationship should be.

FIFTH SUNDAY

For all men and women who use power and control over other people, whether physically, verbally, emotionally, or financially. May they recognize their abusive behavior and find help, hope, and healing in our parish community.

ORACIÓN UNIVERSAL

PRIMER DOMINGO

Recemos por todas las personas en relaciones abusivas. Para que ellos tengan la experiencia del amor de Dios y para que sepan que el abuso no es la voluntad de Dios. Para que encuentren en su parroquia el valor y al apoyo para buscar ayuda, encontrar seguridad y poder liberarse del abuso doméstico.

SEGUNDO DOMINGO

Recemos por los niños que son víctimas del abuso o que han sido traumatizados al ver el abuso en su familia. Para que conozcan el amor de Dios y que reciban el consuelo y ayuda de su parroquia.

TERCER DOMINGO

Recemos por los ancianos que han sido abusados. Para que ellos puedan sentir el amor de Dios y puedan encontrar el apoyo y los recursos que necesitan en su parroquia.

CUARTO DOMINGO

Recemos por los adolescentes que están en relaciones violentas o que se sienten controlados por su pareja. Que puedan encontrar en su parroquia los ejemplos de dulzura, amabilidad, y amor que les demuestre lo que es un amor sano y completo.

QUINTO DOMINGO

Recemos por todos los hombres y mujeres que usan su poder y su control sobre otras personas, sea físicamente, verbalmente, emocionalmente o en temas de finanzas. Para que ellos se den cuenta de su comportamiento abusivo y para que encuentren ayuda, esperanza, y saneamiento en su parroquia.



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