

HOW TO INTEGRATE THE CATHOLIC RESPONSE TO DOMESTIC ABUSE AND VIOLENCE INTO FAMILY LIFE PROGRAMS AND MINISTRIES

Sharon A. O'Brien, Ph.D. Director, Catholics For Family Peace
National Catholic School of Social Service, Consortium for Catholic Social Teaching
The Catholic University of America, Washington, D.C.
obriensa@cua.edu

National Association of
Catholic Family Life Ministers

Professional Development Conference Call

Thursday, June 16th
1:00 – 2:00 p.m.

WHEN I CALL FOR HELP: A PASTORAL RESPONSE TO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN (WICFH)



- Booklets in English and Spanish
- Resource Cards with warning signs of abuse on reverse
- Power Point Presentation

www.usscb.org/domestic-violence

“REMEMBER: Some battered women run a high risk of being killed when they leave their abuser or seek help from the legal system. It is important to be honest with women about the risks involved. If a woman decides to leave, she needs to have a safety plan, including the names and phone numbers of shelters and programs. Some victims may choose to stay at this time because it seems safer. Ultimately, abused women must make their own decisions about staying or leaving.”(WICFH, p.5)

WHEN I CALL FOR HELP: MAJOR TOPICS

Introduction

An Overview of Domestic Violence

- Why Men Batter
- Why Women Stay

The Church Responds to Domestic Violence

Scripture and Church Teachings

- First Responders: Priests, Deacons, and Lay Minister

What You Can Do to Help

- For Abused Women
- For Men Who Abuse
- For Pastors and Pastoral Staff

When I Call for Help: A Prayer

Resources

Notes

The National Domestic Violence Hotline at 800-799-SAFE (7233) or 800-787-3224 (TTY)

STUDY QUESTIONS: WHEN I CALL FOR HELP

DEVELOPED BY DR. LAURI PRZYBYSZ, CATHOLICS FOR FAMILY PEACE

1. How does the teaching of the Catholic Church guide our response to someone experiencing domestic violence?
2. Before reading the Pastoral letter, what had you heard of the Church's teachings on the subject of domestic abuse?
3. Abusers often misuse Scriptures to excuse their behavior. What story from the Scriptures helps you understand what you need to do in response to domestic violence?
4. What is your experience with the subject of domestic abuse?

STUDY QUESTIONS: WHEN I CALL FOR HELP (CON'T)

5. What is the most important message you take away from reading the Pastoral Letter?
6. What can Church members do to help break the cycle of violence in the home?
7. What did you learn from the Pastoral Letter that helps you understand the situation of a survivor of domestic violence, i.e., why she does not leave?
8. Domestic abuse is a learned behavior. What opportunities can you see for educating young people that will lead to more peaceful relationships?

STUDY QUESTIONS: WHEN I CALL FOR HELP (CON'T)

9. What and where are your local domestic violence agencies?
10. What steps will you take when someone discloses domestic abuse to you?
11. What one action can you take to address the issue of domestic violence?
12. What one positive action can your parish community do to help now?

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Catholics For Family Peace Education and Research Initiative, National Catholic School of Social Service, Consortium for Catholic Social Teaching, The Catholic University of America

catholicsforfamilypeace.org

Archdiocese of Chicago – Domestic Violence Outreach

- <http://www.archdioceseofchicago.org/>

National Council of Catholic Women

- *Women Healing the Wounds, National Council of Catholic Women Responds to Domestic Violence Against Women* (a comprehensive user friendly guide that addresses prevention and crisis response)
- www.nccw.org

Dr. Christauria Welland

How can we help to end violence in Catholic Families: A Guide for Clergy, Religious, and Laity (2015) (easy to read book)

www.paxinfamilia.org for free download in several languages

Catholics Experiencing Domestic Abuse Resources (CEDAR)

<http://www.wrexhamdiocese.org.uk/catholics-experiencing-domestic-abuse-resources.html>

SYMPOSIUM: HOPE, HELP, HEALING: A CATHOLIC RESPONSE TO DOMESTIC ABUSE AND VIOLENCE

Catholics For Family Peace and 5 Collaborative Partners (USCCB, CCUSA, CCADW, CCDOA, NCSST at CUA).

Thursday, July 7, 2016 at 8:30 a.m. – Friday, July 8, 2016 5:00 p.m

The Catholic University of America

Funds underwrite program costs, 5 meals, and University lodging for the first 200 people living beyond 100 miles.

11 hours of social work ceu's

40 presenters including Fr. Chuck Dahm, Dr. Christauria Welland, and Dr. John Grabowski

National Council of Catholic Women: Inaugural Program Sponsor

WWW.CATHOLICSFORFAMILYPEACE.ORG

Symposium Information and Registration process

Additional information about Catholics For Family Peace

Questions or to share information about your dioceses/archdioceses efforts to address domestic abuse and violence, please contact us at obriensa@cua.edu.