



ARCHDIOCESE OF NEW YORK FAMILY LIFE

August 2022

Dear Pastor/Administrator,

October is Respect Life Month and in alignment with that, it is also **Domestic Violence Awareness Month**. During the pandemic there was an 8% increase in domestic violence.¹ Why do men batter? Why do women stay? Domestic abuse affects everyone in the family, including growing children. Would you consider dedicating at least one weekend in October to inform parishioners about domestic abuse?

The *Catholics for Family Peace Education and Research Initiative* has produced many resources, including sample intercessory prayers, homilies, weekly features on the saints, including a 100-page illustrated booklet, *A Guide for Clergy, Religious and Laity* by Dr. Christauria Welland (with Imprimatur from the Diocese of San Diego, CA) to educate Catholics on how to recognize, respond, educate, and refer people who are experiencing violence at home. Other items include sample Facebook and twitter posts, 2016 Symposium Presentations, and a training course to learn how to respond to Domestic Violence. Resources can be accessed at www.catholicsforfamilypeace.org.

On the following page are an English and Spanish sample **bulletin announcement** that you may want to edit/use (not only in October, but throughout the year).

Thank you for spreading the word about this important issue. If you have any questions, or want additional information, please feel free to contact **Sue DiSisto** in the Family Life Office at susan.disisto@archny.org or 646.794.3191.

In prayer and gratitude,

Theodore J. Musco
Director, Family Life Office

cc: Sue DiSisto, Parenting and Family Life Education Specialist
Yorleni Tavarez-Sanchez, Bilingual Marriage & Family Life Specialist

1. Council on Criminal Justice; Impact Report: COVID-19 and Domestic Violence Trends, February 23, 2021; <https://councilonci.org/impact-report-covid-19-and-domestic-violence-trends/>

ENGLISH BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENT

You Don't Deserve To Be Abused

October is National Domestic Violence Awareness Month. To learn more about the Catholic response, visit the Catholics For Family Peace website: www.catholicsforfamilypeace.org. Domestic violence can take different forms, but its purpose is always the same: Abusers want to control their domestic partners through fear. They do this by abusing them physically, sexually, psychologically, verbally, and/or economically.

If you or a family member or friend are affected by abuse and need support, contact the **National Domestic Violence Hotline** at 1-800-799-7233 (24 hours); 800-787-3224 (TTY), or if you're unable to speak safely, you can log on to <https://www.thehotline.org/>. If you are in immediate danger, call 911. For more information on Domestic Violence, visit the Archdiocesan Family Life Office webpage: <https://archny.org/family-life/training-resources/additional-resources/>.

SPANISH BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENT

No Mereces ser Abusado

Octubre es el Mes Nacional de Concientización sobre la Violencia Doméstica. Para obtener más información sobre la respuesta católica, visite el sitio web Católicos por La Paz de la Familia http://www.catholicsforfamilypeace.org/uploads/9/7/5/4/9754767/catholic_response_restroom_flyer_-_spanish.pdf. La violencia doméstica puede tomar diferentes formas, pero su propósito es siempre el mismo: los abusadores quieren controlar a sus parejas domésticas a través del miedo. Lo hacen abusando de ellas física, sexual, psicológica, verbal y/o económicamente.

Si usted o un miembro de su familia o amigo se ven afectados por el abuso y necesitan apoyo, comuníquese con la **Línea Directa Nacional de Violencia Doméstica** al 1-800-799-7233 (24 horas), o si no puede hablar de manera segura, puede chatear aquí <https://espanol.thehotline.org/>. Si está en peligro inmediato, llame al 911. Para obtener más información sobre la violencia doméstica, visite la página web de la Oficina Arquidiocesana de Vida Familiar: <https://archny.org/ministries-and-offices/family-life/training-resources/additional-resources/> y elija la opción "Select Language" en la barra de direcciones para leer el material en español.