



ARCHDIOCESE OF NEW YORK
FAMILY LIFE

August 2021

Dear Father,

October is Respect Life Month and in alignment with that, it is also **Domestic Violence Awareness Month**. To guide pastoral care leaders in how to educate Catholics to recognize, respond to, and refer people who are experiencing violence at home, the *Catholics For Family Peace Education and Research Initiative* has produced a **Domestic Violence Toolkit**, accessed at www.catholicsforfamilypeace.org. This toolkit has a plethora of resources, including: a webinar titled "Promoting Peaceful Relationships at Home" for clergy, catechists, teachers, lay leaders, and parents; an online training course titled "Pastoral Responses to Domestic Violence"; sample intercessory prayers and homilies; sample Facebook and Twitter posts, and links to a number of other resources.

The USCCB also has materials on this issue in both English and Spanish:
<https://www.usccb.org/topics/marriage-and-family-life-ministries/domestic-violence>.

Would you consider dedicating at least one weekend in October to inform parishioners about domestic abuse, perhaps offering a Mass during October for Domestic Violence Awareness? On the following page are an English and Spanish sample **bulletin announcements** that you can use/edit (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 or bulletin samples, 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,

Kathleen Wither, D.Min.
Director, Family Life Office

cc: Sue DiSisto, Parenting & Family Life Specialist

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 los 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 ellos física, sexual, psicológica, verbal y 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/family-life/training-resources/additional-resources/> y seleccione la opción "Translate" para leer el material en español.