



ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OUTREACH

Dear Parishioners:

Thank you very much for agreeing to develop a ministry to victims of domestic violence in your parish. We all want to help victims and their children who suffer abuse in their own homes to free themselves and find peace and security.

More than 50 parishes in the Archdiocese of Chicago have developed a parish ministry and we are united in our efforts under the name of Archdiocesan Committee on Domestic Violence Outreach. We want to support you in your efforts as you work to develop a ministry in your parish.

Attached you will find some resources. We hope you will also reach out to a Parish Support Mentor who will accompany you as you develop your ministry.

In our work, we are guided by the pastoral letter of the United States Bishops, *When I Call for Help* (2002), which is enclosed. You can also google it on the internet. In that letter the bishops write: "We state as clearly and strongly as we can, that violence against women – inside or outside the home – is never justified." And they conclude the letter, stating: "We emphasize that no one is expected to stay in an abusive marriage."

You will find a wealth of material on our website, including a manual for developing a parish ministry, prayers of the faithful, bulletin inserts, activities for parish awareness building, videos of testimonies from survivors, a directory of domestic violence agencies and my homily on domestic violence in English and Spanish as well as a video on the Catholic position on domestic violence. Our website is the home page of the Archdiocese of Chicago, scroll down to bottom right and click on "Domestic Violence Committee."

Warmest regards,

Charles W. Dahm, O.P.

Director

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