Setting Up a Domestic Violence Ministry

An Example
Archdiocese of Chicago Domestic Violence Outreach
St. Raymond de Penafort Ministry Development

• May 2009: AWC – Valerie Yokie

• October: Parish Council Agreement

• January 2010: Fr. Chuck
Step 1

Preparation & Study
Do’s and Don’ts with a Battered Woman

“Don’t pursue couples’ counseling with her and his partner if you are aware that there is violence in the relationship.”
Issue #1

Do no harm!
Interview with Fr. Chuck Dahm at St. Pius V
Thursday, February 25, 2010
Domestic Violence Ministry at St. Pius V
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• **Couples (2007):** Program participants work together to improve their marriages once the issues of violence have been resolved.
“When I Call for Help”
A Pastoral Response to Domestic Violence Against Women

A Statement of the U.S. Catholic Bishops
Religion: Resource or Roadblock?

- A correct reading of Scripture leads to an understanding of the equal dignity of men and women and to relationships based on mutuality and love.
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  - Forgiveness does not mean forgetting the abuse or pretending it did not happen. Forgiveness is not permission to repeat the abuse.
  - An abused women’s suffering is not punishment from God. This image of a harsh, cruel God runs contrary to the biblical image of a kind, merciful, loving God.
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  - Husbands should love their wives as they love their own body, as Christ loves the Church.
  - Forgiveness does not mean forgetting the abuse or pretending it did not happen. Forgiveness is not permission to repeat the abuse.
  - An abused women’s suffering is not punishment from God. This image of a harsh, cruel God runs contrary to the biblical image of a kind, merciful, loving God.
  - No person is expected to stay in an abusive marriage. We encourage abused persons who have divorced to investigate the possibility of seeking an annulment.
Heed the Cries: Turn Mourning into Dancing

A National Conference focusing on faith-based and community response to Intimate Partner Violence

Tuesday, June 8, 2010 – Wednesday, June 9, 2010

Loyola University Chicago
Kasbeer Hall
25 East Pearson
Chicago, IL

Chicago Metropolitan Battered Women’s Network
1 E. Wacker Dr., Suite 1630, Chicago, IL 60601
www.batteredwomensnetwork.org
Here? No way!

- Ruth Hill  Executive Minister, Women Ministries for the Evangelical Covenant Church
- 800 member churches in the U.S. and Canada
- Advocacy for Victims Abuse (AVA)
Issue #2

Not in our community!
MISSION OPTIONS

1. Awaken Parish Community to Domestic Violence.
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2. Awareness + Referral Support
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2. Awareness + Referral Support

3. Awareness + Support at the Parish
MISSION

• St. Raymond’s mission is to offer tangible support - both spiritual and emotional - to victims of domestic violence by educating our community and providing individual and group counseling.
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• Further, it is envisioned that to make systemic change to this type of violence, that St. Raymond may one day offer counseling and educational opportunities to children, men and couples.
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RATIONALE

As a church, we are in a unique position to reach victims, witnesses, and perpetrators of domestic violence.
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Church communities can provide love and support in a special way.
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POLICIES & PROCEDURES

• Scope: St. Raymond parishioners although no one shall be turned away. No fees.

• Clients: professional data gathered.

• Security Audit: Mount Prospect Police Department

• Safety: doors should be secured.
INFRASTRUCTURE

• Security: “Your wife is not here.”

• Office space for counselor

• Meeting space for group counseling

• Bulletin space
COUNSELING PROFESSIONAL

• Qualifications: clinically licensed, DV (40 hours) trained, experienced counselor – ideally with St. Raymond roots.

• Pay structure: contract based. $ per hour with preparation time remunerated.

• Supervision and liability insurance: paid by counselor.

• Hours: minimal at beginning with an average of 10 hours per week thereafter.
BUDGET – YEAR 1

• Expense
  – Counselor: (26 weeks x 10 hours per week x $)
  
  – Education: (Training for parish staff and committee)
  
• Revenue: Alms
BUDGET – YEAR 3

• Expense
  – Counselor: (50 weeks x 40 hours per week x $)
  – Education: $ 1,500

• Revenue
  – Alms, fund raising activities and grants
EDUCATION

• DV Committee: training July 17, 2010

• Parish Staff: training July 28, 2010

• DV Manual
Step 2

“Go Live”
October, 2010

• Domestic Violence Awareness Month
October, 2010

- Domestic Violence Awareness Month
- Fr. Chuck Dahm
October, 2010

• Domestic Violence Awareness Month
• Fr. Chuck Dahm
• Letter From Our Pastor: Bulletin
October, 2010

• Domestic Violence Awareness Month
• Fr. Chuck Dahm
• Letter From Our Pastor: Bulletin
• Bulletin Articles: On-going
October, 2010

• Domestic Violence Awareness Month
• Fr. Chuck Dahm
• Letter From Our Pastor: Bulletin
• Bulletin Articles: On-going
• Point of Contact: restrooms (women’s only)
October, 2010

• Domestic Violence Awareness Month
• Fr. Chuck Dahm
• Letter From Our Pastor: Bulletin
• Bulletin Articles: On-going
• Point of Contact: restrooms (women’s only)
• Outreach to St. Raymond Ministries
Step 3

Evaluation
Next Step

• Shared Services – Local Area Parishes
  • The Pitch
    – A Faith Community can put their arms around victims
    – Reflect God’s love
    – Can reach victims, witness and perpetrators
  • Services
    – Help Develop Ministries
    – Share Counselor
    – Share Expenses
12 Steps to Forming a DV Ministry


2. Read “Developing a Parish Ministry for Victims of Domestic Violence: Background Reading” and then begin to discuss what you want to accomplish.

3. Form a committee. Choose a leader.
12 Steps to Forming a DV Ministry

4. Meet regularly - at least twice a month to start.

5. Consider these tasks: finding and connecting with resources such as shelters, counselors, and police; educational and awareness outreach; assistance to victims; training of staff and committee members. How do these tasks get completed?

6. Determine who will develop and maintain a contact list as well as call people who miss meetings in order to keep them involved.
12 Steps to Forming a DV Ministry

7. Talk with parishes that have established a domestic violence ministry.

8. Create a mission statement that tells what you want to accomplish.

9. Decide how you are going to educate your parish community on domestic violence and how you are going to support victims of domestic violence.
12 Steps to Forming a DV Ministry

10. Establish a budget.

11. Develop a timeline.

12. Make your pastor a partner and keep him informed every step of the way.