

# Effective Strategies to Promote Domestic Abuse Awareness in Parishes



*Working to Reduce Poverty in America*



Catholics For  
Family Peace

Education and Research on Domestic Abuse

NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR THE FAMILY



NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR THE FAMILY



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- ✓ The webinar is being recorded and will be available on the website in the 'members only' portal.
- ✓ A recording of the webinar and PDF slides will be sent to your email in 1-3 days.
- ✓ Your phone lines and computer speakers are muted.
- ✓ We will have time for Q & A at the end.
- ✓ Use the "Questions" box for your questions.



# SPEAKERS

Scott Hurd, V.P. Leadership Development and Catholic Identity,

- Catholic Charities USA

Dr. Sharon A. O'Brien, Director

- Catholics For Family Peace Education and Research Initiative

Laura Yeomans, Program Manager, Parish Partners Program,

- Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Washington DC

Diane O'Brien, BSN, RN, CPN, Chair, Parish Support Committee,

- Archdiocese of Chicago Domestic Violence Outreach

Dr. Lauri Przybysz, Education Director,

- Catholics For Family Peace Education and Research Initiative

# Catholic Charities DC

## Domestic Violence

### Outreach



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Priest Advisory Committee set goals:

Outreach and training:

Pastors, Deacons, Parish Staff  
Teachers, School Staff  
Parishioners/Ministry Leaders  
Vulnerable Communities

Create, update resources:

Pastor's DV packet  
Laminated resource cards  
Bulletin inserts, prayers  
Presentations, workshops  
Website, restroom posters

Ministry Development

Parish ministry, outreach, education

Emergency Assistance



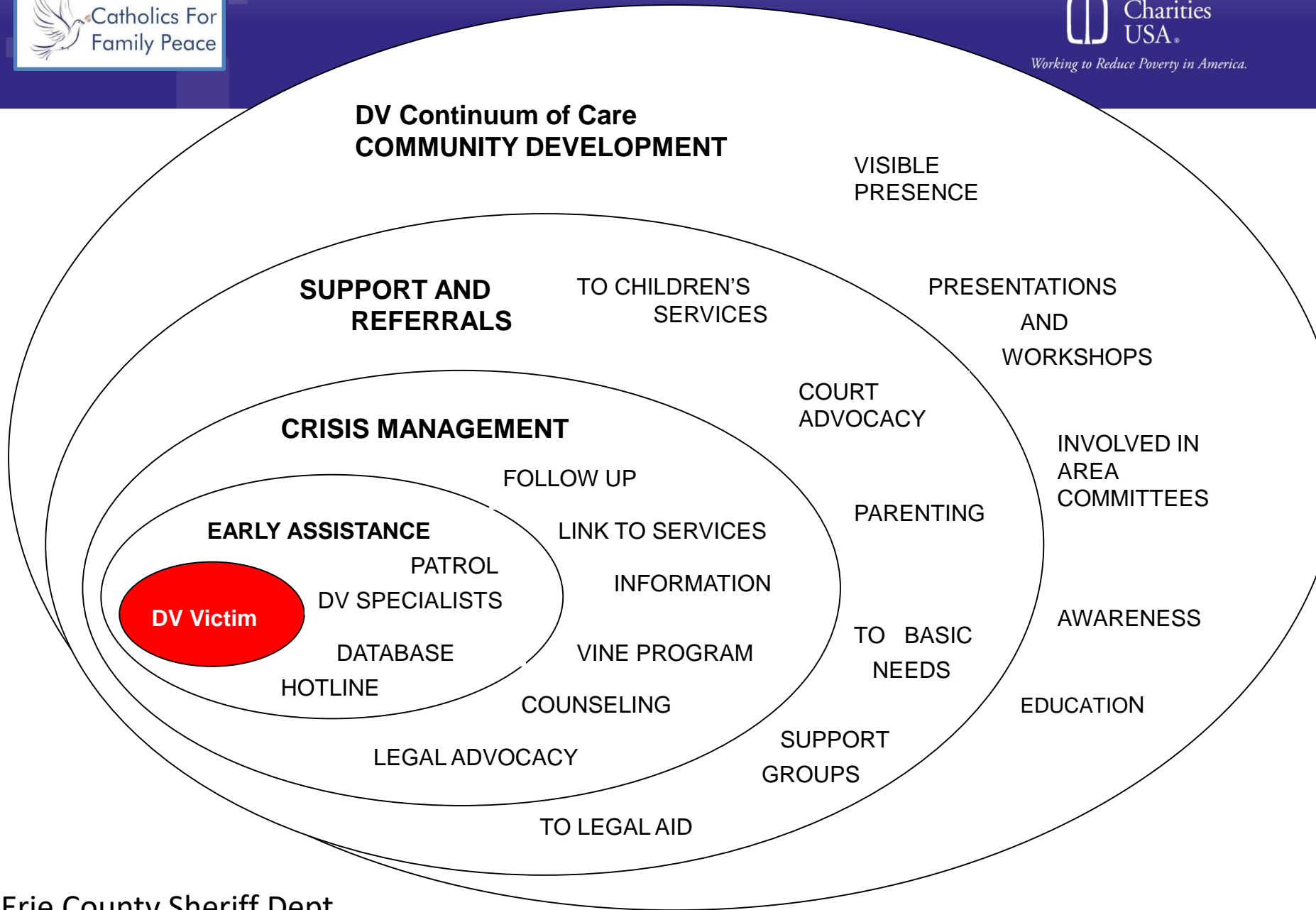
# Emergency assistance

Catholic Charities Parish Partners' cases referred by parishes.

- Physical violence against spouse
- Threats to kill spouse or children
- Domestic violence murder
- Threats/actions related to suicide
- Hospitalized after violence
- Violence extends to children
- Spying, controlling
- Choking
- Violence against pets







# Updated Catholic Charities Resources

[www.catholiccharitiesdc.org/familypeace](http://www.catholiccharitiesdc.org/familypeace)

## Pastor's Domestic Violence Packet

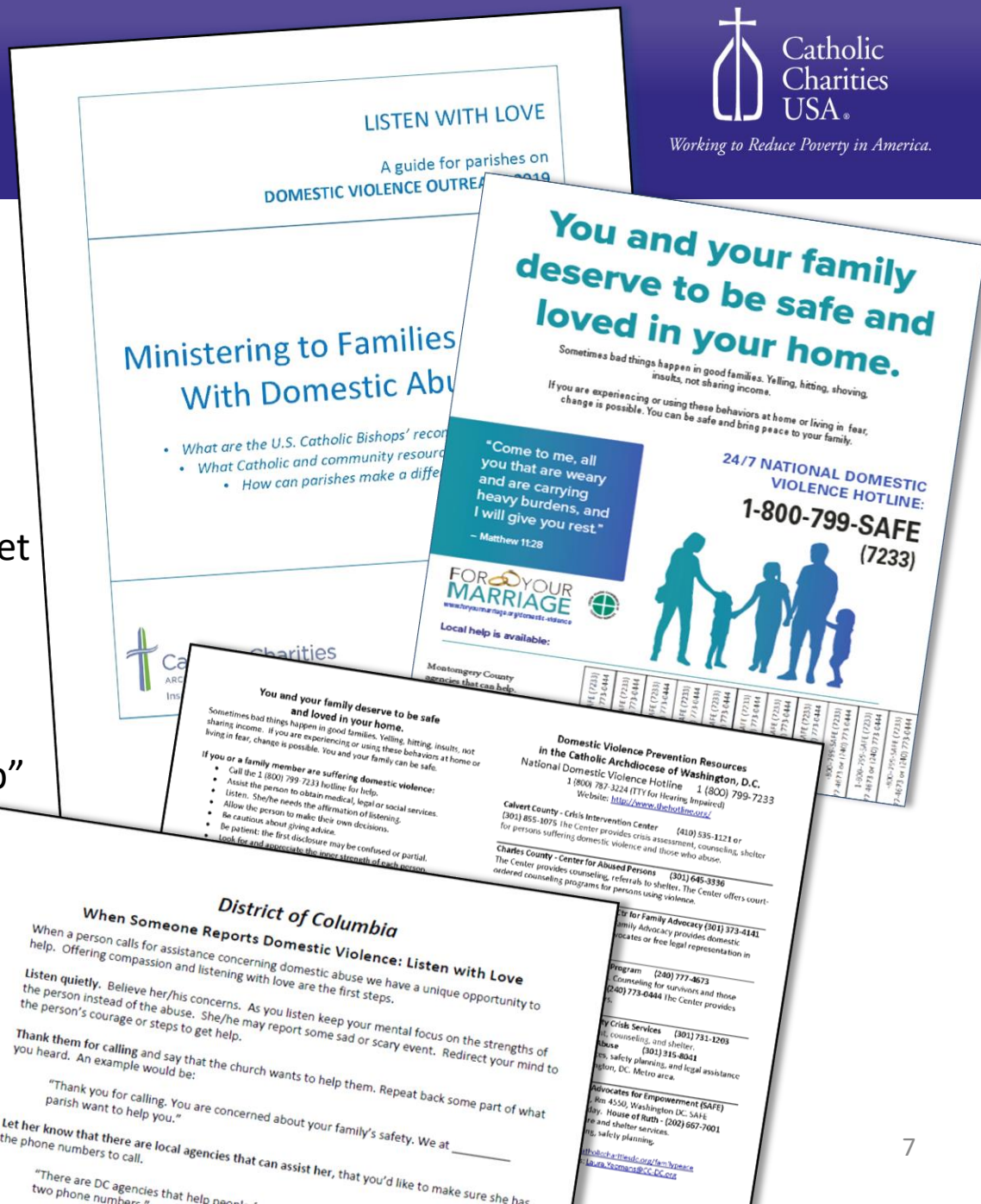
- First response call sheets
- Survivor and abuser counseling agencies
- USCCB "When I Call for Help"

## Parish Outreach Materials

- Restroom flyers
- Bulletin inserts
- Resource sheets

[Laura.Yeomans@CC-DC.org](mailto:Laura.Yeomans@CC-DC.org)

(202) 315-9440





# Ministry Development

## Basic Information

Restroom tear-off flyers  
Prayers of the faithful  
Bulletin inserts

90 parishes reported  
using materials in 2020  
Archdiocese assisted with  
outreach.

## Outreach

Restroom tear-off flyers  
Prayers of the faithful  
Bulletin inserts  
Literature displays  
Ministry tabling events  
October activity/workshop  
Connected with  
established ministries

24 parishes hosted/  
41 participated  
Archdiocese hosted  
workshops

## Study/Action

Restroom tear-off flyers  
Prayers of the faithful  
Bulletin inserts  
Literature displays  
Ministry tabling events  
October activity/workshop

Homily on domestic violence  
Domestic violence ministry  
Fundraisers for local DV  
programs  
Training priests, staff, leaders  
teachers, parishioners



# Collaboration with Archdiocese of Washington, DC

## Outreach

### Office of Family Life

- Updated ADW  
Website: Listen with  
Love: Pastors  
Domestic Violence  
Resource Packet
- Parish Briefings
- Clergy News
- Radio programs

## Presentations

Office of Family Life  
11/16/20 workshop

Office of the Permanent  
Diaconate 5/16/20  
Deacons & Wives Conf

Catholic Schools Office  
2/3/21 Counselors

Parish and School  
Financial Operations  
2/12/21

Office of Bishop  
Dorsonville: Priests  
serving Hispanic/Latino  
parishes

Deanery presentations

## Future plans 2021

Domestic Violence Mass  
with Cardinal Gregory at  
the Basilica of the  
National Shrine  
10/2/2021

With Office of Family Life  
a workshop on domestic  
violence in Spanish. 5/21

Presentation to  
Catechists Fall 2021

Radio program 4/18/21

# CC 2021 Parish Domestic Violence Awareness Team

## Volunteer Team Members:

Lay leaders

DC  
policewoman  
detective

DC human  
resources  
professional

MC human  
rights attorney  
from Nigeria

MC mental  
health  
counselor

MC domestic  
violence  
advocate

PG pediatric  
nurse and  
teacher

PG nursing  
student

CH registered  
nurse, AU grad  
student

## Goals:

1. Study USCCB recommendations.
2. Prepare short presentations for Fall 2021.
3. Update regional resource materials.
4. Advertise 10/2 Mass with Cardinal Gregory
5. Encourage members' parishes to participate and host their own Oct. events

# First Responders: Priests, Deacons and Lay Ministers



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## Intervention by the Church has three goals:

- Safety for the victim and children
- Accountability for the abuser; and
- Restoration of the relationship (if possible) or mourning over the loss of the relationship.

## First responders:

- Listen to and believe the victim's story
- Help assess the danger to survivor and children
- Refer to counseling and other specialized services

**National Domestic Violence Hotline 1 800 799-7233**



It is important to note that when dealing with people who abuse, couple counseling is not appropriate, and can endanger the victim's safety.





# What Your Parish Can Do To Help..

- Include information about domestic violence and local resources in bulletins, websites and restrooms.
- Keep an updated list of resources.
- Find a staff person or volunteer to receive in depth training.
- Participate in national observance of “Domestic Violence Awareness Month” (October).
- Include a discussion of domestic violence in baptism and marriage prep classes.
- Take a collection for your local domestic violence program.





DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OUTREACH  
ARCHDIOCESE *of* CHICAGO

Parish Support



## Key Factors in Starting and Maintaining **Domestic Violence Ministries in Parishes**

Strategy # 1 Mentoring Program

Strategy # 2 Implementation Process

Strategy #3 Continuation of Ministry Thru  
Communication

## Mentoring Program

A. Recruit Mentors

B. Educate Mentors

C. Action in the Field (Structure)

## Implementation The Meetings

- A. Fr. Dahm delivers homily at weekend masses
- B. Initial meeting conducted by Fr. Dahm with Mentor
- C. Distribute agenda
- D. Flyers, posters available
- E. Leader/s identified
- F. Next meeting date set

# Brochures

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO



## DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OUTREACH

**AWARENESS  
SERVICES  
PREVENTION**

## **Domestic Violence Outreach Ministry**



### **Sacred Heart Parish**

**Rev. Jacek Wrona, Pastor**

8245 W. 111<sup>th</sup> St.

Palos Hills, IL 60465

(708) 974-3336 ext. 250

<http://sacredheartpalos.org/dvdir/>

Under the direction of: The Archdiocese of  
Chicago Domestic Violence Outreach

Rev. Charles W. Dahm, O.P.

1914 S. Ashland Ave.

Chicago, IL 60608

(312) 371-7752

[cdahm13@gmail.com](mailto:cdahm13@gmail.com)

[www.domesticviolenceoutreach.org](http://www.domesticviolenceoutreach.org)

## Continuation of Ministry Thru Communication

- A. Archdiocesan DV news and updates from Administrative Secretary
- B. Attend bi-annual ACDVO meetings
- C. Share parish activities
- D. Participate in South Side parish gatherings
- E. Quarterly newsletter



DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OUTREACH  
— ARCHDIOCESE of CHICAGO —  
AWARENESS - SERVICES - PREVENTION



Good News About the Fight to End Domestic Violence

Winter 2021

Join us for a night of virtual celebration!



Archdiocese of Chicago  
Domestic Violence Outreach  
Annual Benefit Gala

Raffles,  
Music,  
Entertainment!

&  
Father Chuck's Birthday Party

SATURDAY MARCH 13, 2021  
6:00PM CST  
ZOOM WEBCAST



Sing  
"Happy Birthday!"  
to Fr. Chuck Dahm!

Register today!  
[bit.ly/ACDVOGalaRegister](https://bit.ly/ACDVOGalaRegister)

Free!  
Suggested ticket donation is  
\$50 per attendee.

Donate!  
Visit [bit.ly/ACDVODonate](https://bit.ly/ACDVODonate)  
or mail checks and raffle ticket stubs to:  
ACDVO Gala 2021  
P.O. Box 238  
Brookfield IL 60513

Questions? Email [gala.acdvo@gmail.com](mailto:gala.acdvo@gmail.com)

Dance the  
Macarena!



## Contact Info

Diane O'Brien, BSN, RN, CPN

Chairperson, Parish Mentoring  
Program Committee

Archdiocese of Chicago DV Outreach

[quiltsnow@icloud.com](mailto:quiltsnow@icloud.com)

# Catholic Teaching on Domestic Violence

*Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.*

- 1 Corinthians 13: 4-7



# Mutuality and Respect Between Spouses

- The Church calls husbands and wives into a partnership of **equal dignity**, both created in the image of God.
- While many spouses understand this call to mutuality and **equal authority in marriage**, others enter marriage with destructive attitudes about how men and women should relate to one another.

# Canon Law 1153

“If either of the spouses causes grave mental or physical danger to the other spouse or to the offspring or otherwise renders common life too difficult, **that spouse gives the other a legitimate cause for leaving**, either by decree of the local ordinary or even on his or her own authority if there is danger in delay.”

- Code of Canon Law 1153



# *When I Call for Help*

“...acting to end the abuse **does not violate** the marriage promises.”

“As bishops, we condemn the use of the Bible to support abusive behavior in any form. A correct reading of Scripture leads people to an understanding of the **equal dignity** of men and women and to relationships based on mutuality and love.”

“Finally, we emphasize that **no person is expected to stay** in an abusive marriage.”

## 5 Main Points in *Amoris Laetitia* re: DV

1. Violence in families exists
2. There are various forms of violence
3. Insights into why violence happens
4. The effects of violence on the family and society
5. How the Church and people can help

# #1) Violence in families exists

- Must be attentive to “the actual situation of families” (no. 6)
- “Lights and shadows,” avoiding stereotypes (nos. 32, 57)
- Domestic violence is a serious challenge facing families, including families in our Church community.

“Unacceptable customs still need to be eliminated. I think particularly of the shameful ill-treatment to which women are sometimes subjective, domestic violence and various forms of enslavement...” (no. 54)

## #2) There are various forms of violence

- “When I Call for Help”: physical, sexual, psychological, verbal, economic
- *Amoris Laetitia*: “verbal, physical, sexual” (no. 54), emotional/control, abuse of children

“Within marriage itself, sex can become a source of suffering and manipulation.” (no. 154)

“The sexual abuse of children is all the more scandalous when it occurs in places where they ought to be the most safe, particularly in families...” (no. 45)

# #3) Insights into causes of violence

- Throwaway culture
  - “Everything is disposable; everyone uses and throws away...” (no. 39)
- Domination
  - “The relationship of love and purity between man and woman turns into domination.” (no. 19)
- The inability to control anger
  - “It is one thing to sense a sudden surge of hostility and another to give into it, letting it take root in our hearts...” (no. 104)
- A warped understanding of sexuality
  - “In our own day, sexuality risks being poisoned by the mentality of ‘use and discard’.” (no. 153)



## #4) The effects of violence on family and society

- Domestic violence can lead to separation, which in some cases is “morally necessary” for safety (no. 241)
  - Have empathy for people forced to leave their common life because of abuse.
- Single parents who left maltreatment face economic and other hardships.
- Violence in the home has an effect on violence in society.

“Violence within families...is a breeding-ground of resentment and hatred.” (no. 51)

## #5) Ways the Church and people can help

- Lay leaders need good training.
- Parishes, schools, movements and other Church institutions need to be able to provide services for families experiencing domestic violence.
- Parish offices need to deal sensitively with needs and refer when necessary.

“Good pastoral training [for lay leaders] is important especially in light of particular emergency situations arising from cases of domestic violence and sexual abuse.”  
(no. 204)

# Thank you!

## Questions/Comments

<https://www.catholiccharitiesusa.org/>

<https://www.catholicsforfamilypeace.org>

