

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OUTREACH

— ARCHDIOCESE *of* CHICAGO —

AWARENESS - SERVICES - PREVENTION



Good News About the Fight to End Domestic Violence

Spring 2019

Gala Inspires Enthusiasm to End Domestic Violence

The Archdiocese of Chicago Domestic Violence Outreach held its third Gala Benefit on March 29, 2019, at The Diplomat West in Elmhurst. And what an exciting evening it was! An enthusiastic crowd of 271 enjoyed a beautifully decorated venue, a delicious meal, attractive raffle and silent auction items, and an engaging program. Phil Andrew, the Director of Cardinal Cupich's Violence Prevention Initiatives, inspired attendees with his personal story and his ministry to curb violence (see p. 2). ACDVO premiered its new video which will soon be available on the website.

The event connected supporters and representatives from 140 parishes in Cook and Lake Counties that have sponsored a weekend of preaching about domestic violence. ACDVO receives no financial support from the Archdiocese of Chicago, so it relies on this benefit as its principal source of funding. Approximately \$45,000 was raised to help support the ministry, as well as enable ACDVO to assist other organizations working on domestic violence. Thank you to all generous donors and attendees!

Special congratulations and grateful thanks to our Gala Committee for a fun and successful event. Also, cheers to our lucky raffle winners: Donald and Kathleen Finan, Mike Stephen, and Patricia Werhane. Finally, we greatly appreciate our highly skilled photographer, Frank Starshak, ministry member from St. Edna. More photos will be posted on the ACDVO website soon.



The Gala Committee: Fr. Chuck, Vivian Swibel, Bibiana Tohme, Jan Burdulis, Rita Sprudzs, Veronica McCoy, Joyce O'Brien, Cathy Hastings, Naomi Gutierrez; missing Mary Galazkiewicz.



A large contingent from St. Bernadette parish joined their pastor, Fr. Benedict Pazdan, and celebrated their efforts to reach out to victims of domestic violence in their parish.



The peace and justice group from St. Pius V celebrated with Fr. Chuck: Graciano Gonzalez, Antonio Guzman, Alma Silva, Vicky Chavez, Maria and Rodolfo Morales, Martha Lojero and friend.



Friends and family attended with Vivian Swibel for a fun-filled evening. Several volunteered to help Vivian set up and manage a successful silent auction.



ACDVO Extends Awareness and Training

ACDVO Members Meet in Biannual Assembly



Seventy representatives from parish DV committees met at Holy Name Cathedral in March to learn more about violence prevention.

Cardinal Blase Cupich established the Office of Violence Prevention Initiatives in early 2018 and hired Phil Andrew as its first director. Phil spoke to ACDVO's biannual meeting in March about his work.

Phil had worked for 20 years for the FBI on illegal gun trafficking. He himself was a victim of gun violence when, as a teenager, he was shot while being held hostage with his mother in their home in Winnetka. He has a passion for working against violence in all its forms.

He noted that 65% of mass shooters in the U. S. have had prior experience with domestic abuse, whether growing up with domestic violence or as perpetrators themselves.

Phil learned about ACDVO when Fr. Chuck preached at his parish, St. Francis Xavier, in Wilmette. He noted that most street violence in Chicago has its roots in domestic violence; consequently, he is an avid supporter of ACDVO. Phil insists that we have to influence the younger generation if we want to end domestic violence.

Noting that most violence in Chicago happens in a limited number of neighborhoods, he emphasized the need to concentrate services in those areas, requoting, "Nothing stops a bullet like a job." Employment as well as social services for families are vital. Schools need to offer social-emotional learning for their students so they are trained to respond correctly to conflict and threats.

Thank you for your support!

We thank you from the bottom of our hearts for your generous donations for our ministry. We need your support. You, too, are helping to end domestic violence.

Send contributions to Domestic Violence Outreach,
1914 S. Ashland Avenue, Chicago, IL 60608.

Contact Fr. Chuck: 312-371-7752, cdahm13@gmail.com

African-American Parishes Collaborate

ACDVO has been working to involve more African-American parishes on Chicago's south side in the fight against domestic violence. The DV Committee from St. Katherine Drexel Parish at St. Ailbe Church took the lead to gather representatives from different parish women's groups to discuss domestic violence and the need for their parishes to respond. Seven parishes sent representatives and all asked for DV training. Pictured are participants from St. Philip Neri, St. Elizabeth, St. Benedict the African, and St. Katherine Drexel.



Bernita Johnson, Executive Committee Member, Brings Hope and Guidance to Women in Cook County Jail



"I was nervous when speaking about domestic violence to women at Cook County Jail, but this was an opportunity to convey some very important and potentially life-saving information. Would the prisoners be interested? I threw myself into it. The women were engaged, commenting and asking questions; they spoke their truth. Afterward, one woman spoke with me. She poured out her story of abuse. Her story was typical and her pain real. She just wanted someone to listen. I learned so much from the experience; it won't be my last at the jail. Thanks to Father Dahm and Michael McGillicuddy, Ignatian volunteer with Kolbe House, for allowing me this blessing." Bernita Johnson
Continue to remember those in prison as if you were together with them in prison and those who are mistreated as if you yourselves were suffering. Hebrews 13:3

ACDVO Focuses on Teen Dating Violence



It is important to prepare our young people to recognize healthy and unhealthy relationships. One in three teens suffers some sort of abuse in their dating relationships. A preventative approach is part of ACDVO's mission. In parishes, that means teaching teens about abuse, how to recognize it and how to avoid it. Parishes can insert classes on healthy relationship building in their religious education programs, in their youth groups, and for parishes with schools, principals and teachers can provide training for their students starting as early as fourth grade.

This year, the Center for Disease Control and Prevention will publish a curriculum on developing healthy relationships for sixth and seventh graders and approve 'Dating Matters' for eighth grade and high school students. But materials are already available for all these age groups. Appropriate resources can be found on ACDVO's website at www.domesticviolenceoutreach.org.

Social Media on Teen Dating Violence

In February, ACDVO participated in the national month of teen dating violence awareness with a 28-day social media campaign on Instagram, Facebook and Twitter. Informative and eye-catching graphics focused on topics such as self-respect, healthy relationship characteristics, and warning signs of unhealthy or abusive partners.

ACDVO Social Media Coordinator, Annie Ryder, designed this collection of graphics with themes rotating on myths vs. facts about relationships, scriptural verses, helpful talking tips for parents and bystander friends, and inspirational images of positive couples.

On Instagram, this campaign yielded an 11% increase in ACDVO followers in the age categories of 13-17 years and 18-24 years, an outstanding result. Various state domestic violence organizations shared ACDVO's content, helping to reach a larger audience.

The entire set of 28 graphics is available for parish bulletins or school handouts in the ACDVO Resource Manual (section 4.3.4.2) at www.domesticviolenceoutreach.org.

Below is a sample graphic.



FACT :

In the United States, 12% of high school females reported physical violence and 16% reported sexual violence from a dating partner in the past 12 months before surveyed.

The 2015 National Youth Risk Behavior Survey
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
www.cdc.gov



Teens Learn about Healthy Relationships



Confirmation candidates at Our Lady of Mercy Parish learn how to recognize healthy and unhealthy relationships.

Jessica Caccavallo, Prevention Educator for [Northwest Center Against Sexual Assault](#), presented a 75-minute class to 65 freshman and sophomores and another to 35 juniors and seniors in the Religious Education Program at Our Lady of Mercy. Jessica is a dynamic facilitator who clearly understands the challenges young people face and knows how to speak their language.

A variety of topics were covered during the presentation including healthy dating dynamics, how to manage a breakup, signs of unhealthy dating relationships, and how to get help. The students interacted openly with Jessica, responding to questions and offering their opinions about dating.

Jessica's class was filmed and can be viewed on YouTube or on the ACDVO website: www.domesticviolenceoutreach.org.

Statistically, approximately 1 in 3 adolescents in the U.S is a victim of physical, psychological or sexual abuse from their dating partner, yet only about 60% of teens who have been in a violent relationship ever tell anyone ([CDC National Intimate Partner & Sexual Violence Survey, 2010](#)). Violent behavior typically begins between the ages of 11 and 17.

It is critical to have safe spaces for teens to participate in these conversations in our ministries, classrooms and homes. Children should be encouraged to talk with their parents or other trusted adults. Prevention education is key to reducing and ultimately ending intimate partner violence.



Your ACDVO

Parishes Work Together to Address Domestic Violence



Our Lady of the Wayside and St. James ministries, both in Arlington Heights, joined together for a project promoting Easter joy by assembling Easter baskets for children living in WINGS' shelters as a result of domestic violence.

The 50 beautiful baskets were packed with age-appropriate toys, games, books and Easter candy donated by the parish communities. Lovely cards with hand-written notes were created by the 6th grade classes at each parish school for inclusion in the baskets, creating a special bond between the students and those who suffer from abuse.

During this Lenten season of hope, the ministries are blessed to contribute some peace and happiness to these children.

Aveda Salon Welcomes DV Awareness Event

Last October, the DV Committee of St. Bernadette Parish Chicago organized a wine and cheese party at the Aveda Salon, attended by 35 women. Presentations by attorney Patrick O'Brien, Jessica McCarrihan (A New Direction) and Bibiana Thome (DV survivor) included information on how Orders of Protection can help victims and what local advocacy resources are available to the public.

Participants raised questions for a lively discussion, and each guest received a purple gift bag filled with information and small gifts donated by Joan Each-Rowan, the salon's owner. One attendee already connected with assistance for herself. What an excellent example of a fun event raising awareness!



Three southwest suburban Chicago parishes combined ministries to form "Together Against Domestic Violence": Sacred Heart (Palos Hills), St. Alexander (Palos Heights), and Incarnation (Crestwood). As a result of their efforts, in April (Child Abuse Awareness Month), each parish will publish similar informational bulletin inserts, and two parishes were given permission to display lawn signs and blue pinwheels on their campuses. The blue pinwheels are a national symbol for child abuse and neglect prevention, reminding us that all children deserve bright futures.

If others are interested, the pinwheels can be ordered from [Positive Promotions](#) or [Prevent Child Abuse Illinois](#).



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