

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



Good News About the Fight to End Domestic Violence

Fall 2018

## 3rd Annual Mass for Victims of Domestic Violence



*Representatives from 132 parishes that have hosted preaching about domestic violence hold signs of their parishes in Holy Name Cathedral on September 30, 2018, for the Third Annual Archdiocesan Mass for Victims of Domestic Violence. Approximately 900 people attended. Fr. Charles W. Dahm, O.P., Director of Domestic Violence Outreach, presided and preached at the Mass.*

## Parishes Host Special Activities in DV Awareness Month

The Mass served to kick off activities many parishes organized to heighten awareness about domestic violence in their communities during October, Domestic Violence Awareness Month. The following is a selection of events.

- St. James, St. Edna and Our Lady of the Wayside organized an ecumenical prayer service, "Shine the Light," for October 21st in Arlington Heights;
- St. Paul of the Cross has a panel discussion, "From Darkness into Light," on October 22nd in Park Ridge;
- St. Mary of the Woods sponsored a concert, "Journey of Love, Loss, Hope and Recovery;"
- St. Francis Xavier, St. Cletus and St. John of the Cross gathered for an evening of sharing with a survivor;
- Our Lady of the Brook joined Shir Hadash Synagogue for a panel discussion on "What Drives Abusers' Behavior;"
- St. Bernadette hosted a panel with a public defender and former State's Attorney and local DV agency president;
- St. Raymond is holding a presentation and discussion on "Domestic Violence and Dating Violence," on October 25;
- Catholic Charities and St. Gall parish held a presentation by the Chicago Police on its response to domestic violence;
- Holy Spirit Church in Schaumburg hosted a panel with a former domestic violence court judge and representative of DV service provider WINGS.

**Save the Date  
Annual Gala Benefit  
March 23, 2019**

**Diplomat West, NW Corner of North Avenue  
and Highway 83 in Elmhurst**



# ACDVO Trains Parishes for Domestic Violence Ministry



*Members of Domestic Violence Committees from St. Alphonsus Ligouri and St. Thomas Becket parishes celebrate after their training workshop.*

ACDVO's Education and Training Committee has presented 4-hour training sessions to 60 parish ministry committees and 90-minute workshops for 14 parish staffs. In November 2017, ACDVO provided a 4-hour training session to 196 seminarians at the University of St. Mary of the Lake in Mundelein, Illinois.

Training sessions focus on recognizing and understanding domestic violence, how to respond pastorally to victims and how to emphasize the Catholic Church's position: "No one is expected to stay in an abusive marriage."

Participants have responded very positively. In evaluations, we ask: Was your time well spent? What did you find most useful? What can be improved? Here are typical responses:

**Time?** "Time well spent. Very informative." "A very clear presentation." "It opened my eyes to how widespread DV is." "This ministry is dear to my heart." "The presentation was excellent."

**Useful?** "Especially videos of survivors' personal stories." "Getting prevention to middle and high school kids is vital." "Exchange of ideas, questions and input from participants was very helpful." "Priests need to attend and know how to respond to victims."

**To Improve?** "More time needed, offer an additional session." "More attention on what ministries can do." "More prevention information."

We also assisted several parishes in showing "The Hunting Ground," a documentary about sexual assault on college campuses followed by small group discussions to learn how to be safe. We are here to help. Contact [jmonaco.acdvo@gmail.com](mailto:jmonaco.acdvo@gmail.com).



*Staff and domestic violence committee members participate in the ACDVO training at St. Columbanus parish.*

## Important Facts about Domestic Violence

- ◆ Worldwide: 1 in 3 women experiences physical and/or sexual violence by an intimate partner at some point in her life.
- ◆ United States: Nearly 3 in 10 women, 28.8% or 34.3 million, have experienced rape, physical violence and/or stalking by an intimate partner; for men it is nearly 10% or 11.2 million.
- ◆ Medical care, mental health services, and lost productivity costs of Intimate Partner Violence are estimated at \$5.8 billion in 1995 or \$11 billion in 2018 dollars.
- ◆ In 2011, those admitted to Illinois' Cook County Jail for domestic violence accounted for 44% of all admissions for violent crime, including community violence, second only to possession of a controlled substance.
- ◆ A 2008 study by the U. S. Dept. of Justice showed 25% of men and 35% of women who perpetrate violence against others are themselves victims of violence. They learned it at home.



*Hispanics from several parishes enjoy a break during training at Queen of the Universe.*

# Promote Prevention in Your School



Jessica Caccavallo teaches young students about healthy relationships at St. Raymond parish school.

## ACDVO Committees Hard at Work

**Reaching out to other dioceses:** The Communications Committee has sent letters to contacts in all 197 U.S. dioceses offering to help them develop ministries on domestic violence.

**Supporting DV funding:** The Public Policy Committee is urging everyone to contact their US congressional legislators to co-sponsor the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act (VAWA) ( H.R. 6545) to be voted on in November. It is the principal source of federal funding for domestic violence services in the nation. If they haven't signed on yet, ask them to do so immediately. VAWA has been bipartisan, so it is important to get support from Republican Representatives. Use [www.house.gov](http://www.house.gov) to find your U.S. Representative.

**Lots of DV Training:** See article on p. 2.

**Parish Support:** With 25 members, the Committee sends a mentor to parishes after Fr. Chuck preaches at all weekend Masses to help form a parish ministry. He keeps them busy.

**Waiting for the CDC:** The Prevention Committee is eagerly awaiting the Center for Disease Control and Prevention to release its prevention curriculum for 6th and 7th grades. The Committee will identify Catholic schools to pilot the curriculum as soon as it is available.

St. Raymond de Penafort School is a leader in preparing students to avoid sexual abuse and dating violence. Principal Mary Eileen Ward appreciates implementing mandates of Erin's Law by teaching prevention to her K thru 5<sup>th</sup> graders and Junior High students, as well as their parents.

The school provides *Personal Body Safety* conversations for K–5<sup>th</sup> grade every year to help students learn what to do if they have a 'Body Emergency;' or as we adults say, "Child Sexual Abuse." Jessica Caccavallo, a licensed social worker and Prevention Education Coordinator for Northwest Center Against Sexual Assault (Northwest CASA) conducts the classes.

The statistics are alarming: 93% of child sexual abuse victims know their perpetrators (family, friends, neighbors, etc.); 66% of minor victims are between ages 12-17, and 1 in 5 girls and 1 in 6 boys will be a victim of child sexual abuse by the time they are 18 years old (RAINN.ORG, 2018).

We cannot say "not in my neighborhood" or "not my child," because it happens everywhere. Students learn to identify if they are being sexually abused, how to get away and get help. They explore 'safe and unsafe secrets' and identify safe adults in whom they can confide. Most importantly, students learn it is never their fault. Teens are often wrongly blamed for abuse they suffer.

For Junior High students, Jessica also addresses sexual harassment, dating and sexual violence and how to help a friend experiencing abuse. Students learn about sexting, child pornography, and online sexual predators. Conversations are age appropriate and provide students with a framework of what is and is not OK in a relationship. The more we educate children, the safer they will be.

Northwest CASA offers counseling services to survivors of sexual violence, medical advocacy, legal advocacy in northwest Cook and McHenry Counties. People in need can call their Crisis Hotline at 888-802-8890. All services are free. If your school is interested, contact Jessica at [jcaccavallo@nwcasa.org](mailto:jcaccavallo@nwcasa.org).

## Study of ACDVO'S Successful Development



Beata Debinski from Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health

Beata Debinski, a PhD Candidate in Social and Behavioral Sciences at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, is focusing her doctoral dissertation on ACDVO.

Her interest is in injury and violence prevention. She is conducting a case study of ACDVO's work: how it began, how it has evolved and how it is implemented at both the archdiocesan and parish levels.

Her study will apply organizational theory as a way to identify factors that contribute to ACDVO's successes and challenges in addressing intimate partner violence.



## Assembly of Representatives from Parishes with DV Ministries



Representatives from 45 parishes met at Holy Name Cathedral on September 15th to receive information for their ministries at the biannual assembly of parishes working on domestic violence. They heard updates on the work throughout the archdiocese, as well as a presentation by Brendan Yukins on preparing children to recognize unhealthy relationships and sexual assault.

Fr. Chuck Dahm, O.P., ACDVO Director, reported on the growing number of parishes where he has preached on domestic violence, now reaching 132, approximately 90 of them with active ministries. He also reported on efforts to spread the ministry beyond the archdiocese, such as speaking in Dallas, TX; Newton, KS; San Diego, CA; Kalamazoo, MI; and Joliet, IL.

The ACDVO committees reported on their recent projects. People left energized by sharing their local parish experiences.

### New Developments on Our Website

Our website has a new, powerful, 10-minute video about ACDVO and a training video for deacons. We have also revised our resource manual to make it easier to search. Check it out at [www.domesticviolenceoutreach.org](http://www.domesticviolenceoutreach.org).

### ACDVO is on Social Media

Go to: [www.facebook.com/domesticviolenceoutreach](http://www.facebook.com/domesticviolenceoutreach)  
[www.instagram.com/dvochicago](http://www.instagram.com/dvochicago)  
[www.twitter.com/dvochicago](http://www.twitter.com/dvochicago)

Help us grow our followers by liking our pages.



**Many thanks** for your support of our ministry. We need your help to fight domestic violence by raising awareness, connecting victims to services and promoting prevention. Contact Fr. Charles W. Dahm, O.P., at 1914 S. Ashland Avenue, Chicago, IL 60608, 312-713-7752, [cdahm13@gmail.com](mailto:cdahm13@gmail.com), [www.DomesticViolenceOutreach.org](http://www.DomesticViolenceOutreach.org).

### ACDVO Steering Committee

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