

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



Good News About the Fight to End Domestic Violence

Summer 2017

First Newsletter of Domestic Violence Outreach

Welcome to the first newsletter of the Archdiocese of Chicago Domestic Violence Outreach (ACDVO). We are happy to report on the progress of our ministry throughout the archdiocese.

Our ministry began in 2008 when I, Fr. Charles W. Dahm, O.P., began preaching at weekend Masses in parishes in the archdiocese and then forming ministerial groups in most.

Today, I have preached in more than one hundred parishes and volunteers have formed ministries in about eighty parishes.

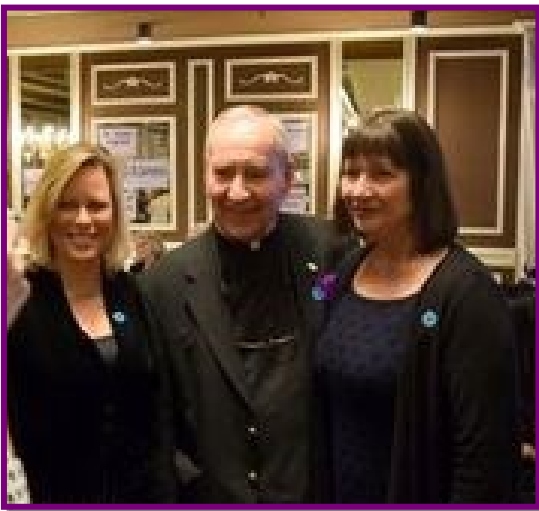
We have created a strong network, coordinated by a Steering Committee and an Executive Committee. We have developed the most comprehensive website on domestic violence of any

diocese in the country at www.domesticviolenceoutreach.org.

Chicago is the leader among U.S. dioceses addressing domestic violence. Only a handful of dioceses have any response to victims, which is tragic. Our long term plan is to create a model that other dioceses can replicate.

Please pray for our success. *Fr. Chuck*

First Benefit Gala - a Great Success



Dana Kozlov, CBS news anchor, and Kristie Paskvan, COO & CFO of Mesirow Financial and founder of Chicago Says No More, celebrate the successes of the



Steering Committee members Barbara Condon (Our Lady of the Wayside) and Diane O'Brien (Sacred Heart)

On March 31, 2017, the Archdiocese of Chicago Domestic Violence Outreach (ACDVO) held its first Benefit Gala, truly a resounding success. Four hundred people attended, and the overwhelming reaction was, "It was a lot of fun." The outstanding work of Chicago Says No More, Catholic Charities and the Chicago Metropolitan Battered Women's Network was recognized. In addition to a fine dinner, guests enjoyed socializing, dancing, a silent auction and raffle.

The event raised over \$50,000, which will help support ministry work throughout the archdiocese as well as enable ACDVO to respond to the special needs of organizations working to end domestic violence. Thank you to all who so generously supported the Gala. Make plans now to attend the 2nd annual Gala on Friday, March 23, 2018.



Upcoming Events

Archdiocesan Mass for Victims of Domestic Violence

On **September 30, 2017**, Cardinal Cupich will preside and preach at the 5:15 pm *Mass to End Domestic Violence* at Holy Name Cathedral. Those attending will pray for victims, their children and for perpetrators. We especially invite members of local domestic violence ministries to participate. A reception will follow Mass in the parish hall.

This is the second annual Mass to gather archdiocesan ministries in prayer, as we celebrate efforts to eliminate domestic violence in our communities.



Parishes Hold Workshops on Sexual Assault Prevention

In 2016, ACDVO presented workshops on sexual assault prevention for college-bound students and their parents in three clusters of parishes in the archdiocese. Several parishes will repeat these important workshops in 2017, including Our Lady of the Brook/St. Norbert in Northbrook, **June 21st**; St. Raymond in Mt. Prospect, **July 16th**; St. Edna in Arlington Heights, **July 23rd**; and St. Germaine in Oak Lawn, **July 25th**.

The workshop format includes watching segments of the award-winning documentary, *The Hunting Ground*, which reports on sexual assault on college campuses, followed by guided discussion. A kit is available to assist parishes in organizing the workshop. For more information contact Sheila Morrow, Chair, Education & Training Committee, (sheila.morrow17@gmail.com).



Fall Assembly of Parishes

In the spring and fall each year, ACDVO gathers representatives from parishes with active domestic violence ministries. The next meeting is **Saturday, September 16, 2017**, from 9:30 am to 1:00 pm, at Holy Name Cathedral cafeteria. These assemblies serve to assess the needs of the growing network of ministries, hear news of creative parish responses to the problem of DV and to learn more about related issues. This fall, Sheriff Tom Dart will speak about rampant human trafficking in Cook County.

Left: Adele Bach (Queen of All Saints) explains the work of the Communication Committee at the March 2017 parish assembly

Extension Prepares DV leaders

Starting on **October 25th**, Fr. Chuck Dahm, O.P., ACDVO Director, will conduct a workshop on domestic violence for leaders of parishes from missionary areas within the U.S. The weeklong retreat, dedicated to a variety of training sessions, is sponsored by the Catholic Extension Society and implemented by Loyola University's Institute of Pastoral Studies.

Training for Seminarians

On **November 15, 2017**, ACDVO will offer all seminarians at St. Mary of the Lake Seminary in Mundelein a 3-hour workshop on domestic violence. The last and only time this training was offered was in January 2011. We are happy the priests of the archdiocese and from many other dioceses will receive preparation on how to appropriately address this important pastoral issue.



Assistant State's Attorney Maiesha Baptiste addressed the legal process to help victims at St. Ailbe's forum

St. Ailbe Parish Sponsors DV Forums

St. Ailbe's Domestic Violence Ministry hosted its second forum on domestic violence on April 30th. It helped raise awareness about the horrific plight of DV victims and disseminate information on services. At its first forum, Vicki Meilach from South Suburban Family Shelter, Aileen Robinson from the Chicago Police, and Nicole Cannon, a high school counselor, spoke on types of domestic violence and how to help victims. A survivor shared her experience of falling into abuse and then rescuing herself.

At the most recent forum, The Honorable Steven Watkins and Assistant State's Attorney Maiesha Baptiste addressed the legal processes to help victims, and a male survivor also shared his experience. St. Ailbe's DV Ministry began in 2015 after Fr. Chuck Dahm's dynamic sermon and call to action. With pastor Fr. Larry Duris' support, the ministry has been very active.

ACDVO Works for State Funding

Through the ACDVO's Public Policy Committee, we have been urging Illinois state legislators to approve funding for DV programs throughout the state. Last year, DV agencies suffered a loss when the state cut their funding. This year the agencies have received nothing, and the budget proposal amounts to \$18.6 million.

Because of the lack of funding, two agencies had to close their doors: one in Carbondale and another in Springfield. Thus, there are no services for domestic violence victims and their children in those areas. The state owes Catholic Charities of Chicago more than \$40 million, which has not only curtailed its services for DV victims but for many other vulnerable people. We urge everyone to communicate with their legislators to support funding of DV services. To find contact information, go to www.ilga.gov and click on 'Members' to locate your representative.

Creativity in Parish Ministries

Our Lady of the Wayside, Arlington Heights, held its annual Parish Service Day in March. The Domestic Abuse Ministry presented its work: It had collected donations of supplies, gifts and money, and volunteers assembled 50 Easter baskets for children living in WINGS domestic violence shelters. The baskets included a lovely card, a book and bookmark, several toys and special Easter candy. The baskets were beautifully finished in brightly-colored cellophane wrap tied with a huge bow. The parishioners were pleased to create these nice Easter surprises donated to children who have experienced abuse in their families, and WINGS staff and families greatly appreciate these Easter blessings.



Our Lady of the Wayside's Parish Service Day project to benefit children living in WINGS shelters



Your ACDVO

Archdiocese of Chicago Domestic Violence Outreach continues to expand into new parishes. In 2017, Fr. Chuck Dahm, O.P., Director of ACDVO, has preached at all weekend Masses and formed ministries in 16 parishes, bringing the total to more than 100 parishes.

Organizational Structure: ACDVO's structure has also grown stronger. The various committees have been tasked with doing strategic planning and recruiting new members. In addition to the Executive Committee, the following committees are serving:

Communication: Develops materials, posts information on the ACDVO website and will soon expand to Facebook and Twitter. The committee

developed a very helpful Starter Kit to assist parishes interested in beginning a ministry. Chair: Adele Bach

Parish Support: Supports parishes initiating a ministry by having someone with experience accompany and mentor the new group. This is our largest committee. Chair: Diane O'Brien

Prevention: Researches materials available for prevention education. Works toward prevention program implementation in parishes and schools. Chair: Anne McGuire

Education and Training: Provides training on domestic violence to interested parishes. Chair: Sheila Morrow

Public Policy: Advocates for legislation

that benefits providers of services and DV victims. This year the Illinois legislature passed legislation requiring all cosmetologists to take a one-hour training on domestic violence. Many states are now imitating Illinois. Chair: Mary Kaess

ACDVO is always looking for new members to volunteer and expand the committees' work. If you are interested, contact Fr. Dahm or one of the committee chairs.

The Executive Committee: Charles W. Dahm, O.P.; Jan Burdulis, St. Pascal; Pam Davis, Catholic Charities; Deborah Hammond, Catholic Charities; John Monaco and Valerie Yokie, St. Raymond de Penafort

History of Archdiocese of Chicago Domestic Violence Outreach

The Archdiocese of Chicago Domestic Violence Outreach (ACDVO) began in St. Pius V Parish, Chicago. In the mid-1990s, its pastor, Charles W. Dahm, O.P., together with a pastoral counselor, Dolores Tapia, developed the largest parish-based domestic violence program in the country. They added one counselor after another to serve a burgeoning number of Hispanic women seeking liberation from abuse. At the victims' requests, they extended counseling and support groups to victims' children and to perpetrators. After completing his term as pastor in 2007, Fr. Dahm began preaching about domestic violence in parishes throughout the archdiocese. The new model focused on raising awareness of DV, connecting victims to services and promoting prevention. Fr. Dahm has preached in 100-plus parishes and has led formation of ministry groups in most of them.



In 2011, Cardinal Francis George named Fr. Dahm Director of Domestic Violence Outreach. He formed an Executive Committee to guide the ministry and hired an administrative assistant to communicate with the growing number of parishes. Catholic Charities contributed by training its counselors to work with victims and assigning counselors to areas where DV services were non-existent. ACDVO developed the most comprehensive DV

website of any diocese in the U.S., complete with sermons, videos, prayers, ideas for parish activities and a manual to guide parishes creating a DV ministry. In October 2016, Cardinal Blase Cupich preached at the first archdiocesan *Mass to End Domestic Violence* in Holy Name Cathedral, which underscored his commitment to the ministry.

Many thanks to all who support our archdiocesan ministry, as well as ministries in their parishes. Your generous contributions help us fight domestic violence by raising awareness, connecting victims to services and promoting prevention. We need your support to be most effective. Contact Fr. Charles W. Dahm, O.P., at 1914 S.