

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



Good News About the Fight to End Domestic Violence

Winter 2024

REGISTER NOW



DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OUTREACH
— ARCHDIOCESE of CHICAGO —

ANNUAL BENEFIT GALA
& Father Chuck's Birthday Celebration

SUNDAY, MARCH 3RD, 2024

10:00AM - 2:00PM

CRYSTAL SKY BANQUETS
7941 W. 47th STREET
MCCOOK ILLINOIS

\$75/TICKET

\$650/TABLE OF 10

BRUNCH BUFFET
MIMOSAS
RAFFLE
COFFEE & DESSERT
FATHER CHUCK'S BIRTHDAY SONG

Tickets at bit.ly/ACDVOGala24



Register for the Domestic Violence Outreach Annual Benefit Gala on Sunday, March 3, 2024 at 10:00am at Crystal Sky Banquets in McCook, Illinois. Tickets are \$75/person or \$650/table of 10 and available online through Eventbrite at bit.ly/ACDVOGala24 or by returning the enclosed envelope with your check. Don't miss out on an enjoyable morning and our traditional "Happy Birthday to Father Chuck" singalong. More details will be available as the date approaches on our website at www.domesticviolenceoutreach.org.



ACDVO Parishes Raise Awareness

“Shine the Light” Rally Unites Parishes and Medical Center



About 50 people participated in a “Shine the Light on Domestic Violence” Walk on Oct 18 from St. Gianna parish (a merger of Queen of Martyrs and St. Bernadette) in Evergreen Park. Faculty from St. Xavier University School of Nursing cohosted the event. The crowd walked solemnly around the campus of nearby Franciscan HealthCare Little Company Medical Center. As they held candles and prayed, their message was clear: end domestic violence.

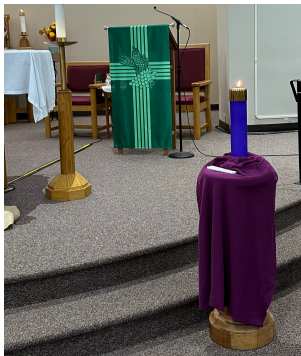
St. Gianna Deacon Bob Landuyt said the cause was

personal for him because he had lost a young family member to domestic violence. “It’s really close to my heart,” he said. He urged participants to reach out to anyone they suspect is a victim and offer their support.

Pivotal professionals in noticing signs of abuse and offering help are first responders, including nurses. Charlene Bermele, a coordinator of the event and professor at SXU School of Nursing, spoke about how nurses are trained to recognize and respond to patients they suspect are abused. Participants provided information to people about the parish’s domestic violence outreach ministry.

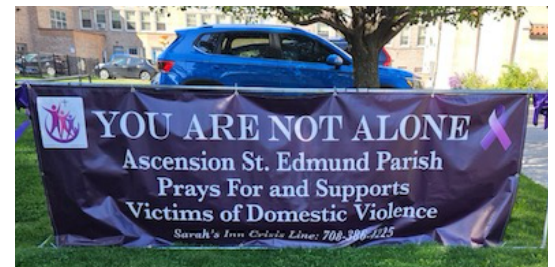


Parish Domestic Violence Ministries Take Action



Our Lady of St. Germaine in Oak Lawn lit a purple candle in front of the altar and offered prayers for victims and their children before every Mass in October.

The merged Oak Park parishes of Ascension/ St. Edmund created a banner and decorated pillars by the entrance with purple ribbons. The DV committee collected feminine



products for Sarah’s Inn and published ACDVO’s bulletin inserts in October.



St. Padre Pio’s domestic violence ministry passed out informational materials to raise awareness after every Sunday Mass in October.

Sally Willis spoke about St. Patrick of Lake Forest’s domestic violence ministry at all Masses one Sunday.



Parish Activities in October



Northside Parishes Join for Educational Evening

Domestic Violence Ministries from parishes of Holy Cross (Deerfield), St. Patrick (Lake Forest) and Our Lady of Perpetual Help (Glenview) held an evening on domestic violence and teens.



Commander Ron Wolflick, from Illinois Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force summarized

the rapidly expanding misuses of the internet to target youth. He emphasized the rapidly expanding crime of youth "sextortion," a virtual epidemic in Illinois, which has dramatically increased suicide risk!



Attorney Jeff Kasten, Chair of Holy Cross's Salt & Light Social Justice Ministry, summarized Illinois statutes that define the increasingly common crimes against teens and youth that are variations of domestic violence.

Dr. Michael Graham, leader of the Holy Cross DV Ministry, said, "We will utilize much of what we learned to develop educational approaches for enhanced awareness among parents and teens in our parish. We want parents and teens to understand the parameters of healthy vs. unhealthy relationships. Much of this information will be quite exportable to other parishes throughout the Archdiocese."

Black Catholic Women Rally to Stop Domestic Violence

On October 19, 25 members from several churches gathered in prayer at St. Katharine Drexel Parish to rally and walk against domestic violence. Fr. Paul Whittington, pastor at St. Katharine, prayed for survivors and their supporters. Rev. Gwendolyn Moore, Trinity United

Church of Christ Social Justice Ministry, presented information. Evangelist Cynthia Fulton from Praise Alive Christian Center offered encouraging remarks before participants walked seven blocks between 91st and 87th on Stony Island. The seven blocks signify how many attempts on average a survivor leaves their abuser before staying separated.

The event was sponsored by Catholic Charities Domestic Violence Services and Black Catholic Women Say No to Domestic Violence, an initiative developed under ACDVO which in 2019 organized African

American parishes on the south and west sides of Chicago to respond jointly to domestic violence. Casa Esperanza and Rita's Recovery Room provided resources to participants.





Pope Francis: Stop Violence Against Women

On November 9, 2023, Pope Francis called violence against women a "poisonous weed" that must be eradicated. "In too many places and too many situations, women are put in the background. They are considered 'inferior,' objects; and when a person is reduced to a thing, she no longer sees her dignity; she is considered just property that can be used in any way and even killed."



To combat the violence, the pope said, one must go to the roots, which

"How many women are overwhelmed by the burden and drama of violence... are mistreated, abused, enslaved, victims of bullying by those who think they can dispose of their bodies and their lives, forced to surrender to the greed of men."

Pope Francis

"are cultural and mental and grow in the dirt of prejudice, possession and injustice." The media, he said, "still play an ambiguous role" by championing women's rights sometimes but also continuously glamorizing "hedonism and consumerism, whose models, both male and female, follow the criteria of success, self-assertion, competition and the power to attract and dominate the other." "Where there is domination, there is abuse," Francis said. "Love does not demand prisoners."

People of goodwill cannot not remain indifferent or silent when so many women are suffering violence, abuse and exploitation, he said. An added consideration for Catholics, he said, is knowing that "from the heart and flesh of a woman, salvation entered the world." "How we treat women, in all her dimensions, reveals our level of humanity." Francis said.

Stop Violence Against Women, November 9, 2023, National Catholic Reporter, www.ncronline.org

ACDVO Executive Committee

Father Charles Dahm, O.P., Director, cdahm13@gmail.com

John Monaco, COO/Education, jmonaco.acdvo@gmail.com

Adele Bach, Communications, abach.acdvo@gmail.com

Jan Burdulis, Administration, jburdulis.acdvo@gmail.com

Pam Davis, Catholic Charities, pdavis@catholiccharities.net

Maureen Farrell, Public Policy, farrell11@comcast.net

Valerie Yokie, St. Raymond, valeriyokie@gmail.com

Bernita Johnson, St. Katharine Drexel, depaulgrad08@yahoo.com

Diane O'Brien, Parish Support, quiltsnow@icloud.com

Annie Ryder, Social Media/Newsletter, aryder.acdvo@gmail.com

Deborah Hammond, Catholic Charities, dhammond@catholiccharities.net

Thank You for Your Generous Support

The Archdiocese of Chicago does not fund ACDVO. We thank you for your donations and urge you to consider enhancing your support. There are many ways to offer support: mailing checks, donating on our website, transferring stock, including ACDVO in wills and living trust, donating from a rollover IRA. Securing ACDVO's future is critical for upcoming generations.



For a complete list of **Ways to Give** please visit ACDVO's website and select the **Support Us** tab or contact Naomi Gutierrez at 773.895.6674 or ngutierrez.acdvo@gmail.com for additional information or forms. With all giving opportunities, it is important to direct your gift to the **Archdiocese of Chicago Domestic Violence Outreach**. Send a check or credit card donation for ACDVO to Fr. Charles W. Dahm, O.P., 1914 S. Ashland Ave, Chicago, IL 60608. May God continue to bless you.