

Did You Know?

- The Bishops of the United States in their document *When I Call for Help: A Pastoral Response to Domestic Violence Against Women*, declared domestic violence in the relationship is not acceptable.
- October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month **BUT** abuse happens all year long.
- Abuse takes many forms: emotional torment, verbal, sexual assault, threats, and physical force or injury.
- Domestic Violence is a learned behavior that increases in frequency and severity.
- Domestic Violence behavior is not inherited, it is a learned behavior. You may learn it from what happens in your home, in the community, or media. It can be changed but it takes work.
- Domestic Violence is behavior that happens because the abuser has to have complete **power and control** over their partner.
- Pregnancies have been terminated due to physical abuse.
- Battery is the single greatest cause of injury to women of all ages, more common than auto accidents, muggings, and rapes. Most assaults are never reported.
- In this country, a woman is beaten every 15 seconds. One-third of all female homicide victims are killed by their husband or partner.
- One out of four women will be abused during their lives.
- Teenage dating abuse is on the rise in middle school age students.
- Domestic Violence occurs in 33%-66% of all adult cohabitating relationships regardless of age, race, sex, religious affiliation, marital status, education, income, or social standing. Similar statistics apply to teenage date abuse.

Prayers of the Faithful

Use one or more at each Mass during October: Domestic Violence Awareness Month

- Help us to be instruments of your peace and to assist the victims of domestic abuse and their families with finding safety and hope for a better future, we pray to the Lord.
- For transformation of our society that often finds it easier to judge the victims of violence than to solve the problems of injustice, we pray to the Lord.
- For perpetrators of abuse in our homes, may they know God's love and seek help for conversion and healing, we pray to the Lord.
- For our youth, may they experience healthy relationships, free from abuse and controlling behaviors, we pray to the Lord.
- For those who witness domestic violence, especially children, that they may understand that violence is never an expression of love, is never acceptable and must never be imitated, we pray to the Lord.
- For victims of domestic violence that they may know their suffering is not a cross to bear or a punishment from God, we pray to the Lord.
- For our families, may they know God's love and may they share this love with kindness and consideration for one another, free from abuse and controlling behaviors, we pray to the Lord.

Permission granted from Fr. Chuck Dahm and the Domestic Violence Outreach program of the Archdiocese of Chicago to use the Prayers of the Faithful and other assorted pieces of information.

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