



Committee on Laity, Marriage, Family Life and Youth

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September 22, 2019

Dear Brother Bishops,

My greetings to you all. I am writing to inform you of the upcoming observance of Domestic Violence Awareness Month in October.

This year, the sobering reality of domestic violence is made more present due to the global pandemic. While many of us have stayed home to protect ourselves and others from the new coronavirus disease, the home has been a place of danger for victims of domestic violence.

As shepherds of our Church, we are called to offer hope, help, and healing to all harmed by domestic abuse and violence. We can start by recognizing domestic abuse, responding with compassion, and referring people to the proper services that are prepared to help them.

In the 1992 statement, *When I Call for Help: A Pastoral Response to Domestic Violence Against Women*, we stated, as clearly and strongly as possible, that violence against women or any family member is never justified. Reaffirming the teaching of the Catholic Church, we reminded the faithful that “violence against another person in any form fails to treat that person as someone worthy of love.” It is fitting, therefore, that we should be mindful of the families enduring domestic violence during the month of October that is dedicated to respecting all life.

On behalf of the Committee on Laity, Marriage, Family Life and Youth, I would like to highlight a few resources that have been prepared with Catholics for Family Peace. We are pleased to offer a toolkit of resources to your dioceses and parishes to assist in bringing awareness to these issues.

The toolkit, prepared in English and Spanish, includes helpful links to:

- social media posts and helpful social media channels
- bulletin announcements for the month of October
- personal prayers and prayers of the faithful
- preaching tips based on scriptural readings that can be used throughout the year
- customizable restroom signs for distribution in parishes
- marriage resources
- instructive podcasts

These and other resources are available at:

- USCCB.org: <https://www.usccb.org/topics/marriage-and-family-life-ministries/domestic-violence>

- ForYourMarriage.org & PorTuMatrimonio.org
- [Catholics for Family Peace.org](http://CatholicsforFamilyPeace.org)
- National Domestic Violence Hotline: <https://www.thehotline.org>

As a reminder, the following are helpful resources produced by USCCB:

When I Call for Help – this statement against domestic violence is a helpful resource to distribute at parishes. It can be ordered online in [English](#) and [Spanish](#) with accompanying prayer cards in [English](#) and [Spanish](#).

Life Matters: Domestic Violence – this informative brochure can be ordered online in [English](#) and [Spanish](#).

Thank you once again for this opportunity to highlight these resources to educate on and bring awareness to the tragedy of domestic violence. I would be grateful if you would share this information with the clergy, religious, lay ecclesial ministers, and the faithful of your diocese.

May the Lord reward you for proclaiming, defending, and witnessing to the beauty and gift of marriage and the family.

With gratitude and prayerful best wishes,

Fraternally yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Salvatore J. Cordileone". The signature is written in a cursive style with a cross at the beginning.

Most Reverend Salvatore J. Cordileone
Archbishop of San Francisco
Chairman
Committee on Laity, Marriage, Family Life and Youth