



**Our Lady of the Wayside Parish
Domestic Abuse Ministry**

What Is Domestic Abuse?

Definition

Domestic abuse, also called domestic violence, is a repetitive pattern of behaviors to maintain power and control over an intimate partner.

Domestic abuse includes behaviors that:

- ⌘ physically harm a partner
- ⌘ create fear, threaten or intimidate a partner
- ⌘ prevent a partner from doing what they wish
- ⌘ force a partner to behave in ways they do not want
- ⌘ emotionally abuse a partner
- ⌘ economically deprive a partner

Domestic abuse can affect:

- ⌘ women or men
- ⌘ all ages
- ⌘ all races
- ⌘ any sexual orientation
- ⌘ people of any religion or non-religious background
- ⌘ all educational levels
- ⌘ all socioeconomic backgrounds
- ⌘ couples who are married, living together or dating

Domestic Violence Must Not Be Ignored

- ⌘ 1 in 3 women and 1 in 4 men will be victims of some form of physical violence by an intimate partner within their lifetimes.
- ⌘ On a typical day, there are more than 20,000 phone calls placed to domestic violence hotlines nationwide.
- ⌘ 1 in 15 children are exposed to intimate partner violence each year, and 90% of these children are eyewitnesses to this violence.
- ⌘ Domestic violence is the leading cause of injury requiring serious medical attention for women ages 18-49.
- ⌘ Approximately 1 in 5 college women and 1 in 16 college men are victims of sexual assault during their college years.

What Causes Domestic Abuse/Violence?

Unfortunately, no one really knows the primary causes, but abusive behavior is learned and reinforced through observation, experience, in our culture, in society, in the family, in communities including schools and peer groups, in faith, religious and spiritual institutions, and through our failure to hold batterers accountable for their actions.

Domestic violence is not caused by:

- | | |
|---------------------------|--|
| ⌘ Illness | ⌘ The victim's behavior or actions |
| ⌘ Genetics or biology | ⌘ Problems in the relationship |
| ⌘ Out-of-control behavior | ⌘ Children |
| ⌘ Anger | ⌘ Pets |
| ⌘ Stress | ⌘ Satan, other demons or evil influences |

How to Get Help

IN AN EMERGENCY – DIAL 911!

Illinois Domestic Violence 24-Hour Hotline – Information & referrals.

877-863-6338 or <http://www.dhs.state.il.us/page.aspx?item=30275>

Parish Nurse Kathy O'Neill – Referrals to counseling, spiritual guidance, assistance.

847-253-5353 x 238 or parishnurse@olwparish.org

WINGS 24-Hour Hotline - Emergency shelter, counseling, information.

847-221-5680 or <http://wingsprogram.com>

Love Is Respect National Teen Dating Violence Helpline – For Teens.

866-331-9474 or <http://www.loveisrespect.org/>

Archdiocese of Chicago Domestic Violence Outreach – Information and excellent resources.

<https://pvm.archchicago.org/human-dignity-solidarity/domestic-violence-outreach>

**All contacts are completely confidential.*

You are not alone; help is available.

"As pastors of the Catholic Church in the United States, we state as clearly and strongly as we can that violence, inside or outside the home, is never justified."

– US Conference of Catholic Bishops