

## Respect Life Bulletin for Sunday, October 30, 2022

### Violence That Won't Stop Giving

Domestic violence profoundly offends human dignity. It's on the rise.

What is it? In its pastoral, *When I Call for Help*, the US Conference of Catholic Bishops (**USCCB**) writes:

Domestic violence is any kind of behavior that a person uses to control an intimate partner through fear and intimidation. It includes physical, sexual, psychological, verbal, and economic abuse. Some examples of domestic abuse include battering, name-calling, and insults, threats to kill or harm one's partner or children, destruction of property, marital rape, and forced sterilization or abortion. [When I Call for Help: A Pastoral Response to Domestic Violence Against Women | USCCB](#)

How widespread is domestic violence? The National Conference on Domestic Violence says in the United States more than 10 million adults experience domestic violence annually. <https://ncadv.org/STATISTICS> This violence continues to grow. NCDV says from 2016 through 2018 the number of intimate partner violence victimizations in the United States increased 42%.

Here are some details:

- On average, nearly 20 people per minute are physically abused by an intimate partner in the United States.
- 1 in 4 women and 1 in 9 men experience severe intimate partner physical violence, intimate partner contact sexual violence, and/or intimate partner stalking with impacts such as injury, fearfulness, post-traumatic stress disorder, use of victim services, contraction of sexually transmitted diseases, etc.
- 1 in 3 women and 1 in 4 men have experienced some form of physical violence by an intimate partner.
- 1 in 7 women and 1 in 25 men have been injured by an intimate partner.
- 1 in 10 women have been raped by an intimate partner. Data is unavailable on male victims.
- 1 in 4 women and 1 in 7 men have been victims of severe physical violence (e.g. beating, burning, strangling) by an intimate partner in their lifetime.
- 1 in 7 women and 1 in 18 men have been stalked by an intimate partner during their lifetime to the point in which they felt very fearful or believed that they or someone close to them would be harmed or killed.
- On a typical day, there are more than 20,000 phone calls placed to domestic violence hotlines nationwide.
- Intimate partner violence accounts for 15% of all violent crime.

Why not more intervention? USCCB again:

Domestic violence is **often shrouded in silence**. People outside the family hesitate to interfere, even when they suspect abuse is occurring. Many times, even extended family denies that abuse exists, out of loyalty to the abuser and in order to protect the image of the family. Some people still argue—mistakenly—that intervention by outside sources endangers the sanctity of the home.

What to do about domestic violence requires a much longer consideration. In the meantime, here are some resources suggested by USCCB:

- [Special: Covid-19 DV Awareness Resources](#), from Catholics for Family Peace
- [Catholics for Family Peace](#): a Catholic group dedicated to preventing domestic violence in Catholic homes and educating Catholics about domestic violence
- [National Center on Sexual Exploitation](#)
- [National Domestic Violence Hotline \(1-800-799-SAFE\)](#)
- [National Symposium. Hope, Help, and Healing: A Catholic Response to Domestic Violence and Abuse](#)
- [Overcoming Obstacles: Domestic Violence on the For Your Marriage website](#)
- [Report on the Catholic Response to Sexual and Domestic Violence and Abuse, 2018](#)