



GUIDELINES FOR PARISH SUPPORT TEAM MEMBERS

Goals of the Domestic Violence Outreach (DVO) Support Team:

As parishes become members of DVO, assist them to achieve stability through your physical presence, mentoring and frequent communication.

Access and promote training needs for parish domestic violence (DV) ministries and parish staffs.

Utilize Parish DV Ministry Starter Packet.

Assist inactive parishes to restructure their ministry.

Expectations of Mentors:

Be an active member in your parish DV ministry. Understanding the inner workings of how your parish ministry operates is of primary importance.

- Frequency of your parish meetings
- Use of agenda
- Utilize bulletin and altar announcements
- Knowledge of resources
- Awareness and use of appropriate speakers to educate your parish committee and your general parish population. A list of approved speakers and agencies is available.
- Communication among committee members
- Participate in planning and executing parish DV activities such as prayer services, speaker events and awareness walks.

Four-hour Training

This educational tool was developed by the DVO Education and Training Committee. Four-hour training sessions are held frequently around Chicagoland or through the Zoom platform. The training is designed to promote understanding of domestic violence and the position of Catholic Bishops on the subject. This training is a must for mentors. It should strongly be advocated for parish DV ministries that you are assisting in formation. Mentors should provide dates of upcoming training or suggest their parish act as host.

Start Up Packet

The startup packet is an informational tool compiled by the Communication and Education Committees. It is presented to the parish ministry committees, so they can resource areas of interest.

- The packet is given to mentors prior to visits to parishes.
- It contains information vital for the success of the ministry such as Ministry Models, Background Reading and Guidelines, Agendas, Activities and more.
- Mentors need to be familiar with materials and speak about them at meetings.
- Mentors identify themselves as a resource person for this ministry and fill out a mentor sheet and return it to packet.
- Mentors are to evaluate the first three parish meetings regarding DV ministry development and formation. Evaluation forms are provided.
- Some information is also available in Spanish and Polish.

Parish Formation Meetings

The first meeting is led by Fr. Dahm. He presents various ways to build a parish response to domestic violence. The next two meetings are led by the mentor using agenda guidelines so that all topics are covered. In addition, the mentor is to identify parish DV ministry leaders and contact persons. Reinforce that mentors are a resource for the ministry who may be consulted as necessary.

Regional Resources

Mentors need to identify local resources and share them with the new ministry. They should encourage the parish ministries to invite speakers from various agencies such as Catholic Charities, the local police department, social service agencies, lawmakers, medical personell and others to provide additional information on the dynamics of domestic violence.

Share the names of nearby parishes that have active DV ministries along with contact names and encourage collaboration.

Utilize and work with the Renew My Church parish groupings if practical.

DVO Activities

Twice yearly DVO network meetings are held on the Zoom platform. Mentors should encourage parish ministry members to attend these informative sessions.

An annual DVO Domestic Violence Mass is held in late September or October.

An annual Benefit Gala is held in spring for the purpose of raising funds to support DVO activities.

Notice of these and other DVO and parish events is provided by DVO staff.