



**Break the Silence:**

The Central Ohio Faith Community  
Responds to Family Violence

## **Christian Prayers, Intercessions**

### **A Prayer**

O God, you are the origin of love and the source of human affection. Living in your love does not protect us from the troubles of this life. Following in your pathways of peace is no guarantee that we will never suffer.

You sent Jesus among us; and in this compassion, you bound yourself as closely as possible to the cries of the vulnerable. When Jesus stretched his arms upon the cross, all of humanity was gathered up into the passion you have for our good.

Today and forever, increase in our lives the blessing of compassion. You gather us when we are most lonely and afraid. Do not let us fear to do the same for others.

Help us to share the gift of compassion. In our loving, may your love be seen. Open our hearts and hands to those suffering from the effects of family violence. We ask this through Christ and the Holy Spirit, with you, One God, forever and ever. Amen.

*Adapted from Act Justly, Love Tenderly, Walk Humbly with Your God, Edward F. Gabriele, St. Mary Press*

“Human beings live by wisdom, by culture, and by morality. Violence is in complete contradiction to such a life. Not only does it threaten to destroy people, it threatens to destroy all that is human. Therefore, let us work together as people of faith for a truly non-violent society that respects the equality and dignity of all persons.”

- Pope John Paul II

## **Intercessory Prayers**

For the thousands of victims of child abuse in Franklin County each year, we pray.

For the 3 million children at risk of exposure to parental violence each year, we pray.

For the 1-in-5 of female high schools students who are physically and sexually abused by a dating partner, we pray.

For the 25% of American women who are abused by an intimate partner at some point in their lives, we pray.

For thousands of victims who are sexually assaulted each year, we pray.

For the hundreds of women who will die at the hands of their spouse or boyfriend before the end of this year, we pray.

For the abusers. That they may find assistance they need to definitively change their behavior in an environment where they are unable to cause harm to others, we pray.

For health care providers who provide services for the millions of victims of abuse each year, we pray.

For law enforcement and court officials. That they may use their authority to protect victims and seek justice, we pray.

For the clergy of all faith traditions, from whom many victims seek help and guidance, we pray.

For the youth gathered here today. That we may break the silence and work toward ending the cycle of family violence, we pray.

For all people of faith. That our religious beliefs be a source of justice and peace in our homes, our communities, and our world, we pray.

- *Prayers read by Central Ohio youth at the Break the Silence Interfaith Youth Forum, May 2002*