# VIOLENCE AND ABUSE IN CATHOLIC & CHRISTIAN FAMILIES: PREPARING AN EFFECTIVE AND COMPASSIONATE PASTORAL RESPONSE

A 40 hour online course leading to a Pastoral Certificate issued by Pax in Familia

**Your Instructor:**

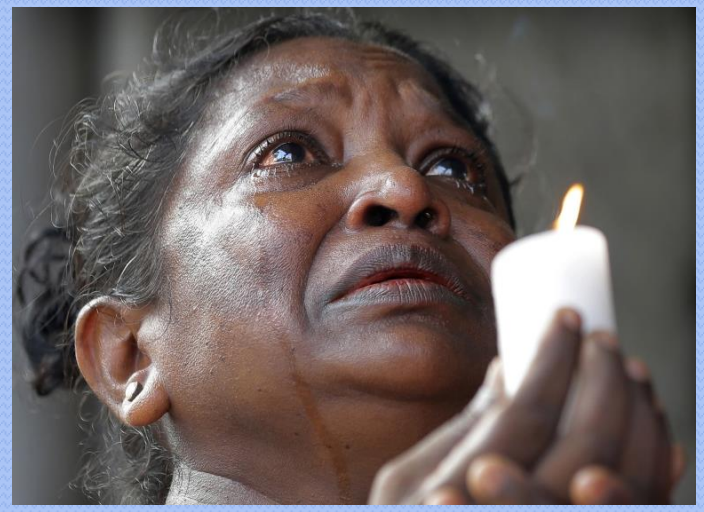
Dr. Christauria Welland

Founder, Pax in Familia

Clinical Psychologist

Specialist in Intimate Partner Violence

# PARTICIPANTS WILL LEARN HOW TO RESPOND TO THE SUFFERING OF CATHOLIC WOMEN IN OUR MIDST



# WHY WE DO THIS TRAINING

- Families are called to live in love and respect, like Jesus, Mary and Joseph, the Holy Family
- Not all Catholic families know how to live in love.
- By learning this material we will be able to share with them how to live in love and respect, and what the Church is teaching today.
- We will also learn:
  - How to respond when there is abuse and violence
  - How to offer effective help, and avoid the unhelpful
  - How to teach them skills that will prevent future violence.

# THE MATERIAL FOR THIS COURSE IS FROM PAX IN FAMILIA

- Pax in Familia is an international Catholic ministry dedicated to peace, and to the prevention of violence and abuse in Catholic families. Pax in Familia offers trainings internationally and online to Episcopal Conferences, Dioceses, Religious, seminaries, parishes, catechists and family life ministers on effective pastoral responses to and prevention of family violence, and how to educate Catholic youth and couples for peace.

Mike Akong & Christauria Welland-Akong

# WHAT WE HOPE FOR

- The hope and goal of Pax in Familia is that those who complete this course will
  - Share this information widely in their dioceses, parishes, schools, and seminaries
  - Spread this knowledge about family violence, violence prevention skills, respect for all people, and healthy relationship skills, so that they come to permeate our society, in fulfillment of Christ's command to love one another as He has loved us.
- This new course is for all English-speaking pastoral agents who work with families, and is especially designed for low and middle-income English-speaking countries in Africa, South Asia and Asia.
- The material is also fully applicable to higher-income countries, although they usually have more resources available. However, they may not have heard much of what is specifically directed to Catholic Christians.

# PARTICIPANTS: PASTORAL AGENTS

- Bishops
- Priests
- Religious Congregations
- Seminarians
- Directors of Catholic Education
- Directors of Religious Education
- Directors of Family Life
- Members of the Parish or Ministry, etc.

# GENERAL OUTLINE OF THIS COURSE

**THIS IS A TRAIN-THE-TRAINERS COURSE!**

- Basic knowledge on domestic violence
- Scripture & Magisterium on marriage and family
- Magisterium on domestic violence in the 21st century
- Effects of domestic violence on victims, aggressors and children
- Effective pastoral responses to domestic violence
- Healthy relationship and prevention skills
- Prevention of domestic violence module

# LEARNING OBJECTIVES OF COURSE

1. Educate participants on the causes of intimate partner violence and its effects on victims, perpetrators and children.

2. Equip participants with the knowledge, skills and tools to provide effective pastoral responses to and prevent further intimate partner violence in culturally-appropriate ways.

3. Enable participants to educate others on the causes and effects of intimate partner violence and to equip others with the knowledge, skills and tools effectively respond to and prevent further intimate partner violence.

# WHY A COURSE FOR CATHOLICS & CHRISTIANS? ISN'T VIOLENCE EVERYWHERE?

- This course is directed to Catholic and Christian pastoral agents/ministers, not because there is violence **only** in these communities, but because sometimes there is **too little awareness** of existing violence in these communities, and a lack of preparation to respond effectively and compassionately when confronted with this tragic reality, and to respond in line with **current Church teaching**.
- Members of Christ's Body may mistakenly believe that domestic violence does not happen in Catholic & Christian families, so it is neglected.
- Also, there are certain beliefs often specific to people of faith that we explore more fully in this course.

# LENGTH OF COURSE

- 8 modules, with online learning and studying, including brief questionnaires and a final exam, leading to a Level 1 Pastoral Certificate provided by Pax in Familia
- Total Time: 40 Hours: 32 hours online learning; 8 hours reading/study.
- Students may work online at their own pace.
- Spanish and French courses are also available on the website.
- Students may also meet as a group in person or on Zoom, etc. to study together and to engage in group discussions. This method is preferred, due to fellowship and learning through the discussions, but may not always be possible.

# COST OF COURSE

- USD $149.00 one time cost. This may be paid online at registration via Stripe. Students can also set up 4 monthly payments of  USD $37.25.
- Individual or group discounts of 20% - 50% will be considered upon request.
- Full scholarships for the course may be obtained through certain Dioceses or Episcopal Conferences. Scholarships are mostly reserved for our students in Africa, South Asia and Latin America who have much less access to funds or credit. Those who pay the fee help to fund their studies.
- Please contact the instructor at paxinfamiliatraining@gmail.com.

# IF AN ENEMY HAD REVILED ME, THAT I COULD BEAR. PSALM 55

# CONTACTS

- **COURSE REGISTRATION**

https://health-transformations.learnworlds.com

There are links to the Spanish and French courses on the main page.

Pax in Familia website with multilingual free downloads of Dr. Welland's Catholic books

http://paxinfamilia.org

Email us:

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# JESUS, MARY, & JOSEPH, HOLY FAMILY, PRAY FOR US