**LAKE COUNTY CONFERENCE FOR PASTORS AND CHURCH LEADERS:**

***BIBLICALLY-BASED BEST PRACTICES FOR ADDRESSING DOMESTIC ABUSE IN A CONGREGATION***

**SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES AND CONTACT INFORMATION**

**Father Charles W. Dahm, O.P.**

Charles W. Dahm, O.P. is a Dominican priest and serves as Director of the Archdiocesan of Chicago Domestic Violence Outreach. He served as pastor of St. Pius V parish in Chicago, a large Hispanic parish in the Pilsen neighborhood where he was pastor for 21 years and where he developed the largest parish-based domestic violence program in the United States.

Fr. Chuck holds a MA in theology from Aquinas Institute in St. Louis and a PhD in political science from the University of Wisconsin, Madison. He is co-founder of the 8th Day Center for Justice, a Catholic peace and justice center in Chicago, where he served for 12 years. During this period, Fr. Chuck helped found and support several organizations, such as Illinois Citizens for Better Care, a nursing home advocacy organization, and the Chicago Religious Task Force on Central America, an organization working for an end to war and defense of human rights.

While pastor at St. Pius V parish, Fr. Chuck co-founded The Resurrection Project, an economic development corporation and community organization. It has developed more than 600 units of affordable housing, launched a credit union and created $400 million of economic investment in the Pilsen, Little Village, Back of the Yards and Melrose Park neighborhoods. He co-founded The Chicago Workers Collaborative, an advocacy organization for day laborers. He is also co-founder and current board member of Parenting for Non-Violence, which helps parents in violence-ridden areas parent their children effectively.

Fr. Chuck is a frequent lecturer and preacher on domestic violence as well as a promoter of parish ministry to victims of domestic violence. He has preached about domestic violence at all weekend Masses in more than 140 parishes in the Archdiocese of Chicago and developed ministry teams to raise awareness about domestic violence and respond to the needs of victims in more than 100 parishes.

He is the author of two books: Power and Authority in the Catholic Church, Cardinal Cody in Chicago, and Parish Ministry in a Hispanic Community.

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**Nancy Dunsey, LPC, MaMHC**

Nancy Dunsey is a Licensed Professional Counselor specializing in recovery from the trauma of domestic violence.  She holds a Master’s in Mental Health Counseling from Trinity International University in Deerfield,, IL.  She has experience with substance abuse treatment and trauma induced conditions.

Nancy’s therapeutic approach includes trauma informed therapies, healing centered engagement and a strengths based approach to re-introduce clients to their authentic identity.  Nancy has worked with trauma survivors within the LGBTQ community in Chicagoland.  She has also traveled internationally to care for trauma survivors in Botswana and Brazil.

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**Damaris Lorta, MA**

Damaris Lorta has worked and advocated for victims of Domestic Violence for the past 16 years. She currently serves as the Chief Development Officer at A Safe Place. In this capacity, she not only serves as the organization’s primary fundraiser, but also shares survivor stories and advocates for survivors and their families. For over 10 years she has advocated for victims of domestic violence through Court Advocacy program at A Safe Place, serving as Director of the Legal Advocacy program for more than 6 years. Through this program she and the team were able to connect survivors of domestic violence with resources that aided in maintaining freedom from abuse and safety away from their abuser.

Damaris also has experience providing direct counseling to adults, couples, children and victims of domestic violence. As an experienced public speaker, Damaris has conducted many training sessions, educating the general public, police officers and students about domestic violence, myths and truths of domestic violence, orders of protection, and resources available for victims of domestic violence. She holds a Domestic Violence Professional Certification and has been involved in numerous committees addressing domestic violence through the Lake County Domestic Violence Council.

Damaris holds a Master’s Degree in Clinical Psychology with Counseling Specialization from The Chicago School of Professional Psychology. She is passionate about assisting all victims of domestic violence and working with organizations and agencies to help keep victims safe.

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**Charlene Quint, J.D.**

Charlene Quint J.D. is an attorney who focuses her law practice on serving survivors of domestic abuse. She also serves as an outspoken advocate against domestic abuse and is a renown public speaker, having been invited to be the key note speaker at events hosted by the State’s Attorney, colleges, universities, seminaries, churches, non-profits, and community groups. Along with A Safe Place staff, she founded and serves as co-facilitator of the Lake Forest and Gurnee support groups. She serves as co-chair of the Partnership for a Safer Lake County, a consortium of organizations devoted to eliminated violence of all forms, and serves on the Lake County State’s Attorney’s Task Force for Human Trafficking.

Ms. Quint served on the Board of Regents of Trinity International University for ten years, where she also taught business law as an adjunct professor. Ms. Quint served for six years on the Board of Trustees of the Au Sable Institute of Environmental Studies, a Christian institute of higher education. She has served as the Director of Church Community and Connections at Gurnee Community Church and on the Board of Deacons at Christ Church Lake Forest. Prior to starting her own law practice serving survivors of domestic abuse, Charlene practiced law for 15 years as a corporate attorney with SchiffHardin LLP and Jenner & Block, where she represented several faith-based non-profit organizations. She served as a federal law clerk to the Hon. Morton Denlow in the U.S. District Court, Northern District of Illinois. Prior to her legal career, Ms. Quint was the Chief Financial Officer of Probus Publishing. She started her career as a CPA with Arthur Andersen & Co. Ms. Quint received her JD, *magna cum laude*, from Loyola University of Chicago Law School and received her BA, *summa cum laude*, in accounting and business from Augustana College, Rock Island, IL.

She is the author of two faith-based law journal articles and two inspirational books: *Angels of Ebermannstadt* (Deep River Books 2012) and *Blessings, Prayers, and Heart Songs* (Deep River Books 2014). She is the founder and author of The Blessing Collection at [www.theblessingscollection.com](http://www.theblessingscollection.com) , an inspirational giftware company.

In November of 2018, Ms. Quint launched [www.AbuseCare.org](http://www.AbuseCare.org), a faith-based organization dedicated to helping domestic abuse survivors who are women of faith heal and thrive. She drafted House Bill 3402, legislation introduced in February 2019, that would benefit domestic abuse survivors and provide substantial changes to the Illinois Domestic Violence Act, the Criminal Code, the Code of Civil Procedure, and the Neglected Child Reporting Act. A survivor of domestic abuse herself, Ms. Quint is a strong proponent for survivors and a passionate activist against domestic abuse. Her heart is to come along side pastors and church leaders to help them navigate the stormy waters of domestic abuse when it arises so that the church is a safe haven for victims domestic abuse.

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**Pastor Neil Schori, MA**

Neil Schori serves as the Senior Pastor of The Edge Church in Aurora, Illinois. He has served as pastor in other churches in the Chicago area since 2004. Pastor Schori is a tireless advocate for victims of domestic abuse. He has appeared on Fox News, CNN, CBS News, NBC News, and has been quoted in numerous news articles. Neil is perhaps best known for being the pastor to Stacy Peterson, who was the fourth wife of infamous convicted murderer Drew Peterson before she went missing in 2007. Pastor Schori testified at the trial of Drew Peterson, who was convicted in 2012 of murdering his third wife Kathleen Savio in 2004, and convicted in 2016 for trying to hire a hit man to murder the prosecutor who put him in prison for murder. No one has been charged in Stacy Peterson’s disappearance, although Drew Peterson is the only suspect.

Pastor Schori co-created the Evidentiary Abuse Affidavit, available at [www.documenttheabuse.com](http://www.documenttheabuse.com), allowing for a victim’s testimony to be introduce in court in the event he or she goes missing or becomes incapacitated

Neil received his B.S. in Political Science from Illinois State University and his Master of Arts in counseling from Lincoln Christian Seminary. Since 2009, Neil has been active in promoting the church’s role of assisting victims of intimate partner violence.

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