

## **The Sorrowful Mysteries of the Rosary**

**Introduction:** October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Our USCCB describes domestic violence and abuse as any behavior used to control through fear and intimidation. It includes physical, sexual, psychological, verbal and economic abuse. Examples include battering, name-calling and insults, threats to kill or harm a partner or children; destruction of property, marital rape and forced sterilization and abortion.

In the US, 20 people per minute that is 10 million adults - 1 in 4 women and 1 in 9 men - annually are physically abused: 1 in 15 children or 3.3 million annually are exposed to domestic violence.

Domestic abuse or violence affects not just the victims and the perpetrators but the entire community.

### ***First Mystery: The Agony in the Garden***

During this first decade, we pray for all those touched by domestic abuse or violence; women and men victim survivors, children who have witnessed or experienced abuse and violence, extended family, church family and the greater community.

### ***Second Mystery: The Scourging at the Pillar***

During this decade, we especially pray for the abusers – for their healing from their own past experiences of abuse and/or any of the addictions or mental or physical health issues, which provoke abusive thoughts and or behavior and violence. We pray for their conversion and reconciliation.

### ***Third Mystery. The Crowning with Thorns***

We pray for all children who have been or are exposed to domestic violence – witnessing that of a parent or themselves the victims. We pray for their healing and that they do not become abusers themselves.

### ***Fourth Mystery: Jesus carries his Cross***

During this decade, we pray for the significant impact domestic violence has upon the workforce and greater community. Domestic violence accounts for the loss of 8 million days of work costing an estimated \$8.3 billion per year. We remember all those who are compelled to work additionally to make up for the lost days of others.

### ***Fifth Mystery: Jesus dies on the Cross***

During this decade, we pray for those who have died and will die today by violence: in the US, 7 people per hour, 72% of all murder/suicides are as a result of domestic violence and of that number 94% were women. We pray for them, the perpetrators and the families of all.