

A Christian Interpretation of the 12 Steps

- 1 We realized that we were powerless to control, on our own, the rebellious self-will which causes a separation from God.
- 2 We came to believe that Jesus Christ could restore us to happiness, joy, and freedom.
- 3 We decided to turn our will and our lives over to the care and direction of Jesus Christ.
- 4 We made a searching and fearless self-examination of our lives.
- 5 We admitted to God, to ourselves, and to another human being, the nature of our wrongs; ridding ourselves of the guilt and fear of our actions by reconciliation with a loving God.
- 6 We were ready for God to remove our selfish and willful behavior.
- 7 We humbly asked God to remove our shortcomings, realizing that we were powerless to do so ourselves.
- 8 We made a list of those we had wronged, accepting our responsibility to forgive and to make amends for harms done.
- 9 We made direct, sometimes painful, amends wherever possible except when to do so would injure someone else.
- 10 We continued to live our lives based on the loving example of Jesus; and when we acted in self-will, we promptly admitted it, realizing that the unconditional love of Jesus Christ is constant.
- 11 We sought through prayer and Christian fellowship to improve our conscious contact with God through Jesus Christ, praying only for the knowledge of His will for us and the power to carry it out.
- 12 Having renewed our love and trust for Jesus Christ, we tried to carry His message to others, understanding that our lives will also be made whole by proclaiming Christ's love.



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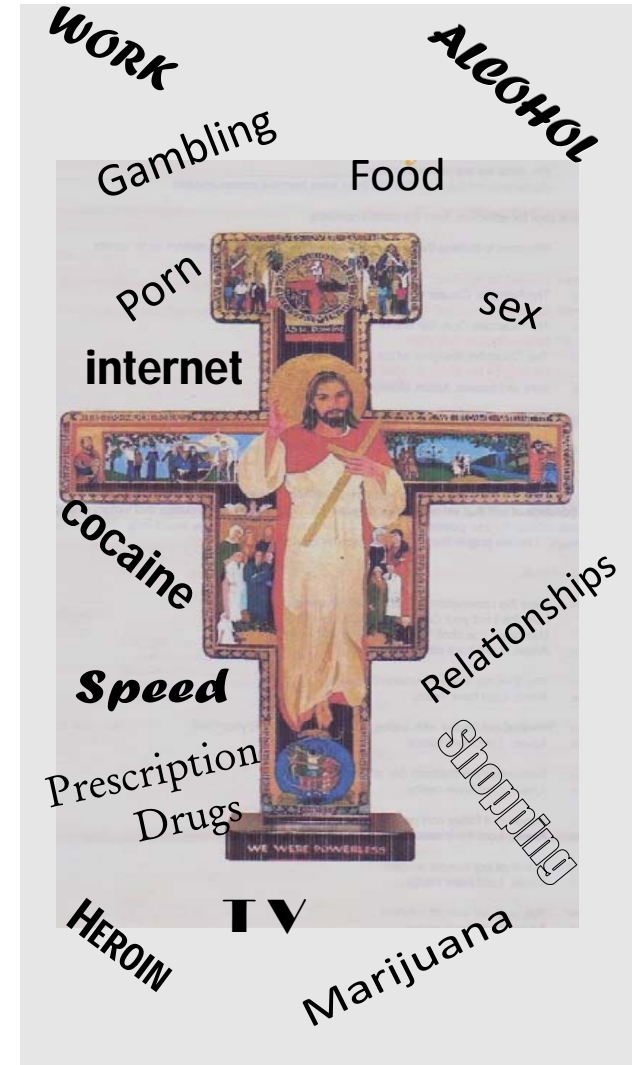
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Please Visit our Website For
Information and a Schedule of
Upcoming Recovery Events

www.addictionsrecoveryministry.com

ADDICTION IS A SPIRITUAL DISEASE





The Episcopal Diocese of Louisiana

The Addictions Recovery Ministry

The mission of the Addictions Recovery Commission of the Diocese of Louisiana, an affiliate of the Recovery Ministries of the National Episcopal Church, is to help recovering people find a home within the Church and to provide education, guidance, and support for individuals and families struggling with or wishing to learn more about addiction. In this context, the term “addiction” means a relationship with any activity or substance that interferes with healthy functioning including but not limited to alcohol, drugs, relationships, sex, work gambling or food. The Commission is to live out the acceptance and love taught by Jesus, helping anyone affected by an addiction to experience the fellowship of recovery under God’s grace without being dogmatic or exclusive.

Prayer For the Victims of Addiction

O blessed Lord, you ministered to all who came to you: Look with compassion upon all who through addiction have lost their health and freedom. Restore to them the assurance of your unfailing mercy; remove from them the fears that beset them; strengthen them in the work of their recovery; and to those who care for them, give patient understanding and persevering love. *Amen.*

*The Book of Common Prayer
Of The Episcopal Church
Prayer 56, Page 831*

Recovery Events

Celebration of Life in Recovery

We gather on a Saturday each quarter at different parish churches in the diocese to celebrate our fellowship and to renew our Christian recovery. Our Commission members meet at 10:30 a.m. followed by a worship service based on the 12 Steps at noon. A pot-luck lunch is served at 1:00 p.m., and the Celebration ends with sharing our faith, strength and hope in a common twelve-step meeting for all addictions with friends and families welcome.

12 Step Worship Services

We support 12 Step worship services at Trinity in New Orleans, St. James in Baton Rouge, and St. Johns in Kenner each month and invite local recovery houses to attend for faith and fellowship.

Recovery Weekends

Women’s Weekend—Every January, we hold a retreat devoted to the specific interests of women in recovery at the Solomon Episcopal Conference Center (SECC).

Mixed Weekend—Every August, we hold a retreat for men and women in recovery at the SECC.

Recovery Sundays

Commission members have volunteered to make themselves available to the churches in the diocese as a resource for those dealing with addiction, providing contacts with the local recovery programs and professional counselors in the community as well as talking privately to individuals with questions about addiction and recovery plus participating in educational programs, special presentations, Sunday school classes, or personal testimonies.

What is addiction?

“Addiction is any compulsive, habitual behavior that limits the freedom of human desire. It is caused by the attachment, or nailing of desire to specific objects (or events or people)”.

Gerald May, MD, *Addiction and Grace*

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“Addiction occurs when we attempt to fill the ‘God-Shaped’ hole, which is in everyone, with the ‘Good Stuff’ provided by an object, person or event”.

Fr. Daryl Canfill

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Addiction is a disease—a primary illness that is progressive, incurable, and fatal.

Addiction affects about one in ten people.

Half of all traffic accidents are drug and alcohol related.

40% of hospital admissions are for addiction-related causes.

One third of divorces include addiction-related problems.

Addiction is a physical, mental, emotional illness that yields most surely to a ***spiritual*** remedy.

Recovery Ministries of the Episcopal Church - 2008

Prayer for Serenity

God, grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, the courage to change the things I can, and the wisdom to know the difference. Living one day at a time, enjoying one moment at a time, accepting hardship as a pathway to peace; taking, as Jesus did, this sinful world as it is, not as I would have it; trusting that You will make all things right if I surrender to Your will; so that I may be reasonable happy in this life and supremely happy with You forever in the next. Amen.

Reinhold Neibuhr