

THE ADDICTIONS RECOVERY MINISTRY OF THE DIOCESE OF LOUISIANA ANNUAL REPORT 2016

The Addictions Recovery Ministry is a specialized ministry of this diocese and a local affiliate of the Recovery Ministries of the National Episcopal Church. This ministry welcomes recovering people into the Episcopal community and also helps recovering Episcopalians find a home within the organized church. Within the diocese, the Addictions Recovery Ministry provides education, guidance, and support for families and parishes 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 met quarterly in 2016 and conducted Celebrations of Life in Recovery which include a pot luck lunch, an open 12 Step meeting, and a 12 Step worship service open to all. We invite every parish to contact us about sending a representative to a Commission meeting or hosting a Celebration of Life in Recovery.

The ministry participated with a handful of parishes in the diocese, including St. Alban’s in Baton Rouge, St. Andrew’s in Bayou Du Large, and St. Mark’s in Harvey in celebrating Recovery Sunday events in 2016. Commission members are available to assist parish clergy with the celebration of Recovery Sunday events during Eastertide as recommended by a 2011 diocesan resolution. The members of this ministry will make themselves available to the congregations in the diocese as a resource for those dealing with addiction in any form. We are able to participate in educational programs at parishes and at clergy events whether through special presentations, personal testimonies, Sunday school classes, or other Recovery Sunday events. We have materials and resources available that would free the parish clergy from the necessity of developing their own Recovery Sunday programs. If a parish or group would like to host a recovery-related event, please contact Deacon Jay Albert at (985) 643-4752.

The Addictions Recovery Ministry held our two annual retreat weekends for people in, or interested in, recovery - a co-ed Mixed Weekend in August and a Women’s Weekend in January.

The Solomon Center was filled with 69 attendees for the Women’s Weekend on January 15-17, 2016. The theme for the weekend was “The Bent Over Woman” from Luke 13. Our retreat leader, Sr. Kay Kanick, related this story to those times when life seems heavy and a burden – when we carry things from the past into our present and future. The retreat included presentations and discussions on Acceptance, Letting Go, Spiritually Caring for ourselves and allowed time for prayer and quiet as well as celebrating recovery with humor and light-heartedness.

The retreat schedule included the following:

- A Eucharist incorporating the 12 Steps celebrated by Mtr. Dee Dee Estes
- Time for spiritual direction and reconciliation
- A Taizé service of healing with anointing and music on Saturday evening
- Bible Study
- 12 Step meetings
- A Morning Prayer service incorporating the 12 Steps

The 33rd annual Mixed Weekend for men and women took place on August 5-7, 2016, at the Solomon Episcopal Conference Center with 46 attendees. Retreat leader, Fr. John Gubbins, presented how recovery is the road from *restless, irritable, and discontent* to **happy, joyous and free**. The weekend, provided an opportunity to come together to reflect, pray, discuss, and achieve greater balance with ourselves, our fellows, and with God.

The retreat schedule included the following:

- A Eucharist incorporating the 12 Steps celebrated by Mtr. Dee Dee Estes
- Time for spiritual direction and reconciliation
- A Dream Workshop led by Martha Tennison
- A Taizé service of healing with anointing and music on Saturday evening
- Bible Study
- 12 Step meetings
- A Morning Prayer service incorporating the 12 Steps

The Commission is grateful to all those who made these Weekends possible, from Solomon Center staff to our facilitators, and our chaplain. The retreats have been a reflection of God's grace and a source of spiritual nourishment for the participants.

Additional information regarding this ministry is available on the diocesan website at www.edola.org/ministries/arm . Should you have any questions concerning the Addictions Recovery Ministry for yourself or your parish, please contact Deacon Jay Albert at (985) 643-4752.