

## HIV Ministries annual report Episcopal Diocese of Louisiana 2020

This report is being given while New Orleans Louisiana is under phase three of reopening of our city, and state, from the COVID-19 pandemic. This information is particularly important in documenting the Diocese's response to HIV in our city, the state, and in the world we all share together in 2020.

My name is Ben Nobles, I am the co-chair of the HIV ministries for The Diocese. I am an Ordained Reverend Deacon. My co-chair Reverend Jay Albert is on sabbatical but will return to co-chair soon.

We are looking forward to our annual HIV Awareness Prayer Breakfast. While we will probably have a virtual Prayer Breakfast this year, we hope to add one new spiritual component to that service that everyone can participate in no matter where you are. We look forward to continuing to advocate for those living with HIV. Our collaboration with the NOLA Clergy Project in hosting and preparing for the annual HIV Awareness Prayer Breakfast creates many partnerships between the Diocese and our local HIV health care providers, as well as creates community with the many different communities of faiths that come together as a larger Ecumenical Body of believers for this annual event.

There are many people ministering to those living with HIV throughout our Diocese. Trinity Loaves and Fishes a feeding ministry that serves out Trinity Episcopal Church served a total of 4,420 meals to people home bound due to health issues with HIV and Cancer in the last 12 months. 3,120 meals to the clients of Food for Friends (the pantry for Crescent Care) in the last 12 months, and 1,300 meals to Project Lazarus for the residents who live there. We know there are many of our churches who are ministering to people living with HIV in our Diocese, if I can be of any assistance in anyway, please contact me at [bnobles@trinitynola.com/trinity4u2](mailto:bnobles@trinitynola.com/trinity4u2) we would also like to hear about your ministry to those living with HIV in your church and in your community. Thank you for all you do!

We continue to advocate for care and prevention. People in care change their behaviors. We advocate for care as new medicines now lower the HIV viral load in the persons taking this medicine. An undetectable viral load is the desired therapeutic effect. Once someone living with HIV is medically undetectable for HIV that person becomes unable to transmit HIV. U=U Undetectable = Untransmittable. In Spanish, I=I Indetectable means Intransmissible. We also advocate for prevention, as always, "A ounce of prevention, is worth a pound of cure."

It is my personal belief that STIGMA around this disease continues to be the number one problem in reducing new HIV infections. Please continue to share with your Friends, Family, and Parishioners, that they are loved and welcomed in OUR CHURCHES regardless of their diagnosis.

More information will be available soon about our 2020 HIV Awareness Prayer Breakfast.

Always with  
Much Love/Peace  
Rev. Ben Nobles