

Addiction Recovery Ministry 2022

Our ministry has completed hosting two annual retreats this year as usual. The women's retreat in January had 36 participants and received very good reviews. The mixed retreat in August had 29 participants and received excellent reviews. Our commission has 11 active members that meet quarterly to plan the upcoming retreats and discuss how we can help any churches in our diocese with addiction recovery materials. We offer half scholarships for those who can't afford the cost of the retreat and use the allotted ministry funds each year to fund the retreat leader, the musicians, the spiritual directors, and some minor mailing cost. I have given four addiction recovery service sermons this past year upon request from those rectors. Karen Mackey posts the offer for me to assist any parish in our diocese with a recovery Sunday service during the Easter season, however I make myself available year-round. We interview and recruit new retreat leaders and after settling on a retreat leader, I put together a brochure for the upcoming retreat program. I email these out to an email list of about 200 people at least 3 times before each event. Karen Mackey publishes it in EDOLA. Our commission members print them out and bring them to their respective churches for display. I print out approximately 180 brochures and snail mail them out to our mailing list once before each event for those who don't have email. At our retreats we have 6 talks, one evening prayer service, one morning prayer service, one Taizé service, and one Eucharistic service, and two bible studies. We also offer multiple spiritual directors for 45 minute sessions and arts & crafts for people's free time. The retreat starts on a Friday just before supper and concludes on Sunday before noon at Solomon Center. Additionally, I sometimes offer private counseling to those who call me and need some help with active addiction or with family members with active addictions. My ministry is enhanced by my movie ministry at Bridge House in New Orleans which I perform each Monday evening with some chaplaincy work. Our ministry donated some funds left from the previous year to assist Solomon Center with remodeling one of their rooms as Solomon Center has been a great asset to our ministry.

Thanks to the Diocese for all of their support

Dcn Jay Albert

Chris Martin