



In the Image of God: Access to Mental Health Care

Packet of educational resources for parishes

The Diocesan Public Policy Committee has chosen "Access to Mental Health Care" as a priority issue for our consideration and action on Public Policy Sunday, Feb. 11/12, 2012. Given that one out of five families has a family member who lives with some degree of mental illness, our parishes have the opportunity to be places of respite and care for these families.

The following documents are now available to help parish staff and volunteers educate their parish communities about mental illness, and to assist parishes in their efforts to reach out to individuals and families living with mental illness:

Becoming a more welcoming community

What is mental illness?

Mental illness facts

What can I and my faith community do to show care for people with mental illness?

Catholic teaching and ministry resources

Prayers of the faithful

Bulletin notices

Crisis resources

County-specific information

An advocacy packet and petition will be distributed in December.

PLEASE NOTE:

Deacon Brian McNulty, chaplain of Rochester Psychiatric Center, is available for presentations and to act as a resource on the topic of mental illness to parishes in the Diocese of Rochester. He can be contacted at bmcnult1@rochester.rr.com.

Welcomed and Valued: Building Faith Communities of Support and Hope with People with Mental Illness and Their Families (National Catholic Partnership on Disability, 2009) is an excellent resource on this topic. It can be downloaded and printed at <http://www.miministry.org/ResourceBinder.pdf>

The Diocesan AV Resource Center has available for loan the DVD and discussion guide for *Welcomed and Valued: Building Faith Communities of Support and Hope with People with Mental Illness and Their Families*. To borrow it, contact Sr. Connie Derby at (585) 328-3210.

Source: Diocesan Public Policy Committee, Rochester, NY, September, 2011