

Recovery Ministries of the Diocese of New Jersey Report to the 228th Diocesan Convention

Over the past year a number of significant goals have been achieved. Our fourth annual Diocesan Recovery Sunday was celebrated at Trinity Cathedral. We appreciate Bishop Cuncell's leadership, support and encouragement to continue this as an annual event. To that end, we had the honor of having Bishop Cuncell as our preacher and Dean Rory John as our celebrant for Recovery Sunday on April 3, 2011. Our 2012 Recovery Sunday will be held March 22. We will be honored to have The Rev. Stuart Hoke as our guest preacher and Bishop Cuncell as our celebrant. We are working to secure our guest preacher for 2013. In addition to the diocesan recovery service, we have more churches reaching out to us for assistance and preaching for their own Recovery Sunday Service. There are a couple of churches that provide this service on a regular schedule and others that do one a year. Ultimately, our goal would be to have every church do a recovery service. We hope these events open the doors of communication as we continue to seek to nurture a healthier environment for all while addressing, in a spirit of love and pastoral response, the very real vulnerabilities of those affected by the disease of alcoholism and/or other drug dependency.

To achieve another goal of increased recognition and education and the theme of spirituality, we prepared another one day mini retreat called *Taking the First Steps in Recovery: Where Do I Begin?* The retreat was focused on the Step One Concepts: Admission, Powerlessness, and Unmanageability. Unfortunately, like several other offerings in the diocese, we were forced to postpone this retreat due to lack of attendance. As a result, we are looking at other methods to reach a broader array of individuals including enhancing our footprint on our diocesan website.

We continue our involvement with recovery ministries in the broader church through Recovery Ministries of the Episcopal Church, Inc. Deacon Cathy Brunson has accepted another term on the board. Her involvement has connected us with a much wider network of Episcopalians who share in this ministry. Finding solidarity with other clergy and lay colleagues in recovery ministries has been invaluable.

We once again benefited from one retreat designed to give us the chance to examine our work as a committee more deeply. We used this retreat to focus on our Step One retreat. We also discussed how we can better provide information on recovery to clergy, the school for deacons, and to the youth. At our 2012 convention we are grateful for the opportunity to once again offer an open 12-step meeting for any and all in recovery during the hospitality hour preceding our convention banquet.

As always, we are pleased to provide information, assistance in planning a Recovery Sunday, prayer and referral for any congregation or individual within our diocese seeking to address issues of dependency and recovery. Feel free to call on any of us listed below.

In Christ's Healing Love,

Cathy

Mary Ann

The Rev. Catherine Brunson, Dcn, Co-Chairperson The Rev. Mary Ann Jensen, Dcn, Co-Chairperson

Recovery Ministries of the Diocese of New Jersey

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