

Recovery Ministries of the Diocese of New Jersey Report to the 230th Diocesan Convention

Over the past year a number of significant goals have been achieved. The fifth annual Diocesan Recovery Sunday service was held at Trinity Cathedral. We appreciate the support and encouragement provided by Bishop Cuncill and look forward to the continued support of this as an annual event by Bishop Stokes. The Recovery Sunday service on April 14, 2013 was well received and we had the honor of having The Reverend Mark Van Sant as our preacher. Our 2014 Recovery Service will be held on April 6, 2014 and we are honored to have The Rev. Allan King as our guest preacher and Bishop Stokes as our celebrant. We are looking forward to our guest preacher Sister Brunilda Ramos for the 2015 service. In addition to the diocesan recovery service, we have more churches doing a Recovery Sunday Service and reaching out to us as guest preachers. We have a couple of churches that provide this service on a regular schedule and others that do one a year. Our goal would be to have every church do an annual 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.

The Commission has been working on developing a training program for clergy and other interested persons in the Diocese. Using a variety of instructional methods, media, information sources, and learning styles, the program will educate clergy and lay persons in recognizing denial and learning how to help people face the truth in their lives. Because alcoholism and drug addiction are two of the most common problems that clergy face in working with their congregations, this educational program will provide the opportunity to learn about a variety of community resources that are available and how to access them. Defining recovery and involving the congregation in helping with recovery will be presented for information and discussion.

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 Clergy Training Program. We also discussed how we can better provide information on recovery to clergy, the school for deacons, and to the youth. At the 2013 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.

We had some turnover this year and would like to thank The Rev. Mark Van Sant for all his help over the years and wish him well in his retirement and future endeavors. In addition, we thank the Revs. Edwin Chinery and Allan King for their support and hope all the best for them. The work of this Commission has proved valuable to the Diocese during its lifetime and will continue to function to benefit all of us. We need a strong membership and if you have interest and knowledge in this area and would like to add your expertise, we would joyfully welcome you!

As always, we are pleased to provide information, assistance in a recovery Sunday service, 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

The Rev. Catherine Brunson, Dcn, Co-Chairperson

Judith

The Rev. Dr. Judith Krom, Dcn, Co-Chairperson

Recovery Ministries of the Diocese of New Jersey

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