

THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF  
CATHOLIC CHAPLAINS

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Telephone: 414.483.4898 Fax: 414.483.6712 www.nacc.org

February 11, 2012  
World Day of the Sick

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Dear \_\_\_\_\_,

On this 2012 World Day of the Sick, the National Association of Catholic Chaplains (NACC) again joins you in prayer and in the Church's mission to serve with Christ's love all those who are suffering and dying and who seek God's mercy, healing, and compassion.

I take this opportunity again, on behalf of the NACC and its USCCB Episcopal Advisory Council, to thank you for supporting the NACC and its mission to advocate for the pastoral care ministry and to educate, certify and support Catholic priests, sisters, deacons, brothers, and lay people who continue the healing ministry of Jesus in the name of the Church. Since 1965, the NACC has responded to the bishops' concern that those serving in pastoral care roles in hospitals, long term care, hospice, and many other health-related settings, are well prepared and formed to serve in this vital Church ministry.

As you may know, nearly half of our trained and board certified members are now lay men and women who serve along with the priests, deacons and religious to meet the spiritual needs of our Catholics and to assist in arranging for priests to provide for the sacramental needs of our faithful. Becoming "board certified" and maintaining that professional certification are the expectations of most institutions where our members serve.

In order to support you in your pastoral leadership role to oversee this vital ministry, I am providing you, as the ordinary, a list of our members who have indicated that they serve in your (arch) diocese. This list includes both our certified and non-certified members, as well as a key to assist you in understanding how our members are classified. Perhaps you will recognize the names of many or all of them, or you will pass this list to the person you have delegated to oversee this ministry. Our members understand that continuing the healing ministry of Jesus in the name of the Church means being part of the local church in that ministry. Many dioceses have developed ways to communicate with and incorporate these ministers into the life and organization of the dioceses. If I can be of assistance to you in communicating with our members in your (arch) diocese please let me know.

I continue to be deeply grateful to Archbishop Paul Coakley, our NACC Episcopal Liaison, and the NACC Episcopal Advisory Council (roster included with this letter) for their advice and direction. It is through their encouragement that I send you this letter and information.

I hope the above information proves helpful to you. Please do not hesitate to contact me at our office in Milwaukee (414-483-4898) or by email at [dlichter@nacc.org](mailto:dlichter@nacc.org). The NACC is committed to preparing and supporting the health care ministers who serve the needs of the faithful in your (arch) diocese.

In Christ,

David A. Lichter  
Executive Director, NACC

Cc: Archbishop Paul S. Coakley