

Friday, April 1, 2016

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Your Excellency,

On behalf of the National Association of Catholic Chaplains (NACC), I am following up on the 2016 World Day of the Sick (WDS) letter NACC Executive Director, David Lichter, sent to you. In the letter he noted that:

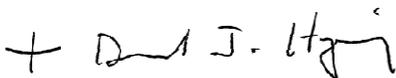
NACC members seek to meet with you: In the coming months, NACC members will seek to get a few minutes on the agenda of your provincial meeting to update you on the work of NACC and to seek your advice on how we can better promote and support chaplaincy and the pastoral care ministry with you and your diocesan leaders.

We realize your provincial meeting agendas are most often packed with urgent and important items. However, we hope you would consider providing 10-15 minutes on the agenda for an NACC representative to meet with you to seek your advice on how better NACC can promote and support chaplaincy and the pastoral care ministry in your diocese. They would provide some brief material on NACC, but most importantly seek your advice and counsel on how best to encourage our lay, priests, religious and deacons to consider this ministry of pastoral care and how NACC can best support those in your diocese who are designated to provide the pastoral care ministry.

Why? As David mentioned in his WDS letter “While our lay members increase annually, this increase (one new lay member for every two religious women and priests who retire) remains slow, too slow to meet the demand for the prepared, certified Catholic ministry presence in health care that our members provide. At this pace of growth, we will have a serious lack of prepared, certified Catholic chaplains who can provide the timely counsel for Catholic ethical decision-making, appropriate care for Catholics and their religious needs, and the healing outreach to many who have been at the margins or outside of the Catholic Church and seek, in their time of suffering and confusion, the tenderness and compassion that our NACC members can provide. We continue to seek ways to make priests, religious, deacons, and lay people aware of this vital ministry, and we seek your assistance in helping us to do so.”

Please let David know by April 30, 2016, if such a meeting would be a possibility sometime this calendar year. If so, when and where would the meeting be so that we can arrange a representative to be present for it? His email is dlichter@nacc.org. His card is included with this letter.

In the hope of this Easter Season,



Most Rev. Donald J. Hying
Bishop of Gary
USCCB Episcopal Liaison to the NACC