

February 11, 2022  
World Day of the Sick

Archbishop/Bishop  
Diocese  
Address



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Your Excellency,

In Pope Francis' message for this 30th World Day of the Sick, he shares "Patients are always more important than their diseases, and for this reason, no therapeutic approach can prescind from listening to the patient, his or her history, anxieties and fears. Even when healing is not possible, care can always be given." Members of the National Association of Catholic Chaplains (NACC) are deeply grateful for the gift of serving the Church's mission to serve the sick, the imprisoned and most vulnerable since 1965. In moments when there are no answers, no cures, we can provide our brothers and sisters with compassion, care, and share the love of Christ.

Our NACC members continue to be grateful for the leadership of our Episcopal Liaison, Bishop Donald Hying, Bishop of Madison, Wisconsin. They also value the guidance provided by our Episcopal Advisory Council representing the USCCB as they live out the Church's healing ministry.

This has been a year of transition for the NACC as we said goodbye to David Lichter, the former Executive Director for NACC. We will build on his years of ministry by continuing to offer professional programming, resources and a robust certification process for our members. We will envision a future of chaplaincy that embraces technology, welcomes a new generation of chaplains, and supports and grows service in other fields of pastoral ministry.

We note several resources NACC has developed to support those in your (arch)diocese who are designated to oversee and/or provide direct pastoral care ministry in your parishes. They include:

#### **Competencies for Pastoral Care & The Pastoral Care Project Booklet:**

Both resources are available in English and Spanish on the NACC website, on our Partners in Pastoral Care webpage at [www.nacc.org/about-nacc/partners-in-pastoral-care](http://www.nacc.org/about-nacc/partners-in-pastoral-care).

#### **Who Do You Say That I am – A Lenten Reflection Guide:**

This is an experiential resource for faith communities to explore wide ranging effects of incarceration and to discern what our faith calls us to in response. This Lenten guide is accessible and crafted for use in your parish, organization, school of small faith community. [www.catholicprisonministries.org/lenten-series](http://www.catholicprisonministries.org/lenten-series)

#### **Certification Process Updated & Renewed for 2022-2028:**

In a letter dated November 5, 2021, NACC received official notification that the USCCB Subcommittee on Certification for Ecclesial Ministry and Service reviewed the documentation submitted by the National Association of Catholic Chaplains (NACC) at its September 15, 2021 meeting. We are pleased to report that the competencies and procedures submitted were re-approved for a period of seven years from September 2021 to September 2028.

#### **Holding Still – Centering Prayer & The Spiritual Journey:**

Holding Still was an initiative done in collaboration with Catholic Prison Ministries Coalition (CPMC) and Prison Contemplative Fellowship. *Holding Still* is a riveting, candid and insightful short documentary film about practicing centering prayer while incarcerated at Folsom Prison. There is a resource guide and training materials

available to assist ministers who want to develop contemplative prayer in prisons.

[www.catholicprisonministries.org/holding-still-2](http://www.catholicprisonministries.org/holding-still-2)

### Synodal Listening Sessions for Chaplains

We are in the process of offering Town Hall gatherings for our prison chaplains and volunteers to assist them with Synodal Listening Sessions in their respective institutions. [www.catholicprisonministries.org/town-halls/synodal-listening-session-for-correctional-ministers](http://www.catholicprisonministries.org/town-halls/synodal-listening-session-for-correctional-ministers)

We will also hold sessions for our NACC Chaplains.

We are providing you an updated list of our members who serve in and/or are employed by institutions in your (arch)diocese. This list does not include our members who are retired or only reside in your diocese. Please let me know if you (or your delegate) see any names about whom you have questions or have knowledge that would be helpful to us.

Please remember that our members can be resources for you and your (arch)diocese. While they serve the Church where they are employed as spiritual care providers and chaplains, parishes and diocesan programs also utilize them to help prepare parish ministers to visit the sick and the imprisoned, as well as provide sessions on advanced directives, bereavement, and other pastoral care topics.

On behalf of the leaders and members of the NACC, we remain deeply grateful to you for your continued support of our members in their ministry. During our annual appeal, many of you financially support the mission of the NACC for which we are deeply grateful. We ask you for your prayers and support as we continue to live out the mission of NACC and reimagine ministry utilizing technology, and the many gifts of our members.

If there are other ways the NACC can support you or respond to a concern, please contact me at [ericacohenmoore@nacc.org](mailto:ericacohenmoore@nacc.org), 425-949-9956 or Bishop Donald J. Hying at [DonaldHying@madisondiocese.org](mailto:DonaldHying@madisondiocese.org).

In the words of Pope Francis, “the ministry of consolation is a task for every baptized person, mindful of the word of Jesus:” I was sick, and you visited me” (Mt 25:36). NACC members are committed to living out the call of their own baptism, to visit the sick, the imprisoned, the elderly, and to accompany the vulnerable and those on the margins.

In Christ’s ministry,



Erica Cohen Moore  
Executive Director, NACC

cc: Bishop Donald J Hying  
enc.



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your Smartphone

### The NACC MISSION STATEMENT:

The National Association of Catholic Chaplains advocates for the profession of spiritual care and educates, certifies and supports chaplains, clinical pastoral educators and all members who continue the healing ministry of Jesus in the name of the Church.