

After nearly 20 years of service, the National Catholic AIDS Network will cease staffing and office operations by September 2007. The Board of Directors has deliberated extensively and dedicated much time and effort in strategic planning to determine the best course of action for the Network. The Network is not able to continue with the budget deficits with which it has been faced during the last few years. Although the Network has enjoyed the support of a loyal base of contributors, the grants and contributions are not enough to sustain the operations of the Network.

## **FAQs:**

### **Has the board sought out alternatives to ceasing operations?**

Yes, the decline in revenues has been occurring for several years, so the board has attempted several initiatives to increase the revenue base and decrease the overhead expenditures. Some of these initiatives have met their goals especially in reducing costs. The bottom line is that even with these initiatives, the Network is still not able to have revenues cover the expenses of fulfilling the mission of the Network. For the past several years, at the Annual National Catholic HIV/AIDS Ministry Conference, the Board of Directors has updated participants at the conferences with regard to the financial challenges being faced by the Network.

### **Why has the Network set August 31 as the date for ceasing operations?**

The board of directors believes strongly that we need to honor the contributions and work that has been devoted to the Network by holding a gathering in July to commemorate the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first conference; this event will be shorter in comparison to previous conferences and will attempt to focus the attention of the Network on working with our partners to integrate aspects of the Network's mission within the programs of their respective organizations.

### **Why should I consider contributing to the Network if it is just going to close?**

In order to facilitate, in collaboration with key partners, a positive transition of the Network and to hold the 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference (even if it will be held in modified format), much planning must take place. In order to make this possible, the Network will need to raise \$100,000 in grants and contributions between 1 December 2006 and 30 June 2007. These funds will be used to cover expenses for the current fiscal year, for operational expenses during the transition, for the July gathering since the registration fee does not cover the full amount of the event expenses and, to the extent possible, the Network hopes to provide financial aid to allow conference participants who would not be able to afford the gathering to be able to attend. Moreover, out of respect for the time, talents and resources that have been contributed to the Network, the planning and implementation of the Network's transition demands thoroughness. For example, the Network will need to find a suitable location for the archives, plans need to be made to continue to have the resources developed by the Network available via the internet, and, if possible, a commemorative booklet featuring the highlights of the Network will be published.

### **Is the mission of the Network still important?**

Yes, there is an ongoing need to engage Catholic ministers and ministries in response to the AIDS pandemic in our communities, country and globally. The transition of the Network does not indicate that the mission of the Network is no longer necessary or that we no longer need to respond with compassion and in partnership with our brothers and sisters who are living with HIV/AIDS. The transition of the Network was necessitated simply and clearly by a lack of access to sustainable and ongoing funds in order to continue the Network's office, operations, and staffing. During the transition period and at the Annual Conference, let us pray that plans can be developed and implemented to facilitate the continuation of the Network's mission through careful and strategic collaboration with past and potential new partners.