

1981 – 2006  
**25** years of  
living with  
HIV/AIDS

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Dear Friends of the National Catholic AIDS Network:

It is with heavy-hearts that we, the Board of Directors of the National Catholic AIDS Network, address this letter to so many of you who have supported, participated in, and benefited from the work of the National Catholic AIDS Network. Despite our intensive and continuous efforts to overcome the financial challenges faced by the Network, we are sorry to report that it has not been possible to assure sufficient funds to continue the functioning of the Network as it has developed in recent years. Thus we have found it necessary to make the difficult decision to discontinue the office operations and staffing of the organization by autumn 2007.

It is our firm belief that the mission of the Network continues to remain valid and necessary. Thus we would like to invite your help to identify ways in which we could continue our work in collaboration with various program partners who have accompanied the Network's activities during the past number of years. We request that you share your insights on future actions that can be taken by your organisation or others once the office of the Network has been closed.

To honor the generous contributions of many throughout the years and to provide an opportunity for closure, the Network will hold a gathering in July 2007 to commemorate and celebrate the ministry and mission of the Network. This event, however, will follow a modified format in comparison with previous national conferences. The focus of this conference will be on transition and ways to continue the mission and service of the network despite the closure of the office and staffing.

In order to facilitate this period of transition and to keep the office in operation until August 2007, the Network needs to raise a total of \$100,000 prior to 30 June 2007. Of this amount, we will seek between \$40,000 - \$50,000 in grants and sponsorships and the remainder in donations. The conference is the largest single expense. In order to keep the registration fees down and to provide financial aid, we need to raise \$40,000 for the conference alone. We hope we can count on each of you to give generously in order for the Network to foster a compassionate response from Catholic ministers and ministries to people living with HIV/AIDS. The HIV pandemic remains a pressing challenge for Catholics and other people of faith.

The news of this transition within the National Catholic AIDS Network can bring a variety of emotional responses including: anger, denial, sadness, feeling of betrayal, a loss of hope and hopefully acceptance. As members of the Board, we are experiencing these reactions as well because we hoped to find ways to make the Network financially viable and sustainable. At the present time, however, we need to focus on ensuring a transition that respects the many people who have given so much to the Network since its founding. We also need to honor the memory of our friends, family members, loved ones, benefactors and mentors who have died.

We ask you to accompany us with prayer, suggestions, and support during this transition process. Please give generously between now and 30 June 2007 so that we will be able to keep our office open until late summer 2007 and, most especially, so that we can hold a modified HIV/AIDS Ministry Conference, scheduled for 27-29 July 2007.

May the Holy Spirit guide us and provide us with wisdom, prudence, and insight during this transition period for the National Catholic AIDS Network and for all of us personally.

Sincerely yours in the peace of Our Lord and with prayers that you will be greatly blessed during 2007.

**The National Catholic AIDS Network Board of Directors**

P.S. The online shopping cart will cease to operate by 11 January 2007. Please use the enclosed envelopes for donations and the enclosed order form to place orders.