

HIV/AIDS: A Call to Compassion



The observance of "AIDS Compassion Sunday" originated in the Archdiocese of Newark where it has been successful in raising awareness about HIV/AIDS for many years. In 2002, the National Catholic AIDS Network undertook the development of guidelines and information to assist other dioceses and local parishes to observe AIDS Compassion Sunday. The resources included in this packet and on the National Catholic AIDS Network website reflect many months of planning and thought; hopefully, they will assist local parish communities to raise awareness about HIV/AIDS on a weekend in the liturgical year that best fits the schedule and liturgical planning of the local community. The centrality of Eucharist and the local community are given central focus as the people of God are encouraged to respond vigorously to the Gospel call to feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, welcome those who are different from us, clothe those without clothes, be present to the sick and to reach out to those who are imprisoned. HIV/AIDS flourishes where injustice and denial prevail. May Mary, Mother of God, Light in All Darkness lead us in the way of truth, charity and love as we reach with compassion and hope in a world living with HIV/AIDS.

Come, you who are blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry, and you gave Me something to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave Me something to drink; I was a stranger, and you invited Me in; naked, and you clothed Me; I was sick, and you visited Me; I was in prison, and you came to Me.'

- Matt 25:34-36



*Mary, Mother of God,
Light in All Darkness*

OUR GOSPEL CALL

If one among us is living with HIV/AIDS, we are all living with HIV/AIDS. As the Church, the People of God, we are called to give witness to Christ through reaching out to our brothers and sisters who are living with HIV/AIDS—whether in our own communities or on the other side of the world. That is our Gospel call.

A program of the National Catholic
AIDS Network
www.ncan.org

1400 W. Devon Ave #502
Chicago IL 60660
773.508.7080 (voice)
773.508.7083 (fax)
info@ncan.org www.ncan.org



The battle against AIDS ought to be everyone's battle. Echoing the voice of the Synod Fathers, I too ask pastoral workers to bring to their brothers and sisters affected by AIDS all possible **material, moral and spiritual comfort**. I urgently ask the world's scientists and political leaders, moved by the love and respect due to every human person, to use every means available in order to put an end to this scourge (Pope John Paul II, *Ecclesia in Africa*, 14 September 1995, #116.)

National Catholic AIDS Network



Founded in 1989, the National Catholic AIDS Network is the only organization in the United States totally dedicated to assisting the Church's ministers and ministries to respond, with compassion and without negative judgment, to those infected and affected by the HIV/AIDS pandemic.

Giving witness to the
Lord Jesus Christ

who brings light to all darkness,

The National Catholic AIDS Network assists the Church in recognizing the pain and the unique challenges inherent in the HIV/AIDS pandemic and in living out the Gospel mandate by offering compassionate support, education, referral and technical assistance.

— Adopted by the Board of Directors

October of 1998

From its very beginning, the National Catholic AIDS Network has worked to:

- Promote adequate and factual knowledge about HIV/AIDS among those engaged in Church ministry;
- Advocate for respect of the basic human rights of those living with or otherwise affected by the pandemic;
- Support HIV/AIDS ministers who themselves often feel marginalized and targeted because of their engagement in such an apostolate;
- Call for prophetic action to eliminate the prejudice and inequities that make people more vulnerable to contracting HIV and lead to more rapid progression of the disease among those already infected.

The National Catholic AIDS Network is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization and is funded entirely through tax-deductible donations, grants, membership dues, fundraising, and income from our annual Ministry Conference. Contributions are gladly accepted to carry out our mission. Development of AIDS Compassion Sunday was made possible through the generous support of the Priest of the Sacred Heart.

Liturgical Resources



Penitential Rite

- Celebrant: You are the sign of hope, Lord, have mercy.
All: Lord, have mercy.
- Celebrant: May hope never be lost in our life, Christ, have mercy.
All: Christ, have mercy.
- Celebrant: That the poor, the lonely, persons with HIV/AIDS, see hope in you, Lord, have mercy.
All: Lord, have mercy.

Intercessions

- Celebrant: God of overflowing love, we come with joys and sorrows. We come in turmoil and chaos, struggling to create one world in one hope. Let your loving justice inspire our hearts as we pray:
- Reader: God of our hope, make us one as we walk with all who live with HIV or AIDS. Encourage our hearts and open our hands.
All: God of hope, make us one.
- Reader: God of our hope, make us one as we pray for all caregivers, researchers, and those who seek to prevent the further spread of HIV and AIDS.
All: God of our hope, make us one.
- Reader: God of our hope, make us one as we commit ourselves anew to greater equity and access to information, treatment, and care for people with HIV across the world.
All: God of our hope, make us one.
- Reader: God of our hope, make us one as we challenge poverty, ignorance and fear, prejudice and discrimination, particularly affecting those living with HIV or AIDS.
All: God of our hope, make us one.
- Reader: God of our hope, make us one with all those who have gone before us, whose living and dying with AIDS have touched our lives. May angels surround them and saints welcome them into peace.
All: God of our hope, make us one.
- Reader: God of our hope, make us one with the frightened, the timid, and those who breed fear, that they may loosen the bonds of oppression and so be empowered in freedom..
All: God of our hope, make us one.
- Reader: God of our hope, make us one in the yearnings of our heart as we pray in silence . . .
- Celebrant: Holy, life-giving breath of God, fill us with love; strengthen us in seeking justice, and open us to each other's needs. May we then celebrate the reality of your reign in one world, one hope, in Jesus, our hope of rising again, now and in the days to come.
All: Amen.

A program of the National Catholic
AIDS Network
www.ncan.org

1400 W. Devon Ave #502
Chicago IL 60660
773.508.7080 (voice)
773.508.7083 (fax)
info@ncan.org www.ncan.org



Thoughts for Homilies

- Many people affected by the pandemic of HIV/AIDS also are vulnerable due to discrimination, loneliness and feeling deprived of resources and opportunities. Reflect on how Jesus came into the world to teach us how to reach out in love and compassion to the "least of" our brothers and sisters.
- The AIDS pandemic helps us to put into focus the ongoing struggle to bring Gospel justice and more equitable sharing of human and financial resources for the sake of the poor. Advent celebrates our commitment to respond to the "waiting" for care and compassion that face so many people in the world today.
- World AIDS Day invites us to pray in faith and hope for increased solidarity in the human family to address all of the limitations and circumstances which can increase people's vulnerability to HIV/AIDS and other life-threatening diseases.
- Education continues to be the only effective "vaccine" to combat denial, ignorance, and prejudice which places all people at risk. We celebrate our hope for a world where fewer people become infected with HIV and where those living with this disease can be treated with respect and compassion.

MUSIC SUGGESTIONS

INSTRUMENTAL

Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring
Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee
Hymn to Joy
Pachelbel Canon in D

REFLECTIVE / RESPONSORY

On Eagle's Wings (Joncas)
Only In God (Talbot)
Be Not Afraid (Dufford)
Remember Your Love
(Ducote, Daigle)
Shepherd Me, O God, (Haugen)
We Will Rise Again, (Haas)
I Like Loved You (Joncas)
This Alone (Manion)
Center of My Life (Inwood)
We Remember (Haugen)
God of Hope and God of Healing
(1995 Episcopal AIDS Coalition)

GATHERING / CLOSING

Gather Us In (Haugen)
We Walk By Faith (Haugen)
We Are Called (Haas)
You Are Mine (Haas)
We Have Been Told (Haas)
City of God (Schutte)
Lover of Us All (Schutte)
Something Which is Known
(Weston Priory)
Song of Thanksgiving
(Weston Priory)
Christ Be Our Light (Farrell)
Anthem (Conry)
One Spirit, One Church (Keil)
God of Day, God of Darkness
(Haugen)

The liturgical resources were produced by the National Catholic AIDS Network in collaboration with Oregon Catholic Press. Please check the National Catholic AIDS Network website at www.ncan.org for more liturgical resources.

Liturgical Resources (cont)



PRAYERS

For the Medical Community

Most merciful and loving God, you have given to your people the gifts of medicine and healing. Empower all who practice these arts, and especially those who care for persons living with AIDS. Sustain them in a time of doubt, and give them nurture and hope in the task of accomplishing a cure. All this we ask in the name of Jesus Christ, the healer and reconciler of all.

Amen.

Of the People

Loving God, you see yourself in those who are vulnerable, and make your home with the poor and weak of this world; warm our hearts with the fire in your Spirit, and help us to accept the challenge of AIDS. Protect the healthy, calm the frightened, give courage to those in pain, comfort the dying, console the bereaved, strengthen those who care for the sick. May we, your people, using all our energy and imagination and trusting in your steadfast love, be united with one another in conquering all disease and fear. We make this prayer in the name of one who has borne all our wounds and whose Spirit strengthens and guides us now and forever.

Amen.

Bulletin Announcement Suggestions

Sample A

During the weekend of (___) the community of (___) will observe AIDS Compassion Sunday. As a community of faith we focus our attention on those who live with HIV and AIDS. We ask our Lord to be with them and with us as we strive to meet each others' needs. Invite your family, friends and neighbors to liturgy this weekend. Please extend a warm welcome to those living with the virus, and invite them to join us, so that we may continue to break down the barriers to celebrate the true unity of the Body of Christ.

Sample B

AIDS Compassion Sunday is being celebrated within our community during the weekend of (). Please encourage your family and friends who may be living with HIV/AIDS to join us and to feel welcome. Organized by (name of group), coffee will be served with conversation and compassion after the Masses. Please join us.

A program of the National Catholic
AIDS Network
www.ncan.org

1400 W. Devon Ave #502
Chicago IL 60660
773.508.7080 (voice)
773.508.7083 (fax)
info@ncan.org www.ncan.org



Litany of Healing

Presider: Let us name before God those for whom we offer our prayers.

— *All present are invited to name aloud those for whom they are interceding.* —

Presider: God the Creator, your will for all people is health and salvation;

All: We praise and thank you, Lord.

Presider: God the Redeemer, you came that we might have life, and have it more abundantly;

All: We praise and thank you, Lord.

Presider: God the Sustainer, you make our bodies the temple of your presence;

All: We praise and thank you, Lord.

Presider: Most Holy God, in you we live and move and have our being;

All: We praise and thank you, Lord.

Presider: Lord, grant your healing grace to all that are sick, injured, or disabled, especially those who are living with AIDS or HIV disease, that they may be made whole;

All: Hear us, Lord of Life.

Presider: Grant to all who seek your guidance, and to all who are lonely, anxious or despondent, a knowledge of your will and an awareness of your presence.

All: Hear us, Lord of Life.

Presider: Mend broken relationships, and restore those in emotional stress to soundness of mind and serenity of spirit;

All: Hear us, Lord of Life.

Presider: Bless physicians, nurses, and all others who minister to the suffering, granting them wisdom and skill, sympathy and patience;

All: Hear us, Lord of Life.

Presider: Grant to the dying peace and a holy death, and uphold by the grace and consolation of your Holy Spirit those who are bereaved;

All: Hear us, Lord of Life.

Presider: Restore to wholeness whatever is broken by human sin in our lives, in our nation, and in the world;

All: Hear us, Lord of Life.

Presider: You are the Lord who does wonders;

All: You have declared your power among the peoples.

Presider: With you, O God, is the well of life;

All: And in your light we see light.

Presider: Hear us, O Lord of Life.

All: Heal us, and make us whole.

Presider: Let us pray: We humbly beg of you, O God, mercifully to look upon your people as we suffer from AIDS and all other diseases: protect the healthy, calm the frightened, give courage to those in pain, comfort the dying, grant to the dead everlasting life; console the bereaved, bless those who care for the sick, and hasten the discovery of a cure. And finally, O compassionate God, grant that in this and all our troubles we may put our whole trust and confidence in your steadfast love; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

Assembly: Amen.

Nine Ideas for Celebrating AIDS Compassion Sunday



1. Invite a guest to speak about HIV/AIDS in a post-communion reflection. Ask a person living with the virus, or a family member, to share a personal story; invite a medical professional to reflect on the health issues; or solicit a member of your human concerns or AIDS volunteers committee to address the underlying issues surrounding the virus.
2. Involve members of your AIDS volunteer group and/or human concerns committee in the planning and celebration of the weekend liturgy. They can be Ministers of Hospitality greeting people and inviting parishioners to wear red AIDS ribbons. Let them be altar servers, or bring up the Offertory gifts.
3. Provide a permanent book for parishioners to record the names of loved ones who have died. The book may be updated each year. The names may then be read during the Prayer of the Faithful on AIDS Compassion Sunday. Or, include the book in the Offertory procession. It is best to have the book available for one or two weekends before AIDS Compassion Sunday.
4. Make available the enclosed prayer, *Of the People* Encourage parishioners to recite the prayer daily for one month.
5. Utilize the National Catholic AIDS Network's small prayer card, *Mother of God, Light in All Darkness*. Distribute the prayer cards in the pews, reciting the prayer at the end of Mass. Obtain the large icon poster, frame it for prominent display on AIDS Compassion Sunday and, afterwards, place it permanently in the church.
6. Visit your local AIDS shelter or outreach program and determine what food, clothing and toiletries they most need. Then schedule a parish drive for AIDS Compassion Sunday.
7. Hold a second collection, conduct a small fund-raiser, or set up a collection table, to support an annual parish donation to National Catholic AIDS Network, the only national, Catholic organization devoted exclusively to helping the church respond with understanding and compassion to the pain and challenges presented by the HIV/AIDS pandemic.
8. Be certain the parish library or book rack has information regarding HIV/AIDS, including National Catholic AIDS Network's brochure HIV/AIDS: A Call to Compassion.
9. Arrange for a display of quilt panels from The AIDS Memorial Quilt. Contact your local or state chapter of The Names Project.

A program of the National Catholic
AIDS Network
www.ncan.org

1400 W. Devon Ave #502
Chicago IL 60660
773.508.7080 (voice)
773.508.7083 (fax)
info@ncan.org www.ncan.org



IDEAS FOR INVOLVING PARISH SCHOOLS AND RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAMS IN AIDS COMPASSION SUNDAY

The National Catholic Education Association, through its AIDS Task Force, published an education and awareness program, with the following introduction:

"Reaching students with HIV/AIDS prevention education requires more than classroom instruction. Public health officials and educators advise that, to be effective, HIV/AIDS education programs must reach out to the community at large. HIV/AIDS education in Catholic schools and religious education programs must be consistent with Catholic community values and needs and must be reinforced by parents within the context of family values."

- Involve parents and staffs in age-appropriate HIV/AIDS awareness and prevention education.
- Review and update your parish AIDS education program.
- Organize poster and essay contest for AIDS Compassion Sunday.
- Organize an AIDS Education day.
- Provide a question box for students to ask question anonymously. Provide appropriate answers in the classroom or assembly.
- Establish an AIDS Awareness club and support social outreach through existing diocesan and local community programs.
- Develop a peer program on building life skills and making healthy choices.
- Assist students in selecting and researching an aspect of HIV/AIDS. Let students produce a skit, presenting their discoveries to class or school.

What are youth asking of the Church?

- 870 respondents ages 13-19 were included in the results
- 143 participants (17%) had never received HIV/AIDS education
- 36 participants (4%) stated that their education was partly through the Church.
- 87% of the participants (760 people) would like to see HIV/AIDS education done by the Church.
- 63% of the participants (547 people) ranked their knowledge of HIV/AIDS as 3 or below on a scale from 1-5, with five being the highest.

HIV/AIDS Education in Catholic Contexts: Results of a Qualitative Youth Survey By: Rosemarie A. Philip, Student, University of St. Thomas - Survey conducted at the National Catholic Youth Conference – Houston, November 2003.

"Spread education, not HIV."
17 year-old male from Kentucky

Resources



website is dedicated to informing the Seton Hall community, Catholics, and all those who seek to become better educated on this illness and how we are called to respond to it.

American Catholic

www.AmericanCatholic.org
Home of the online editions of St. Anthony Messenger, Catholic Update, Millennium Monthly, Youth Update, Scripture From Scratch and other Catholic features, is a service of St. Anthony Messenger Press and Franciscan Communications, Cincinnati, Ohio, USA.

The Care Team Network

www.careteam.org
The mission of the Care Team Network (CTN) is to be a training and resource center for the development of volunteer Care Teams for persons with health concerns or other special needs.

Caritas Internationalis

www.caritas.org
Caritas Internationalis is an international confederation of Catholic organization, mandated

Further Reading:

Called to Compassion and Responsibility: A Response to the HIV/AIDS Crisis. United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

Many Faces of AIDS: A Gospel Response. United States Catholic Conference

AIDS, Ethics, and Religion: Embracing a World of Suffering. Kenneth Overberg

AIDS: A Catholic Educational Approach to HIV (Human Immunodeficiency/Teacher's Manual). National Catholic Education Association

AIDS: A Christian Response. Concordia Pub Staff and Howard Mueller

AIDS Pastoral Care: An Introductory Guide. Sean Conally

Being a Blessing: 54 Ways You Can Help People Living with AIDS. Harris R. Goldstein

Sometimes My Heart Goes Numb: Love and Caregiving in a Time of AIDS. Charles Garfield

The Church with AIDS: Renewal in the Midst of Crisis. Russell, Bailey, and Schiebner

When AIDS Comes Home: Answers to the Most Commonly Asked Questions. Zylstra and Beibel

When AIDS Comes to Church.

William Amos

Women in the Time of AIDS. Gillian Paterson

AIDS and the Church: The Second Decade. Shelp and Sunderland

AIDS and the Sleeping Church. Hoffman and Glaser

Facing AIDS: A World Council of Churches Study Document. World Council of Churches

Many Threads, One Weave. National Catholic AIDS Network

Catholic and AIDS Resource Internet Links

(Some of these resources may have content that is inconsistent with Catholic teaching. These resources are included because they contain much other valuable information about HIV/AIDS which cannot be found elsewhere. The National Catholic AIDS Network does not endorse positions that are contrary to Catholic Teaching)

AEGIS

www.aegis.org
AIDS Education Global Information System; comprehensive news, daily updates.

AIDS and the Catholic University

admin.shu.edu/dove/AIDS.html
Seton Hall Campus Ministry/ Division of Volunteer Efforts

A program of the National Catholic
AIDS Network
www.ncan.org

1400 W. Devon Ave #502
Chicago IL 60660
773.508.7080 (voice)
773.508.7083 (fax)
info@ncan.org www.ncan.org



by their respective Episcopal conferences. All Member Organization seek to contribute to the socio-pastoral mission of the Church through the spreading of solidarity and social justice. This is done without regard to creed, race, gender or ethnicity.

Catholic AIDS Action, Namibia

www.caa.org.na

Acting in the spirit of Christ, Catholic AIDS Action challenges the AIDS pandemic in Namibia with the Courage to Fight and the Strength to Care. It builds on Roman Catholic affiliated groups and institutions to inspire and support programs of HIV/AIDS prevention, home-based care, spirituality, and support of orphans.

Catholic Charities

www.catholiccharitiesusa.org

Catholic Charities encourages people to help themselves by learning to advocate for their rights. Catholic Charities USA is a membership organization based in Alexandria, Virginia. By providing leadership, technical assistance, training, and other resources, the national office enables local agencies to better devote their own resources to serving their communities. Catholic Charities USA promotes innovative strategies that address human needs and social injustices.

Catholic Health Association of the United States

www.chausa.org

The official site of the Catholic Health Association of the United States, which represents more

than 2,000 Catholic health care sponsors, systems, facilities, and related organizations. Founded in 1915, CHA unites members to advance selected strategic issues that are best addressed together rather than as individual organizations. The Association advocates for a just health care system, convening leaders to share ideas and foster collaboration, and uniting the ministry voice on critical issues.

Catholic Medical Mission Board

www.cmmb.org

Since its founding in 1928, the Catholic Medical Mission Board (CMMB) has been the only United States-based Catholic-sponsored charity organization that acquires and transports medicine and health care supplies to the needy in third world countries worldwide.

Catholic Relief Services

www.catholicrelief.org

Catholic Relief Services was founded in 1943 by the Catholic Bishops of the United States to assist the poor and disadvantaged outside the country. The fundamental motivating force in all activities of CRS is the Gospel of Jesus Christ as it pertains to the alleviation of human suffering, the development of people and the fostering of charity and justice in the world. CRS provides direct aid to the poor, and involves people in their own development, helping them to realize their potential.

The Ecumenical Advocacy Alliance

www.e-alliance.ch

The Ecumenical Advocacy Alliance (EAA) is a new and

broadly ecumenical network for international cooperation in advocacy on HIV/AIDS and global trade. It provides excellent resources for churches and church leaders looking to respond to the AIDS pandemic..

Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation

www.kaisernetwork.org/daily_reports/rep_hiv.cfm

The Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation is an independent philanthropy focusing on the major health care issues facing the nation. The Foundation is an independent voice and source of facts and analysis for policymakers, the media, the health care community, and the general public. This link goes directly to the Daily HIV/AIDS Report.

The Leadership Campaign on AIDS (TLCA)

www.surgeongeneral.gov/AIDS/tlcapage1.html

In 1999, the Office of HIV/AIDS Policy launched The Leadership Campaign on AIDS (TLCA). TLCA works with both private sector partners and Federal agencies to support the fight against HIV/AIDS in communities of color. TLCA works with over 30 local and national organizations to find new and creative ways to fight HIV/AIDS. As part of our commitment to reaching underserved populations, we are working with the National Rural Health Association to restart an AIDS program for hard-hit rural minorities. And our recent work with the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops

Resources (cont)

and Nueva Esperanza led to the development of a new national, faith-based Latino AIDS organization.

Maryknoll www.maryknoll.org

Maryknoll, The US based Catholic mission movement includes: the Maryknoll Society (priests and brothers), Maryknoll Congregation (Sisters), the Maryknoll Mission Association of the Faithful (laity, priests and religious), and the Maryknoll Affiliates. Since 1911, Catholics in the United States have responded to the worldwide cry of the poor by becoming Maryknoll Missionaries. Today, Maryknollers help people overseas build communities of faith. Some work in war zones with refugees, others minister to the sick, the elderly, orphans or people with AIDS. Through lives of service, Maryknollers translate the gospel of love into different languages and in different cultures.



National Association of Catholic Chaplains www.nacc.org

The National Association of Catholic Chaplains is a professional association for certified chaplains and Clinical Pastoral Education supervisors who participate in the healing mission of Jesus Christ. It provides standards, certification, education, advocacy, and professional development for its members.

National Association of Church Personnel Administrators (NACPA) www.ncapa.org

The National Association of Church Personnel Administrators (NACPA) is a membership organization dedicated to the development and promotion of just personnel practices rooted in gospel values. NACPA has been serving the Church and its ministers since 1971. Membership in the Association is open to clergy, laity and religious of the Catholic Church as well as interested persons of other faith traditions. NACPA and NCAN developed a resource for developing policies with regard to employees who are living with HIV/AIDS.

National Black Catholic Evangelization Forum www.nbcef.org

The official site of the National Black Catholic Evangelization Forum. In collaboration with other national organizations, the Forum offers "promising practices" designed to empower local and regional leaders to do the work of evangelization as "we work together to eradicate the evil of racism in the Church and in society." Visit the site to order a copy of **HIV/AIDS: Sharing the Compassion of God**, a program that offers scriptural reflections, questions to promote personal transformation, a prayer service for hope and healing, and practical suggestions for ongoing community outreach to those affected by HIV/AIDS.

National Catholic Council for Hispanic Ministry (NCCHM) www.ncchm.org/

The National Catholic Council for Hispanic Ministry is a proactive agent of a National Pastoral de Conjunto. The council supports its members' common advocacy, education, and networking. NCCHM promotes this pastoral de conjunto through its annual membership meeting, training symposia, national leadership congresses, and vehicles of communication, as well as a formal linkage to the United States Catholic Conference (USCCB). The NCCHM is the only organization of its kind in the United States. It is

A program of the National Catholic
AIDS Network
www.ncan.org

1400 W. Devon Ave #502
Chicago IL 60660
773.508.7080 (voice)
773.508.7083 (fax)
info@ncan.org www.ncan.org



composed of 56 Catholic national and regional ministerial and professional organizations, institutions, apostolic movements and religious congregations of men and women. NCAN is a member of NCCHM.

National Catholic Education Association (NCEA)

www.ncea.org/

The NCEA is the largest professional educational association in the world. Membership includes 200,000 Catholic educators who serve 7.6 million students at all levels of Catholic education. This Web site contains information concerning elementary and secondary schools, colleges, and seminaries.

National Catholic Office for People with Disabilities

www.ncpd.org/

Vigilant in promoting the inclusion of Catholics with disabilities in their parish communities and the total fabric of society.

National Conference for Catechetical Leadership (NCCL)

www.nccl.org/

The National Conference for Catechetical Leadership (NCCL) was formed as an organization of diocesan, parish, and

academic catechetical personnel. Its purpose is to enrich and strengthen the ministry of catechesis throughout the Catholic dioceses of the United States, and to serve the multicultural, multiracial Church. It promotes the Church's catechetical ministry.

Secretariat for African-American Catholics, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

<http://usccb.org/saac/hivawareness.htm>

The Secretariat for African-American Catholics is on the forefront of raising awareness about HIV/AIDS. This site offers resources on HIV/AIDS and resources for individuals and parishes. The fact that African-Americans make up a disproportionate percentage of people living with HIV/AIDS makes these resources all the more important. The Secretariat for African American Catholics is a partner with the National Catholic AIDS Network, Secretariat for Hispanic Affairs and The Leadership Campaign on AIDS in raising awareness about the impact of HIV/AIDS on communities of color.

Secretariat for Hispanic Affairs, United States Conference of

Catholic Bishops

<http://www.nccbuscc.org/hispanicaffairs/indexeng.htm>

The Secretariat for Hispanic Affairs is a partner with the National Catholic AIDS Network, Secretariat for African American Catholics and The Leadership Campaign on AIDS in raising awareness about the impact of HIV/AIDS on communities of color.

United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

<http://www.usccb.org>

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) is an assembly of the hierarchy of the United States and the US Virgin Islands who jointly exercise certain pastoral functions on behalf of the Christian faithful of the United States. The purpose of the Conference is to promote the greater good which the Church offers humankind, especially through forms and programs of the apostolate fittingly adapted to the circumstances of time and place. This purpose is drawn from the universal law of the Church and applies to the Episcopal conferences which are established all over the world for the same purpose.



Check the National Catholic AIDS
Network website for updated
resources

www.ncan.org