



CONNECTIONS

National Catholic AIDS Network ■ Box 422984 ■ San Francisco, CA 94142

Living Instead of Surviving

(Robert Vargas, Catholic Charities
of Marin, San Rafael, CA)

The years pass, others die, and I find myself living with AIDS, a long-term survivor. I had expected only a few months after diagnosis and hospitalization, and here I am alive almost three years later.

I've learned a few things from AIDS, and those years. One of those things has been to learn to shift gears, to grasp on to life, keep dreaming, hoping and striving while also keeping the capacity to let go, to not get too attached to those dreams. I haven't perfected the way to do that, but I keep trying.

I've learned that AIDS is not the end of love and passion. On the contrary, I find I need love and passion to keep me alive. I have realized that love is an endless supply in me that will only enrich my life as it flows from me, through me, to me. In feeling a passion for life, for the richness and beauty of every day that God gives me, I am able to recharge my spiritual batteries.

AIDS has taught me how to speak to God. It's taught me to appreciate His everlasting power. I have prayed to Him for the strength to accept what is, for the courage to face my life and ultimate death with an inner joy that only my belief in God and myself can provide. I have prayed that somehow I may be able to transfer some of my life force to my loved ones who are fading, bowing my head sadly in the knowledge that I cannot.

Because of AIDS, I have learned how wonderfully kind and loving humans can be. I have met courageous men and women who have put their hearts into the fight against AIDS. This is inspiring to see and has given me hope.

I realize I may seem to be painting a rosy picture of this disease, but I know that those that read this don't need to be told of the horror and cruelty of the pandemic. As a person with AIDS I want to say that to me AIDS is not the end. It is an opportunity to live a life with passion, full of love, steeped in sadness, colored by joy, a living prayer, a song that will not die.

Office Offshoots

Rodney J. DeMartini, SM
Executive Director

Dear Friends:

In a few short weeks I will be leaving five years of challenges and good memories as the *Director of AIDS Education* for the Archdiocese of San Francisco. I am grateful to Archbishop John R. Quinn for his support and agreement to allow me to work as a part-time Executive Director for National Catholic AIDS Network for the past year and a half. I look forward in my full-time position with the Network, beginning July 1, to collaborate with Archbishop Quinn in his capacity as our Moderator-Bishop.

Thanks to the generosity of Mr. Frederick Kasl, the National Catholic AIDS Network will be housed in Frederick's office building in Sebastopol, CA. The mailing address will remain PO Box 422984, San Francisco, CA 94142-2984. **BEGINNING JULY 1 THE PHONE NUMBER FOR THE NETWORK IS (707) 874-3031 AND THE FAX NUMBER IS (707) 874-1433. Please make these changes in your directory.**

Thanks to those of you who indicated interest in serving on the Program, Development or Finance Committees of the Board of Directors. I will be forwarding this information to chairs of those Committees during the May meeting of the Board. If anyone else is interested in serving on a Committee, please call or write!

Plans are progressing well for the *Sixth National Catholic HIV/AIDS Ministry Conference* at Loyola, Chicago from July 22-27. You should have received

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We Get Letters ...

President Bill Clinton responded to a letter written by Elaine Swenson of the National Catholic AIDS Network Board in which Elaine introduced our Network and pledged support for a more responsive HIV/AIDS agenda. In part, President Clinton stated: "Focusing national attention on this disease will help to provide the best strategies for prevention and will encourage compassion and understanding...I welcome your support as we seek to defeat AIDS." (President Clinton has announced a \$585 million increase in AIDS funding in the FY94 budget and the Network is supporting realistic funding proposals through our membership in NORA and ANIN)



Rev. Ken South, Executive Director of AIDS National Interfaith Network (202-546-0807), contacted us to introduce Robert E. Beckley, Professor of Sociology at West Texas State University (806-656-2590). Dr. Beckley is continuing research on a study begun in 1987 "to better understand the ways in which individuals in religious vocations deal with those who are either HIV+ or are persons with AIDS....such information is vital in helping contend with the evolving and continuing problems brought about during the second decade of this disease. If you are interested in participating in this study, please contact Dr. Beckley.



Rev. Ken Overberg, SJ from Xavier University in Cincinnati (513-745-3591) sent us several copies of the January 1993 "Catholic Update" published by St. Anthony Messenger Press (1615 Republic Street, Cincinnati 45210) in which he authored the informative and challenging article "AIDS: A Worsening Crisis Challenges Church & Society". He hopes that this resource will be read by as many as half a million readers who receive this periodical.



Sr. Maria-Lauda Lenzen, Diocesan AIDS Coordinator from the Diocese of Moshi, Tanzania wrote "I was so glad to hear from you and grateful that you put me on your mailing list for the National Catholic AIDS Network. This gives me a feeling of belonging and support in my effort for the programme I try to establish for the Diocese".



John Vitek, Director of the Office of Pastoral Services for the Diocese of Winona (507-454-4643) writes "I want to thank you for your leadership and, in particular, I am most grateful to the Network for the commissioning of the icon prayer cards, posters and note cards. A priest of our diocese offered a day of retreat on 'praying with icons'. He

shared with me that nearly every participant on the retreat was immediately drawn to the 'AIDS' icon. The week following the retreat our AIDS ministry telephone line rang more than it had in two years with request for information about the icon, but, also, for information about our AIDS ministry project. The icon has been a means for tremendous healing."



Rev. Christ Ponnet from Our Lady of the Assumption Church in Claremont, CA (714-626-3596) wrote to let us know about a group of five local parishes that offers support for people living with HIV/AIDS. In early May they sponsored a three day retreat for persons living with HIV/AIDS, family, friends, caregivers and significant others. Chris also participates in the *Pomona Valley HIV/AIDS Faith-based Support Group* for those living with and affected by HIV/AIDS. Please contact Chris for more information about these vital resources.



Hugh J. McCabe (10455 E. Via Linda, #280, Scottsdale, AZ 85258 (602) 451-0764) is interested in learning about openings in administrative or program director positions with agencies ministering to people with HIV/AIDS. He is currently an Executive Director of a large non-profit agency and has been involved in volunteer AIDS ministry since 1983.



Gail Addis, IHM from Catholic Charities in Oklahoma City (405-232-8514) writes "I have read of your good ministry....and appreciate all that you are doing on behalf of the HIV/AIDS community". Gail is interested in gathering any policies, mission statements, or assessment materials since her organization is interested in starting up a "Buddy Program". Please contact her if you have materials/suggestions.



Regina Sackrider from the National Association of People with AIDS (202-898-0414) wrote to tell us about the NAPWA Speakers Bureau which would be a vital resource for church-based education programs.



Tony Davis from the Mothers' Voices Campaign (150 West 26 Street, Suite 603, New York 10001, 212-366-9217) wrote to encourage use of the Mothers Day card which moms are encouraged to send to the President and members of Congress to raise awareness and response to the epidemic. Even though the campaign is over for this year, you might want to get on their mailing list for the 1994 campaign.



continued on next page

Jeffrey Alpert, former Development Director for the Serra Homes for AIDS Care in Los Angeles wrote to ask "Why don't those of us who are successfully fundraising for our organizations day in and day out - why don't we attempt to help each other....for free? It is my hope that my development colleagues in National Catholic AIDS Network (yeah, you!) will embrace the concept of and participate in a self-help network. I have no doubt that we have a wealth of information and experiences to share....." If you are interested in this concept please contact Rod DeMartini, Executive Director.



Sister Zita Fleming, Director of the Boston Archdiocesan Office of AIDS Ministry (617-482-5440) sent us a news article on a celebration of "The Stations of the Cross of a Person With AIDS". This event involved Church leadership, ministers, persons living with HIV and their families and friends. As Sr. Zita asks in the article "As Church, if we can't be there, who can people with AIDS turn to?"



Bro. Bill Stevens, CFC, Director of the Office of Pastoral Care for People Living with HIV/AIDS in the Diocese of Metuchen (908-826-7621) wrote to tell us about the expanding programs of support, education and retreats that are being offered. In addition, he shared the good news that his Province of the Congregation of Christian Brothers has approved an AIDS Policy after three years of work.

Office Offshoots

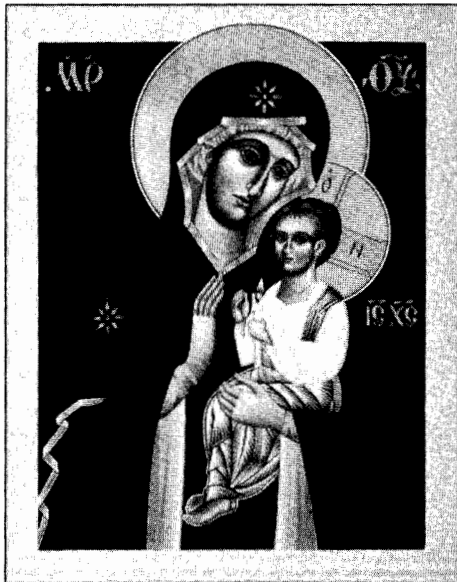
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registration information in April—if you have not received these materials, please call us immediately. The program this year is rich and diversified and we are also offering three one-day Institutes on July 22 including a Medical Update, Development Workshop and Policy Development Workshop.

Finally, I am happy to report that the Network has recently received a \$25,000 grant from an anonymous funder. Half of this money will go to support the Scholarship Program for the July Conference and half will support start-up costs for the Network.

I look forward to seeing many of you at Loyola. Please let me know how I and the Network can be a resource in your ministry. Blessings and peace!

Cut along dotted line - - -



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	Add Shipping & Handling (For combined poster and card orders, shipping is \$6.) (Calif. orders add 7.25% Sales Tax)	\$3/\$6.	s&h _____
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Networking News

+ Resource Materials

John XXIII AIDS Ministry in Monterey, CA (408-655-1737) publishes a quarterly newsletter that features a variety of articles reflecting the personal stories and spiritual journeys of persons affected by HIV/AIDS. It is a refreshing and inspiring publication.

The AIDS Task Force of the Archdiocese of Atlanta (163 Battery Place NE, Atlanta 30307) publishes a newsletter on programs and resources that can be helpful to parish communities striving to raise awareness about the impact of HIV.

The National Catholic Educational Association (1077 30th St. NW, Suite 100, Washington, DC 20007) publishes a useful AIDS Education curriculum guide for grades K-12 entitled "**AIDS: A Catholic Educational Approach to HIV**" and has recently released a video to help raise awareness about the importance of HIV/AIDS education in our schools and parishes. *Judi Hunter, a co-author of the curriculum, will be offering a workshop at the annual conference in July.*

The Archdiocese of Baltimore AIDS Advisory Committee (410-547-5422) published a pastoral plan for the Archdiocese entitled "**Challenge to the People of God**". It is a good model for other dioceses to review in developing their own AIDS ministry plans.

The Peoria Diocesan AIDS Task Force (412 NE Madison, Peoria 61603 309-671-1550) publishes a monthly "**Catholic AIDS Update**" which lists timely resources, conferences, and other information. This up-to-date resource could be a model for other diocesan AIDS offices! Thanks to the Update for including our upcoming conference in its most recent edition.

The Presbyterian Church has produced an excellent ecumenical video entitled "**HIV/AIDS: Stories of Mutual Ministry**". This video is a documentary of people sharing their direct experience with the epidemic—it is very inclusive and can be a vital resource in parish and school communities who are trying to heighten awareness and compassion. To order, call 1-800-524-5612 and ask for DMS 257-91-021 (\$29.95/28 minutes)

The **National Catholic AIDS Network Office** has also received information on the following resource materials:

+ "**Pro Bono in the AIDS Epidemic**"—30 minute video on how lawyers can help people with HIV/AIDS; copies available for \$15 from the American Bar Association, AIDS Coordination Project, 1800 M Street, NW, Washington 20036.

+ "**NIAID AIDS Agenda**" available from the National Institute of Allergy & Infectious Diseases, 9000 Rockville Pike, Bldg. 31, Room 7A50, Bethesda, MD 20892.

+ "**HIV Disease Nutrition Guidelines**" available from Stadtlanders Pharmacy at 1-800-238-7828.

+ "**Medical Alert**" a new publication from the National Association of People with AIDS is available from NAPWA, 1413 K Street, NW, Washington, DC 20005.

+ "**Health Care Reform: Lessons from the HIV Epidemic**" is available from the Lambda Legal Defense & Education Fund in New York (212-995-8585) or Los Angeles (213-629-2728).

"**Marijuana as Medicine: Initial Steps**" is available from Marijuana AIDS Research Service at 202-328-6391.

"**Should HIV Test Results be Reportable? A Discussion of Key Policy Questions**" is available from AIDS Action Foundation (202-986-1300)

Conferences to Consider:

"Unity in Diversity: Sharing our Gifts" - AIDS, Medicine & Miracles - July 8-11 at the University of California in Berkeley and September 23-26 at the Omega Institute in Rhinebeck, NY (1-800-875-8770)

1993 National Conference on AIDS & the Deaf Community, University of California, Los Angeles, July 8-11 (AESD Office, 6565 Sunset Blvd., Suite 415, Hollywood, CA 90028)

"A Question of Parity" - National Asian/Pacific Islander HIV/AIDS Leadership Forum, July 29-31, Los Angeles, CA (NMAC, 300 Eye St, NE, Suite 400, Washington, DC 20002)

"Diversity on Common Ground: Bridging Research and Practice" - International Society for AIDS Education, November 13-17, Chicago (University of Illinois-Chicago, Conferences & Institutes M/C165, Suite 700 North, Chicago 60607).

TIPS FOR PROPOSAL WRITERS

Second in a series on fund raising by Ronald J. Meshanko, President,
Ecumenical Resource Consultants, inc. (202) 328-9517.

Treat your proposal like your resume

How many times do you revise your resume before sending it to an employment prospect? A person I know recently spent four hours writing and revising ten different drafts. Resumes are the primary tool used to hook a potential employer. They are reflections of who we are and what we want others to think about us.

Proposals, like resumes, are the primary tool of grantwriters to present a winning case of support for funding. Like resumes, proposals should be revised over and over again until they are perfectly clear and as brief as possible. That may mean several revisions and hours of grueling editing.

Write a proposal as if it were your resume. Just as you fuss over the paper stock and color, type size, length, spacing and, most of all, the content of your resume, so also you should be as concerned about a proposal that represents your project and organization.

Have an outsider review your proposal for clarity

It is a good practice to ask two or three people to review a resume for clearness and crispness before sending it to the printer. Do the same for your proposal. Ask persons not associated with your organization to read it. (A friend even asked his waitress to read his.) They will point out unexplained acronyms, useless verbiage, and scrambled budgets. More importantly, they will give you feedback about their "feel" for the project and organization. Take their advice seriously.

Keep the concerns and fears of the funder in mind

Remember that you are writing a proposal that will be read by persons who have real fears and concerns. First of all, be sure that the funder is interested in your project area. The purpose and activities, types of support, and limitations of the funder as described in **The Foundation Directory** will help you to know if

your project is in the ball park. The foundation's guidelines or annual report will help you to know if you are near home base. (ERC can produce a computerized printout of funders whose mission and grant types match those of your project for a minimal fee that is dependent on the size of your agency budget).

Some of the most common concerns that funders have about an organization and project are the 1) feasibility and need for the project, 2) stability and credibility of the organization, 3) continued funding support for the project and organization, and 4) capability of the organization to administer the grant monies and operate the program. Address these concerns in your proposal.

Also remember that a funder wants to invest in a worthwhile and successful program. Present your organization and project in this light. Include letters of support from prominent officials and celebrities, newspaper clippings and magazine articles. Enclose a resume of the Executive Director and person in charge of the project. Finally, include your most recent audited financial statement and annual report.

Ask for a specific amount of money

Too many proposals reviewed by the ERC staff do not contain a request for a specific amount of money. Funders want to know up-front how much you want and for what. So tell them! The very first sentence of the first paragraph of your proposal should contain a direct request for a specified amount of money.

"How much should I ask for?" Good question! How do you answer it? Study the grant data provided in the *Foundation Directory* or ERC Prospect Funder Report. These sources provide amounts for the average grant size or grant range. The PF-990 (Foundation IRS Annual Return) will list the grant recipients and the amount of the grant. Using this data, you can get a good idea of how much to ask for, thus avoiding the fatal flaw

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Tips, from previous page

of asking for too little or asking for too much and getting turned down as a result. It is always best to have the funder tell you how much to ask for. If you have made a friend of the funder, you can ask that person directly. But put the question ("How much should I ask for?") in the context of the project case and your knowledge of what the funder usually gives.

Keep these tips in mind when you write your proposal. And also the tip of tips: "if at first you don't succeed, try, try again!"

Ecumenical Resource Consultants, inc. provides nonprofit management, fund raising and information services to over 1,000 church-related agencies and community based organizations across the country. Service fees are based on the size of your agency budget and range from \$35 to \$45 for basic consultation and \$60 to \$100 for Funder Database Searches. Publications include the monthly, 28-page newsletter, ERC Newsbriefs, for \$75 annually; the National Guide to Episcopal, Lutheran, Methodist and Presbyterian Funding for \$25 and Fund Raising Made Simple: A Workbook for Small Nonprofits for \$17. For more information call ERC at (202) 328-9517 or write us at PO Box 21385, Washington, DC 20009-0885.

International News...

Bob Vitillo, member of the National Catholic AIDS Network Board and Director of Programs for Caritas Internationalis reports that HIV/AIDS education efforts among Church leadership have continued in different parts of the world.



On January 20-21, the Bishops of the Philippines held an all-day briefing session on HIV/AIDS in conjunction with their annual meeting that was facilitated by Bob Vitillo. The bishops were most interested in examining the moral and ethical issues related to HIV/AIDS and in assessing the impact of the pandemic on poor persons. At the end of the meeting, the bishops issued a pastoral statement on HIV/AIDS.



From February 8-12 the Bolivian national Caritas organization sponsored three seminars on HIV/AIDS in different parts of the country. Government and World Health Organization officials, health care professionals, and clergy and religious were in attendance. Bob Vitillo and Sr. Maura O'Donohue of CAFOD (the English Caritas organization) as well as representatives from Chile and Brazil gave presentations on the role of the Church in responding to HIV, on global epidemiology, and on various aspects of pastoral care. Several bishops accompanied each session of the seminar and insisted on the need to collaborate with government and the entire population in offering the expertise and resources of the Church to participate in both education and service efforts. It was sadly noted that, in Bolivia, less than 10% of donations for blood transfusions

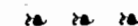
are screened for HIV and other blood-borne diseases. During the seminars, there was also a strong cry for open and direct sexual and family life education to be sponsored in all schools of the country, most especially in schools which are under Church auspices. The participants requested that the Caritas Bolivia organize additional intensive courses on HIV/AIDS most especially for clergy and religious.



On March 4, an Ecumenical Information Day on HIV/AIDS was held in Scotland. All participants agreed on the important role which churches can play in response to the pandemic, especially when they adopt an inclusive and welcoming approach toward those who have been marginalized from the rest of society. In relation to this point, some interesting reports were presented on positive behavior changes among injecting drug users in Scotland. Representatives of the Archdiocese of Edinburgh took the opportunity to present an excellent HIV/AIDS Educational Manual which they had prepared for use in schools and with youth groups.



Caritas Internationalis is preparing a training manual on HIV AIDS for use in assisting Church and other community leaders to respond to the pandemic. The manual will include information, prayers and reflections as well as numerous visual aids from different parts of the world. If you are interested in this publication please write to Fr. Robert Vitillo at Caritas Internationalis, Palazzo San Calisto - 16, 00120 Vatican City.



Another excellent resource packet on the global impact of HIV/AIDS is entitled "AIDS & Development" and is available from CAFOD, Romero Close, Stockwell Road, London SW9 9TY.

Point of View...

by John M. Vitek

(John is the Director of the Office of Pastoral Services for the Diocese of Winona, Minnesota and the founder of the Winona Diocesan Catholic AIDS Outreach Project. He wrote this "short impressionistic reflection" for his local diocesan newspaper.)

I saw Christ today. In the brightly sunlit living room, sitting across from me with his thin, drawn face, his wide glazed eyes that at times strained to see me clearly, sat Christ. I did not expect to meet him there. I came to his home believing I was to bring Christ to him, but on this day it was Christ who came to me, who touched me, who sat with me in the humble presence of an old friend living with AIDS, facing the inevitability of his own death.

He sat calmly on the floral patterned couch; I sat with restless spirit upon the soft love seat across the room. He sat with an incredible sense of peace, resolve, and comfort that I did not anticipate. It was me—so I thought—who was to bring peace, resolve, and comfort to him. I came to his home as the formal representative of the AIDS ministry project. Wasn't I the one, after all, who was to bring Christ to him? Instead Christ came to me, sat with me. His peaceful presence brought peace to my broken heart, his seeming resolve brought serenity to my restless spirit, his graciousness brought comfort to my unsettled soul.

There sat Christ, just one year my elder, frail and vulnerable. There sat Christ struggling to come to grips with his diminishing body. There sat Christ broken yet healed, suffering yet comforted, forsaken yet consoled. And there I sat with Christ, unable to escape the profound and lingering awareness of the truth of the beatitudes unfolding and being manifested through the frail body of Christ on the couch across the room: "Blessed are the poor in spirit...Blessed are the meek...Blessed are they who mourn...Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for justice...Blessed are the merciful...Blessed are the clean of heart...Blessed are the peacemakers...Blessed are those who suffer—for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." (Mt. 5:3-10)

Blessed, indeed, is my old friend in his living with AIDS and blessed was I in his presence. In his brokenness the compassionate heart of Christ is being broken open; in his suffering, Christ's healing love is flowing forth; in his mourning the heart of Christ is mourning; in his mercifulness, the mercy of Christ is revealed to me.

As I drove my car away from the curb in front of his house today, there was one thing of which I was now certain: our children, our brothers and sisters, our friends who are living with AIDS are the children of Christ, the brothers and sisters of Christ, the friends of Christ — indeed the body of Christ. In them, Christ dwells and in their brokenness Christ is broken.

In their suffering, Christ suffers. In their mourning, Christ mourns. In their poverty of spirit, Christ is impoverished.

I saw Christ today and I have learned an important lesson: how we choose to respond to our brothers and sisters, our children and friends living with AIDS (indeed all who suffer), is how we choose to respond to Christ among us. I remember now what I have known before but all too often forget: Christ lives among us in the least of our brothers and sisters. Christ stands before us each day in the eyes of the abandoned child, in the swollen bellies of the starving of the world, in the shredded bodies of war torn neighborhoods and countries, in the grieving hearts of the abused and forgotten, in the loneliness of those who seek a place to rest each evening, the groaning spirits of the rejected, the outcast and all who live in constant fear of social stigmatization.

I saw Christ today and he is living with AIDS. I saw Christ today and in his brokenness he touched my life and brought healing, compassion, and comfort to me. I saw Christ today and I realized that I am an inseparable part of his brokenness for I too, am part of the body of Christ that yearns for healing and wholeness. I saw Christ today and he said unto me, "whatever you do to the least of my brothers or sisters living with AIDS, you do unto me."

I saw Christ today....I shall see Christ again....tomorrow, I pray.

Let Us Remember...

Gifts have been made to National Catholic AIDS Network in memory of the following:

All who have died of AIDS

Dennis Arnold

Michael Callais

Rev. Vincent Ciorciari, O. Carm.

Arthur Conrad

Pamela Dalton

Joseph Holmes

Fr. Michael King, O.S.A.

David Kirby

Aaron Michael

Michael Murraay

Gerard Murrel

James P. Noon

Fr. Daniel O'Brien, M.M.

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Priests and Religious Living with HIV

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and in honor of:

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St. Joseph Hospital, Bryan, TX

St. Joseph's Monastery - Poor Clares

St. Mary's AIDS Support Group,
Corvallis, OR

St. Michael's School of Religion

Ron Stacey

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Elaine and Willie Swenson

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