



Archdiocese of Los Angeles

Office of Catholic HIV/AIDS Ministry
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WORLD AIDS DAY December 1, 2015

Dear friends in the ministry of mercy:

Next Tuesday the Catholic HIV/AIDS Ministry for the Archdiocese of Los Angeles invites all to add to the petitions the next two weekends a prayer for healing and hope.

Our AIDS Council officially endorses the following services:

- 12:10 Mass Cathedral of Our Lady of Angels
- 11a-2pm World AIDS Day information event at LAC USC Medical Center
- 7pm Bi-lingual World AIDS Day Service with Bienestar at La Placita Church

Worlds AIDS Day and AID WALKS provide us an opportunity to be with others in saying God's compassion is offered to all. We join partner groups to also allow them to see people of faith as people not of judgement or event hatred but people of spiritual care and compassion. We celebrate the amazing work of local AIDS ministry but also the international effort of Caritas International, CRS and other religious congregations that provide the touch of our Catholic faith in the midst of this pandemic.

We work with partners throughout the year who honor our Catholic values, even if we might not be on the same page on all issues, such as APLA, Bienestar and LAC Office of HIV/AIDS. Some ACES emails about THE WALL seem to imply our partnership with them but several years ago we ended working with them due to their lack of appropriateness in education events that we were working on at schools and parishes. We advise all not to work with them or any group that will not honor our Catholic values.

As we enter this weekend of Thanksgiving, Advent and the Year of Mercy, I ask us all to speak and preach with truth not ignorance, with compassion for all the ill including those living with HIV/AIDS and when celebrate memorial services/masses for those who have died that we do, as the US Bishops did in address HIV/AIDS, to always preach from the compassion of Jesus in the Parable of the Good Samaritan.

Our AIDS Council meets monthly and always is happy to have new members and to provide services to parishes and schools around HIV/AIDS Education, liturgy resources and pastoral care support. February 2016 we celebrate our 30th anniversary and are grateful for the Archbishops ongoing support.

Blessings.

Fr Chris Ponnet, Director Office of Catholic HIV/AIDS Ministry Los Angeles Archdiocese
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