

# Ministering to those with Mental Illness

Pope St. John Paul II said, “Whoever suffers from mental illness always bears God’s image and likeness in themselves, as does every human being. In addition, they always have the inalienable right not only to be considered as an image of God and therefore as a person, but also to be treated as such.”

Those experiencing mental illness are among the most marginalized and underserved in our society.

Pope Francis reminds us that, “*Compassion* leads Jesus to concrete action: he reinstates the marginalized!”

*Excerpts from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, Committee on Domestic Justice and Human Development letter to the U.S. House of Representatives, July 6, 2016.*

**RESOLVED**, the House of Bishops concurring, that the 78th General Convention of the Episcopal Church calls upon dioceses, congregations, schools, and other entities of the Episcopal Church to explore and adopt best practices for the vitality and increased capacity of their mission and ministry in the inclusion, support, and spiritual care for persons with mental illness and their families; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that dioceses, congregations, schools, and other entities of the Episcopal Church increase understanding about mental illness by providing educational material and training; utilizing existing programs such as the National Alliance on Mental Illness, veterans groups, governmental departments of mental health, local organizations, and other programs and organizations; and sharing the information so that it is readily accessible.

Increase Ministry and Mission to the Mentally Ill, 78<sup>th</sup> General Convention of the Episcopal Church Resolution C020, Adopted July, 2015



## St. Mary’s Beacon Committee Final Recommendations June 2016

### Nearer term:

- Public speaker series on mental health, spirituality and resilience
- Mental health forums, resources

### Longer term:

- Expand focus on mental health needs and ties to spiritual formation

# Support & Resources for Individuals with Mental Illness and their Caregivers

## St. Mary's Episcopal Church Support

### Worship/Prayer

- Prayer, individually and with clergy
- Prayer List
- Prayers of the People
- Healing Eucharist (Thursday Service at 11 a.m.)
- Healing Prayers (Sunday Service at 11 a.m., monthly)

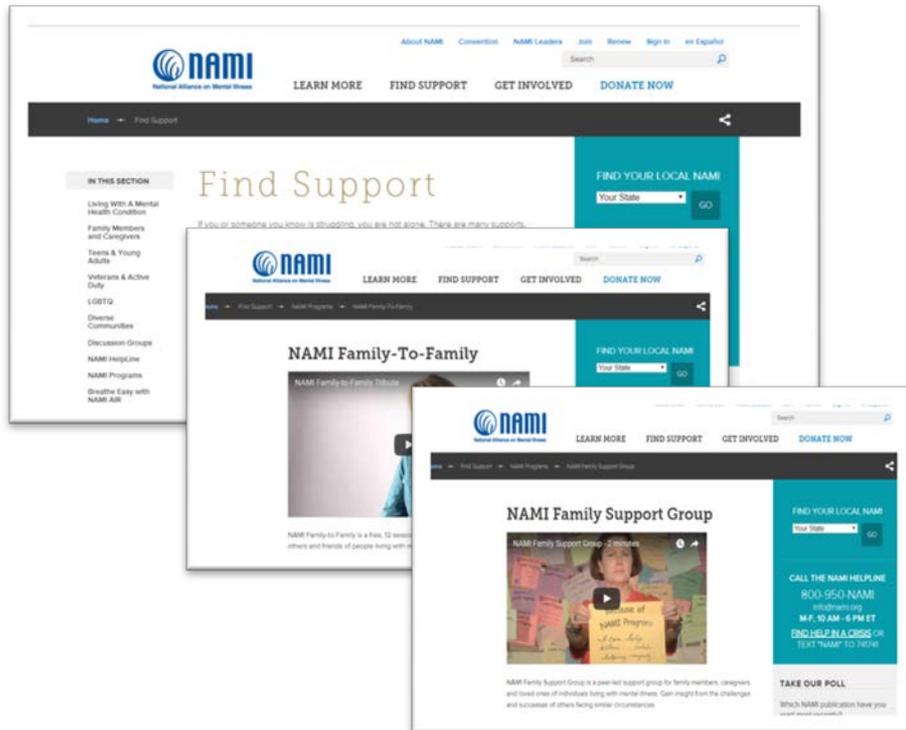
### Support Groups

- Caregiver Support Group – meets the last Thursday of each month
- Parent Support Group – meets the third Monday of each month meets to discuss mental health, substance abuse, psychiatric treatment issues.

### Care

- Hospital visits from St. Mary's clergy
- Meals that Heal
- Stephen Ministry
- Prayer Shawl

## Community Resources <http://www.nami.org/>



## Recommended Reading

