

# Mental Illness: Breaking the Silence

**We recognize those in our Church community who are affected by mental illness. The Church is a place of peace and healing.**

## **Everybody Belongs...**

In Baptism, we become equal in dignity as members of the Body of Christ. The Department of Special Needs Ministries provides supports and accommodations so that all may participate fully in worship and the life of the parish. To find out more, please contact us:

### **Department of Special Needs Ministries**

specialneedsministry@adw.org  
301-853-4560

**Every person bears God's image, every person has a need to express their spiritual nature, nurtured by faith in Jesus.**

- Practice Christ-like hospitality. Mental illness can be isolating for the person and their family
- Request prayers for people experiencing a mental illness, respecting confidentiality, in your parish intentions
- Parish opportunities for the Anointing of the Sick is meant for all people experiencing illness including mental illness

## **Facts on Mental Illness:**

- According to the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI), one in five adults in our country will experience a mental health condition
- People with mental illness have a biological disorder which can be treated with a combination of medications and counseling just as people with diabetes are treated with insulin and diet
- Mental illness often co-occurs with other conditions such as drug addiction and homelessness
- Early intervention, as with other types of illnesses, leads to better outcomes for the person and their family

## Catholic Resources

National Catholic Partnership on Disability

[www.ncdp.org](http://www.ncdp.org)

Welcomed and Valued: Mental Illness Resource Manual and DVD

<http://www.ncpd.org/ministries-programs/specific/mentalillness#Resources>

Pathways to Promise

<http://www.pathways2promise.org>

## Community Resources

National Alliance on Mental Illness

[www.nami.org](http://www.nami.org)

NAMI Maryland

410-884-8691

[namimd.org/](http://namimd.org/)

NAMI DC

202-546-0646

[www.namidc.org/](http://www.namidc.org/)

NAMI Prince George's County

301-429-0970

[www.namipgc.org](http://www.namipgc.org)

Catholic Charities Behavioral Health Services

202-635-5900

<https://www.catholiccharitiesdc.org/BehavioralHealthServices>

## Department of Special Needs Ministries

**Call us:** 301-459-7464; Video Phone: 240-667-7715

Disabilities Ministries Office: 301-853-4560

**Website:** <http://adw.org/specialneeds>

**Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/specialneedsministry](http://www.facebook.com/specialneedsministry)

**Email:** [specialneedsministry@adw.org](mailto:specialneedsministry@adw.org)

**Twitter:** @ADWSNM

**Address:** 7202 Buchanan Street, Hyattsville, MD 20784

**#BelongingStartsHere**



ARCHDIOCESE OF WASHINGTON  
DEPARTMENT OF SPECIAL NEEDS MINISTRIES

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