

THE ROMAN CATHOLIC

ARCHDIOCESE OF ATLANTA



Memo

Date: November 18, 2024

To: Clergy, religious, DREs, school principals and campus ministry

From: Maggie Rousseau, director of Disabilities Ministry; Office of Life, Dignity and Justice

Re: Mental Health Ministry Workshop

In January 2024 during his opening remarks at the Vatican, Cardinal Michael Czerny, S.J., prefect for the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development said, "Mental Health Ministry is essential to integral human development and a universal human right." Given the increased stresses experienced by so many it is important to recognize the need for spiritual accompaniment.

To complement the January 2025 clergy study day, with speaker Bishop John Dolan, the Disabilities Ministry will host Deacon Ed Shoener from the Association of Catholic Mental Health Ministers (CMHM). CMHM is a Lay Association of the Christian Faithful whose members are called to be a healing presence in the lives of people with mental illness. Bishop Dolan is the acting Chaplain for CMHM.

Each parish is asked to send one representative to learn more about the Association of Catholic Health Ministers and establishing a Mental Health Ministry. The workshop will be held Friday, January 10, at the Chancery, 2401 Lake Park Drive, Smyrna, GA from 9:30 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Registration is online at: <http://tiny.cc/mentalhealthministry>

If you have any questions, please contact me at mrousseau@archatl.com.