

THE ROMAN CATHOLIC

ARCHDIOCESE OF ATLANTA



Memo

Date: January 23, 2023

To: Priests

From: The Most Reverend Bernard E. Shlesinger III, Auxiliary Bishop of Atlanta

Re: Priest fraternity groups and resources for priests

Brothers in Christ,

I am writing to make you aware of some resources that are available to aid in your ministry and personal growth. My hope is that you will take time to explore the opportunities and find the information and suggestions helpful.

First and foremost, I would like to encourage you to participate in a priestly fraternity group and take advantage of the clergy study day events and reflections that we host in the archdiocese. Not only will you glean valuable information, these events present an opportunity for fellowship and to get to know your fellow brother priests. Since our archdiocese is large and we have a shortage of priests, I know it can be difficult to make time for fellowship. However, it is very important. Scripture teaches us that Jesus sent his disciples out in pairs. There is power in shared ministry. Co-laboring is not only effective but even for the most ardent priest, there will be many challenging days. When we are weak the other is strong. The Lord has designed us to be interdependent—we need each other—especially in our vocations as priests. I encourage you to seek out and find a group of brothers who you can regularly meet with for a meal and recreation. If you are having trouble locating a group in your area, please reach out to me and I will assist you in this.

Jesus Caritas groups provide a wonderful support system for priests. The Jesus Caritas fraternity is a brotherhood formed by a small group of priests who meet every month for scripture sharing, contemplative prayer, Eucharist and a shared review of life. For more information, visit

<https://jesuscaritasusa.org/>

Below are several other resources that I would like to share with you. Those listed below are a mix of online and in-person opportunities for support.

SLI Connect

SLI Connect is the online ministry of Saint Luke Institute. They offer resources for psychological and spiritual health designed for Catholic clergy, religious and lay leaders. The format includes monthly live webinars and on demand courses for individual skill development as well as group learning and discussion. You will also find a vast array of articles and research.

SLI Connect offers webinars and online presentations in the areas of behavior and psychology, celibacy formation, communication skills, health and wellness, pastoral leadership, spirituality, lay formation, training and intercultural skills. Upcoming webinars include, “An Exploration of Prayer” and “Contributing to a Depolarized World.”

Access to SLIConnect is **free** for all priests of the archdiocese. To register, go to www.sliconnect.org and use the group access code 3471-984. If you haven't yet looked into SLIConnect, I encourage you to check it out.

St. John Vianney Center

The St. John Vianney Center has a resource section on their website where you can find a wealth of information on subjects ranging from self-care practices to stress management to wellness and weight management programs. Visit <https://www.sjvcenter.org/resources/> for more information.

Guest House

Guest House also has a resource center on their website with the goal of promoting understanding of addiction and related behavioral health needs. They have a video library and they also host retreats, workshops and special events that provide an avenue for learning, fellowship and support. For access, visit <https://guesthouse.org/resource-center/>

Holy Family Counseling Center

Holy Family Counseling Center is a resource right here in our archdiocese. The center offers counseling services to assist those who want counseling and psychotherapy that will not compromise Christian beliefs and values. <https://www.holyfamilycounselingcenter.com/>