



ARCHDIOCESE OF NEW YORK  
FAMILY LIFE

July 20, 2020

Dear Father,

As you may recall, “Recovery Sunday” is a national day of prayer during the month of September for those suffering from addictions. Cardinal O’Connor first instituted “Recovery Sunday” in 1999 in the parishes of the Archdiocese of New York, designating a weekend in September to pray for those with addictions and their families at the Sunday Masses. Cardinal Egan continued the observance of “Recovery Sunday,” and in 2016 Cardinal Dolan reintroduced the tradition of “Recovery Sunday” in our Archdiocese.

Statistics tell us that more than 20 million Americans struggle with addictive illnesses. Nine million children live in homes with one parent who has an addiction. Addictions are commonly associated with alcohol and illicit drug use, and increasingly with gambling, sex, social media, food, shopping, and pornography.

“Recovery Sunday” is a reminder of the plight of those dealing daily with addiction and recovery issues, and those who love and support them on the difficult journey to healing. It is an opportunity to recall the true meaning of freedom, as material abundance and spiritual emptiness too often lead to addictive behaviors. Most importantly, the observance of “Recovery Sunday” is a powerful vehicle for prayer for families and communities in need.

Please consider designating a weekend in September as “Recovery Sunday” in your parish. We have included bulletin announcements, prayers of the faithful, and ideas for activities on the opposite side of this letter that may be helpful.

May Our Lord bless your efforts to bring hope and healing to persons with addictions and their families.

Sincerely in Christ,

Kathleen Wither, D.Min.  
Director

(over)

## **BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR THE SUMMER MONTHS**

### **RECOVERY SUNDAY-SEPT.(date)**

Did you know that 20 million Americans struggle with addictive illnesses? Nine million children live in homes with one parent who has an addiction. Addictions to alcohol, drugs, and pornography are among those that require treatment and our prayers. “Jesus said to them, ‘This kind (of demon) cannot be driven out by anything but prayer and fasting.’” (Mk 9:29) Please join us in prayer on Recovery Sunday.

### **RECOVERY SUNDAY-SEPT.(date)**

How many times do we say, “I will say a prayer” when we hear of a neighbor or a family member who is seriously sick? Do we say a prayer when we hear of someone who has an addiction? Yes, we do. Our church has a day of prayer for all those affected by addictions. Please mark your calendar and join us in prayer on September (date).

### **BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENT WEEK PRIOR TO RECOVERY SUNDAY**

Next weekend our parish will celebrate RECOVERY SUNDAY. This is a day of prayer for all those struggling with and in recovery from addictive illnesses. Recovery Sunday was inaugurated in 1999 by Cardinal O’Connor and continues under the leadership of Cardinal Dolan. Please join us! Mark your calendar!

### **BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENT WEEK OF RECOVERY SUNDAY**

Today our parish is celebrating RECOVERY SUNDAY. We wish to affirm and pray for all those individuals and their families who are struggling with and in recovery from addictive illnesses. There are many addictive illnesses, including addictions to alcohol, drugs, gambling, and pornography. Please join us today as we pray for healing, health, and freedom for all those affected by addictions.

### **SUGGESTED PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL**

1. On this Recovery Sunday, we remember all those struggling with addictive illnesses of any kind, that they may know the support of their God and their Church, we pray to the Lord.....
2. For families and relatives of those suffering with addictive illnesses, that the consolation and strength of the Holy Spirit may touch them, we pray to the Lord..
3. That communities of faith may continue to reach out to those who are in need of recovery and provide open hearts and open doors, we pray to the Lord...

### **OTHER ACTIVITIES/ACTIONS RELATED TO RECOVERY SUNDAY**

- Include **free 24/7 Suicide and Crisis prevention information** in your bulletins and on your website:
  - **Crisis Text Line:** (Text HOME to 741741)
  - **Suicide Prevention Lifeline** (800.273.TALK [8255])
  - **Suicide Prevention website** (with Chat function): <https://suicidepreventionlifeline.org/>
- Establish a Recovery Sunday planning committee in your parish.
- Survey your parishioners on how prevalent addictive illnesses are in their lives.
- Open your parish facilities for use by 12 Step Groups (AA, NA, GA etc.) and attend a meeting.
- Develop leadership among those recovering from addiction and make use of their skills in ministering to others.
- Have a 15-minute talk with someone in your parish who is in recovery and can share the pain, the joy, and the experience of failure and success.
- Invite a person who is in recovery to do the Prayer of the Faithful, add their own petitions or briefly share their recovery story after Communion. (This is if they do not mind that their anonymity is compromised.)