





CHURCH DOCUMENTS

Calling For Educational and Pastoral Programs on Addiction

New Slavery, New Freedom — A Pastoral Message on Substance Abuse
1990, United States Catholic Conference, Washington, DC

"Our church response to drug and alcohol dependency must draw upon all of our spiritual, pastoral, social, and institutional resources. . . . Every parish should be reminded that chemical dependency tears at the fabric not just of family and community but of our faith community as well.


Whenever some are tormented by chemical dependency, we all suffer.  **AFIRE PROVIDES THESE RESOURCES**

An Alcohol and Drug Awareness effort should develop educational, informational, preventive, and advocacy programs of service to the entire community. **Whenever possible, our parishes should offer adult education programs on a regular basis to make this knowledge available to as many families as possible.**  **AFIRE HAS SUCH A PROGRAM FOR PARISHES**

Parish schools and religious education programs should include an appropriate substance-abuse curriculum, with maximum appropriate parental involvement and collaboration with other schools and community educational efforts. Teachers and other professionals should be trained to present this curriculum.  **AFIRE PROVIDES A COMPREHENSIVE EDUCATIONAL VIDEO SERIES**

CHURCH: DRUGS AND DRUG ADDICTION

2001, Pontifical Council for Health Pastoral Care

"Preventing addiction, and treating and rehabilitating [those who are suffering from addiction] are the most important ways of helping people who are caught up in the relentless cycle of drug taking. . . . The Church . . . exercises her role and gospel mission, with the aim of helping people to come out of 'a world pressed for hope.'"  **AFIRE'S PROGRAMS ARE DESIGNED FOR THE CHURCH, SO THAT, AS A PEOPLE OF GOD, WE MAY SHINE THE LIGHT OF HOPE INTO THE DARKNESS OF ADDICTION**

Out of her pastoral concern for individuals, families, and the entire society, the Church is involved in the prevention of drugs and addiction. She desires to continue this work together with people of good will, in the light of her global vision of [human life]. **She wants to develop scholastic, health care structures, and institutions that are open to all, as well as to create within parish circles meeting places, educational clubs and centers of prevention, which will enable her to fulfill her mission to the community.**

 **AFIRE HAS CURRENT PROGRAMS & PLANS FOR AN EVIDENCE-BASED RECOVERY PROGRAM**

The Church is called to work with all people of good will against the discrimination of [those suffering from drug addiction]; their social exclusion into poor and degraded quarters, and the fear of meeting with and helping [those who are addicted].

 **AFIRE ADDRESSES THE STIGMA, PROMOTES HUMAN DIGNITY, AND ENCOURAGES EMPATHY**

"[Strategies should be devised] for the entire parish community so that there may be more concern and activity in this field."

 **AFIRE'S PROGRAM GUIDES PARISHES TO DISCERN THE NEEDS OF THEIR COMMUNITY**

Narcotics: Problems and Solutions of This Global Issue
2016, Pontifical Academy of Sciences

"It is certain that in order to curb the demand for drugs, it is necessary to make great efforts and to implement extensive social programs oriented towards health, family support and, above all, education, which I consider fundamental" (Pope Francis).

 **AFIRE IS ACTIVELY ENGAGED, PROVIDING ONGOING EDUCATION, RESOURCES & SUPPORT**

Source: Vatican News on the following conference:
Drugs and Addictions: an Obstacle to Integral Human Development
2018, Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development

"The Holy Father said the Catholic Church is working with civil, national and international institutions and various educational agencies, to combat the spread of addictions through prevention, treatment, rehabilitation and reintegration projects in order restore dignity to those who have lost it. **This calls for a combined effort among groups and agencies to implement social programs aimed at health, family support and education.**"  **AFIRE PROVIDES BOTH EDUCATION & A PROGRAM FOR COMMUNITY ACTION**