

## Hospice

**Hospice**, what, when, why?

Hospice is a medical option when cure is not realistic and palliation and comfort are the goals of treatment. When a patient's estimated prognosis is six months or less, Hospice can be an option. Hospice care is supportive, emphasizing patient management at home by the family and other caregivers along with the hospice team (usually doctor, nurse, social worker, chaplain, volunteer). The approach is that of compassionate relief of pain and suffering as well as emotional support of the patient and family.

Hospice neither hastens nor postpones death, rather it promotes quality of life and provides comfort and emotional healing for both patient and family. The focus of Hospice treatment turns away from cure and prolongation of life toward care and death with dignity.

The Hospice concept can provide a 'safe place' for patient and family. For more information, contact one of the local Hospice organizations. Families do not need to journey alone...*you are not alone.*

**Angela Hospice**  
734 464 7810 [www.angelahospice.org](http://www.angelahospice.org)

**Henry Ford Hospice**  
313 874 6000 [www.henryford.com/hospice](http://www.henryford.com/hospice)

**Hospice of Michigan**  
248 353 2070 or 888 247 5181  
[www.hom.org](http://www.hom.org)

**Michigan Hospice MHPCO** (Interactive Map)  
[www.mihospice.org/site/304/default.aspx](http://www.mihospice.org/site/304/default.aspx)

**Mercy-Memorial Hospice of Monroe**  
734-240-8400  
[www.mercymemorial.org/hospice.html](http://www.mercymemorial.org/hospice.html)

# You Are Not Alone



## Mental Illness

**Mental Illness** is a term used to identify a group of disorders causing severe disturbances in thinking, feeling, and relating. They can result in substantially diminished capacity for coping with the ordinary demands of life. Pope John Paul II states *Whoever suffers from mental illness 'always' bears God's image and likeness in themselves, as does every human being. In addition, they 'always' have the inalienable right not only to be considered as an image of God and therefore a person, but also to be treated as such.* ( November 30, 1996 to the International Conference for Health Care Workers, on Illness of the Human Mind) [Link to The Person With Mental Illness: Bearing God's Image by Rev. Richard Gill, L.C.](#)

Mental Illness is **not** anyone's fault (not the result of poor parenting or weak character). Mental illnesses **are** biological brain diseases; genetic factors may create predispositions and life stresses may trigger onset of symptoms.

Mental Illness is an equal opportunity disease striking families from all walks of life, regardless of age, race, income, religion or education. In a given year 57.7 million Americans will experience mental illness, affecting 1 in 5 families. (NAMI, 2008)

Mental illness includes schizophrenia, depression, panic disorder, bipolar disorder.

While Mental Illness is devastating to the person and their families, it **is** treatable. Medication, rehabilitation and support can enable people to lead productive lives.

If you suffer with mental illness, or know someone who does, *you are not alone:*

**National Alliance on Mental Illness**  
NAMI 1 800 950 6264  
[www.nami.org](http://www.nami.org)

**National Alliance on Mental Illness/Michigan**  
1 517.485.4049 or 1.800.331.4264  
<http://mi.nami.org>

**Crisis Line** 1 800 233 4357

## Mission Statement

*The mission of the Office for Family Ministry is to walk with, support and respond to all families with compassion and understanding.*



*Please feel free to call the Office for Family Ministry with questions on additional family issues not highlighted in this brochure.*

To find out how to obtain additional copies of this brochure please call the Office For Family Ministry

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ARCHDIOCESE OF  
DETROIT  
**OFFICE FOR  
FAMILY  
MINISTRY**

*You Are Not  
Alone*



*Family Support  
Resource*

- SERVICES FOR SENIORS
- HOMOSEXUALITY
- HOSPICE
- MENTAL ILLNESS

## Services for Seniors

Services for Seniors – how to get through the maze. **Area Agencies on Aging** are available to assist seniors, people with disabilities and caregivers wherever they live in the State of Michigan. Each AAA has a regional service agency that has the responsibility of planning, developing, coordinating, funding and monitoring services for older persons. They seek to address the many concerns by advocating for the needs of seniors in various forums.

Persons age 60 and over are eligible for services funded by The Senior Alliance, there is no income guideline for services, no fees are required (donations are accepted). Priority is given to those in the greatest social, medical and economic need.

Among the network of services provided are: Adult Day Care, Care Management, Chore Services, Health Screening, Meals on Wheels, Legal Assistance, Medicare/Medicaid Assistance, Emergency Pharmaceuticals, Respite, Telephone Reassurance, Transportation, Housing referrals.

Supporting aging family members can be overwhelming...*you are not alone.*

### AAA Regional Offices

**Region 1-A, Detroit Area Agency on Aging**  
(Detroit, Hamtramck, Highland Park, The Grosse Pointes, Harper Woods)  
313 446 4444

**Region 1-B, Area Agency on Aging (Livingston, Macomb, Monroe, Oakland, St. Clair, Washtenaw)**  
248 357 2255

**Region 1-C, The Senior Alliance (Wayne County excluding 1-A)**  
734 722 2830

**Region 5, Valley Area on Aging (Lapeer)**  
810 239 7671

## Homosexuality

The Catechism of the Catholic Church reminds us “...The number of men and women who have... homosexual tendencies is not negligible... they must be accepted with respect, compassion and sensitivity. Every sign of unjust discrimination in their regard should be avoided. These persons are called to fulfill God’s will in their lives...” (#2358)

In their 1997 document *Always our Children*, the Bishops state “It is important to understand sexual orientation (heterosexual or homosexual) as a fundamental dimension of one’s personality and to recognize its relative stability in a person. A homosexual orientation produces a stronger emotional and sexual attraction toward individuals of the same sex, rather than toward those of the opposite sex... There seems to be no single cause of a homosexual orientation... Generally, homosexual orientation is experienced as a given, not as something freely chosen. By itself, therefore, a homosexual orientation cannot be considered sinful, for morality presumes the freedom to choose.”

“...Christians are called to confront their own fears about homosexuality. We understand that having a homosexual orientation brings with it enough anxiety, pain and issues related to self-acceptance without society bringing additional prejudicial treatment”. (*Human Sexuality: A Catholic Perspective for Education and Lifelong Learning*, USCCB, 1991)

The church is called to welcome homosexual persons into the faith community, and seek out those on the margins. Avoid stereotyping and condemning. Strive first to listen. (*Always our Children*, USCCB, 1997)

Dealing with the reality of homosexuality can be stressful and isolating, remember, *you are not alone.*

**The Office for Family Ministry 313 237 5892**