

A Challenge to Churches to Become More Aware of our Faithful Living in Long Term Care Facilities

Revised from an article by Deacon Jerry Jablonowski

<https://www.camdendiocese.org/raising-awareness-of-our-catholic-faithful-in-long-term-care-facilities/>

For many of us, when independent living in our own home is no longer feasible, practical or safe, our living circumstances may evolve into the need for a long-term care facility. That may be a skilled nursing facility for more complete total care, or an assisted living facility, that can still foster a degree of independence, but within the protective environment of nurses and aides to assist with meals and other activities of daily living.

But given the physical assistance of nurses and aides, there often lacks the social connection with family and friends that so defined life prior to being there. Now in a new living facility, in a new and strange location, the opportunity for socialization is stripped away and left only to the confines of other residents and caring staff at that place.

So even though their physical needs for life and safety are being tended to daily, there remains a huge gap in their life where there is no one to share their stories of life with or even recall the events of the day in friendly conversation.

As Christians, we are called to help those who need us in their lives. Especially those on the margins of our society. Those most forgotten in the daily flow of human existence. And most residents in long-term care facilities would certainly include themselves as those who have become excluded in so many ways.

Speak with your local pastor or representatives of your parish outreach ministry for the list of facilities served within your parish. Answer the call to volunteer and bring that joy and peace of Christ into the lives of those so desperate for God's comfort. Your work can be the work of his hands and your words can be his voice that brings them the joy of his Kingdom as they live their lives under the care and protection of others dedicated to their well-being.