

## **For Immediate Release**

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## **MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS AND RESOURCE FAIR TO BE HELD MAY 6-7**

*More than 30 Twin Cities organizations to provide free information and referrals*

MINNEAPOLIS – April 28, 2006 -- More than 30 Twin Cities organizations providing mental health assessment, counseling and therapy will participate in a public Mental Health Awareness and Resource Fair the weekend of May 6-7 at the Basilica of Saint Mary.

The goal of the fair is to increase awareness among parishioners and the broader community of the resources available for addressing mental health issues. Mental health professionals will be available after all Masses to answer questions and provide referrals. Everyone is welcome.

“This fair is a great opportunity to learn about the tremendous resources in the Twin Cities and learn what a church community can do to help,” said Linda Atwood Goldetsky, PsyD, LP, spokesperson for the event at the Basilica. “The fair will provide guidance for anyone looking for answers to mental health questions for themselves, friends or family members.”

Information will be available on a wide range of mental health challenges, including depression, both chronic and temporary or situational depression, bipolar disorder, schizophrenia and developmental disabilities. Some of the key community groups include: ARC, NAMI-MN and SAVE. Several veterans groups will also be present to offer help to military personnel returning from Iraq. [Editors: a complete list of all participating organizations is attached.]

*“Mental Health Resource Fair” – 2*

After each Mass, parishioners and visitors are invited to the Teresa of Calcutta Hall in the lower level of the church to talk with health care professionals and gather information. Booths will be arranged to provide privacy. Refreshments will be served. Masses the weekend of May 6-7 will be held at 5:00 p.m. Saturday and at 7:30 a.m., 9:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m., 4:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. on Sunday.

All liturgies that weekend will focus on mental health awareness with special music, prayers and homilies. “At the Basilica, we believe that part of our mission is to welcome and help those with disabilities so they can more fully participate in parish life or the broader community in general,” said Tom Green, director of Special Projects at the Basilica.

The Basilica of Saint Mary is located between 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> Streets on Hennepin Avenue in Minneapolis.

**About the Basilica of Saint Mary**

The Basilica of Saint Mary is a community rooted in the gospel of Jesus Christ. Our mission is four-fold: to provide quality liturgy, religious education, pastoral care, and hospitality; to preach justice and provide emergency relief to the poor; to pursue interfaith relationships; and to contribute to the cultural life of this community. The parish is marked by hospitality and a rich diversity of age, ethnic, racial, social, and economic backgrounds. It is the spiritual home to over 5,000 families.

Located near the heart of downtown Minneapolis, the Basilica of Saint Mary helps provide shoes, food, shelter, and employment assistance to over 6,000 people each month. The Basilica was completed in 1915 and designated the first Basilica in the United States by Pope Pius XI in 1926. Named to the National Register of Historic Places, the Basilica has been a prominent feature of the Twin Cities skyline for more than 90 years. For more information about the Basilica, call (612) 333-1381 or visit the web site at [www.mary.org](http://www.mary.org).

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