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CIR ANNOUNCEMENTS

CIR+ WEBINAR

THURSDAY, AUGUST 20TH 1PM ET / 10AM PT

Intervention with Compassion: A Holistic Path to Healing

When someone we love is caught in addiction, it can be difficult to know when to speak up, how to help, or whether an intervention is appropriate. Catholic in Recovery welcomes Jeff Henrich, CEO of Guest House, for a practical and compassionate webinar on discerning, preparing for, and carrying out an intervention with care. This presentation will help loved ones understand the purpose of intervention, what should be considered before taking action, and how to invite someone toward recovery with honesty, dignity, and hope.

Scan the QR code or visit: **catholicinrecovery.com/webinars** to learn more and register.

MASS READINGS

FIRST READING Isaiah 56:1, 6-7
RESP. PS. Psalm 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8
SECOND READING Romans 11:13-15, 29-32
GOSPEL Matthew 15:21-28

Catholic in Recovery

© Catholic in Recovery, *meeting reflections for Sunday, 8/16/26*

CIR WEEKLY MEETING REFLECTION
FAMILY & FRIENDS RECOVERY

TWENTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

There are seasons in family recovery when love feels like waiting at a door that has not yet opened. We pray for someone we care about, encourage treatment, set boundaries, attend meetings, and try to respond with wisdom. Yet the change we long for may come slowly. Relapse, denial, broken promises, or ongoing instability can leave us wondering whether God is listening and whether anything we do truly matters.

The Canaanite woman in Sunday's gospel understands the pain of seeking help for someone she loves (Matthew 15:21–28). Her daughter is suffering, and she comes to Jesus with a desperate plea: "*Have pity on me, Lord, Son of David!*" At first, Jesus does not answer her. The disciples urge Him to send her away. Still, she remains. She kneels before Him and says, "*Lord, help me.*"

Her persistence is compelling, but so is her humility. She does not pretend she can heal her daughter herself. She does not demand that Jesus act according to her timing. She brings her concern to Him honestly and continues trusting His mercy even when the response is not what she expected. Jesus finally says, "*O woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish.*" Her daughter is healed from that hour.

Those of us affected by another person's addiction or unhealthy behavior can recognize this longing. We want relief for the person we love, and we also want an end to the fear, confusion, and disruption that enter our own lives. Our prayers can gradually become attempts to persuade God to produce the outcome we have already decided is best. We may confuse faithful persistence with constant monitoring, repeated rescuing, or trying to force another person into recovery.

The Canaanite woman offers a different posture. She brings her loved one to Christ, but she does not take Christ's place. Family recovery teaches us to care deeply while accepting the limits of our responsibility. We can offer support, speak truth, establish healthy boundaries, and encourage recovery. We cannot make another person become honest, sober, or willing. Surrender means placing both our loved one and ourselves into God's care while asking for the wisdom to know what belongs to us.

This posture reflects the movement from Step Two into Step Three. We come to believe that God can restore us to sanity, especially when fear and obsession have narrowed our vision. Then we make a decision to entrust our will and our lives to Him. That decision includes releasing the outcomes we cannot control. Persistent faith does not require us to remain in harmful situations or accept unacceptable behavior. It allows us to act with courage without making our peace dependent on another person's choices.

The first reading widens this hope. God promises that His house will be *"a house of prayer for all peoples"* (Isaiah 56:1, 6–7). No one is outside the reach of His mercy. This includes the loved one who seems unwilling, the family member who has caused deep pain, and those of us who have become exhausted from trying to hold everything together.

Healing may not unfold according to our preferred timetable. Our loved one's recovery may remain uncertain. Even so, God can restore clarity, dignity, and peace within us. Each time we pray honestly, keep a necessary boundary, seek support, or release an outcome back to God, we cooperate with grace.

The Canaanite woman reminds us that humble persistence is never wasted. We can continue bringing those we love to Christ while allowing Him to carry what we cannot. His mercy is greater than addiction, stronger than our fear, and sufficient for us even before the circumstances change.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- Where have your efforts to help someone you love crossed into monitoring, rescuing, or trying to control the outcome?

- What person or situation are you being invited to place more fully into Christ's care?

- What boundary, act of surrender, or request for support could help you cooperate with grace this week?