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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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DAY OF PRAYER FOR THE HEALTH AND WELLNESS OF CLERGY AND MEN AND WOMEN RELIGIOUS

June 4, 2024

DOWNINGTOWN, Pa. – The second Day of Prayer for the Health and Wellness of Clergy and Men and Women Religious will occur on Friday, **October 18, 2024**. Saint John Vianney Center (SJVC) established the Day of Prayer in 2023 to provide spiritual support to those who dedicate their lives to God through service to others and to promote mental, physical, and spiritual self-care.

Live streaming of events for the day will begin at 9:00 a.m. with Morning Prayer (Lauds) and Adoration followed by a keynote, "Nourishing Our Ministers with Compassion and Gratitude" by SJVC President and CEO David Shellenberger, RN, BSN, and a prayer hour hosted by SJVC's Spiritual Care team. Fr. David Brzoska, M.Div., MA.SS., Chaplain of SJVC, will celebrate Mass for the health and wellness of all clergy and men and women religious at 11:00 a.m. All times are Eastern Daylight Savings Time.

To learn more and to download the Day of Prayer media kit visit SJVC's website at www.sjvcenter.org/dayofprayer.

"We hope to raise awareness of the challenges and demands faced by clergy and men and women religious, and for everyone to join us in prayer for their health and well-being," said David Shellenberger, President and CEO of Saint John Vianney Center. "The Day of Prayer is

an opportunity for us to lift up our Church Ministers in prayer and remind them of our gratitude for their selfless service to our Church."

This year, SJVC will offer the opportunity to honor a member of the clergy or religious by purchasing a Mass Intention card. The honored priests and religious will receive a Mass Intention card and their names will be placed on the Altar during the Day of Prayer Mass. Information on purchasing a Mass Intention card is available at www.sjvcenter.org/dayofprayer. SJVC invites everyone to join in the Day of Prayer by participating in the live-streamed events or by incorporating prayers and intentions for the health and wellness of clergy and men and women religious into their weekday Masses and devotions. Those who wish to help promote this day are invited to display the Day of Prayer logo on their website, link it to our landing page, and use the hashtag **#SJVCdayofprayer** on social media.

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About Saint John Vianney Center

Saint John Vianney Center is a licensed and accredited residential behavioral health and addictions treatment and resource center serving clergy and men and women religious worldwide. The exemplary facility, staff, and resources distinguish SJVC as the premier center fully equipped to help ministers of the Church get and stay healthy in mind, body, and spirit.

Day of Prayer

The second **Day of Prayer for the Health and Wellness of Clergy and Men and Women Religious** will be held on October 18, 2024. Organized by Saint John Vianney Center, the premier behavioral health and addictions treatment center in the United States for clergy and men and women religious, the day is designed to provide spiritual support to our church ministers who tirelessly serve our Church and the people of God. The day will also serve as a powerful reminder of the significance of self-care, healing, maintaining a strong spiritual foundation, and promoting a supportive environment for men and women who serve us through their vocations.

[Learn more about Saint John Vianney Center](#)

To request an interview with our President and Chief Executive Officer, David Shellenberger, please contact Jim Friend, Director of Mission Advancement at jfriend@sjvcenter.org.

Meet Our President



David Shellenberger, RN, BSN, is President and Chief Executive Officer of Saint John Vianney Center. In this role, he works to increase awareness of the Center's prevention and educational services, as well as its assessment and behavioral health treatment programs.

Prior to his current role, David served as Chief Operating Officer, Chief Nursing Officer, Infection Control and Patient Safety Officer, and Director of the Complex Extended Stay Program. David helped develop the weight management and wellness program at Saint John Vianney Center which assists residents with weight loss and healthy living through diet, education, treatment, and emotional and spiritual support. He also facilitates workshops, provides intervention services, and provides support to dioceses and religious communities in regard to health and wellness, stress management, and self-care.

David has over 26 years of health care experience in both nursing and administration, including Beaumont at Bryn Mawr in Bryn Mawr, PA, and HCR Manor Care in Pottstown, PA. David received his BSN from York College of Pennsylvania and maintains his RN license through the State of Pennsylvania.

Day of Prayer Suggested Interview Questions

- 1) Why did Saint John Vianney Center start the Day of Prayer for the Health and Wellness of Clergy, and Men and Women Religious?
- 2) Is there a need for addictions and behavioral health treatment for clergy and religious?

- 3) Will this year's Day of Prayer be similar to last year's?
- 4) What are the intended outcomes of the Day of Prayer?
- 5) Where can people get more information?



Social Media Posts and Logo

- Our clergy and men and women religious tirelessly serve the Church and its people. On October 18 we come together in prayer for their health and wellness. Visit www.sjvcenter.org/dayofprayer for information and to register. #SJVCdayofprayer
- Save the date! October 18 is the #SJVCdayofprayer. Together let's support and uplift our clergy and men and women religious through prayer and gratitude. Learn more and register at www.sjvcenter.org/dayofprayer.
- Clergy and religious suffer from the same anxieties and stresses as everyone else. October 18 is #SJVCdayofprayer, offered for their health and wellness. Let's show our appreciation for their invaluable service. Register at www.sjvcenter.org/dayofprayer.

Day of Prayer Logo: Download the Day of Prayer Logo (above) by visiting our landing page at www.sjvcenter.org/dayofprayer and click on "Display the Day of Prayer logo on your website". We invite you to link the logo to our landing page where visitors can find updates on the Day of Prayer and join us for the Live Streamed events October 18, 2024.

Please contact Jim Friend, Director of Mission Advancement, Saint John Vianney Center 610-518-2083 - jfriend@sjvcenter.org for more information.