



Southern California Area Intergroup

Kern, Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, Santa Barbara, & Ventura Counties.

P.O. Box 91083
City of Industry, Ca.
91715-1083

Draft Letter To Clergy Number One

Dear _____ (Appropriate title)

Sexaholics Anonymous (SA) is a "Twelve Step" support group which has helped untold numbers of those suffering with the malady of sexual addiction return to active, productive lives while experiencing daily freedom from the actions and obsessions of "lust". SA holds to the proposition that lust is the driving force behind the addiction, and true sobriety includes progressive victory over lust. As members experience "progressive victory over lust" they also tend to experience enhanced self esteem, and an ability to concentrate on the daily tasks of life without reaching for their "drug". If members of your congregation or clergy are struggling with lust, we hope you would consider referring them to SA as an adjunct to the plan you are already prescribing for them. For some reason, clergy are particularly hard hit with this malady.

Enclosed are the following SA materials:

1. Official SA Brochure;
2. Local SA Information Meeting Directory;
3. SA order form for SA books, pamphlets and the Essay, the Fellowship's official publication.
4. SA "business" cards, listing local phone contacts to call.

Some information about our program: SA was formed in 1979 and has "chapters" in most major cities nationally and some internationally. Information about these other meeting locations is readily available through the SA International Central Office.

SA is patterned after AA, Alcoholics Anonymous. AA was patterned after a Christian movement called The Oxford Group. In the mid 1930's, it was the Oxford meetings that gave the little group of alcoholics in Akron and then New York a philosophical and spiritual home. The core of the Oxford movement, adopted by A.A., included unconditional surrender of the human will to the will of God (Step Three); taking a personal moral inventory (Step 4); confessing (sharing) before other members; (Step 5) making amends to people whom a member has harmed (Steps 8 and 9); and working with others who need help, willingly and without thought of financial reward (Step 12). See "Getting Better: Inside Alcoholics Anonymous" (Fawcett Crest - Ballantine 1988) Chapter 3, The Early Christians, at page 45.

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The text further states at page 47: "The small cluster of drunks struggling to get sober within the Akron's Oxford Group ... also turned to the Bible for solace. The reading that they regarded as essential included The Sermon on the Mount, the Thirteenth Chapter of I Corinthians, ... and the Book of James, with its emphasis on mercy, tolerance, the doing of good works, the confession of faults to one another, and the healing properties of prayer. A favorite of Bill and Dr. Bob (A.A.'s twin founders) was The Varieties Of Religious Experience: A Study In Human Nature by William James, ... From "Varieties" Bill extracted three other ideas that became central to A.A. thought in working with Alcoholics. First, change came when a person reached a state of total desperation and collapse (Step One). Second, was an admission of defeat. Third was an appeal to a higher power, or at least a cry for help to another human being (Step 2)." By comparing these tenets with the Statement of Purpose or other doctrine followed by your organization, you may discover that A.A., and hence S.A., may have more in common with your doctrinal statement than you once may have believed.

All SA meetings are "closed", and participation in a newcomer's meeting is a prerequisite to attending a regular SA meeting. This is done because SA places the highest premium on anonymity and confidentiality, so the meetings can be a "safe haven" where honest sharing is encouraged.

SA differs from other "S" Fellowships primarily in that SA specifies its definition of sobriety for its members. SA's "suggested" definition of sobriety, in brief, is no sex with self, or anyone other than the spouse (Behavioral Aspect), as well as "progressive victory over lust". See pages 191-193 of the "White Book", Sexaholics Anonymous, for complete definition.

SA has a "sister" 12 Step program, S-Anon, for friends and family members of Sexaholics. S-Anon also conducts 12-Step "Couples in Recovery" meetings and retreats, where the focus is on the recovery of the relationship from the addict's behavior and the coaddict's enabling. S-Anon International Central Office can be reached at (615) 833-3152, or at P.O. Box 111242, Nashville, TN 37222.

No one speaks for SA. For more information, you can contact SA International Central Office directly at (615)331-6230, FAX (615)331-6901; or at P.O. Box 111910, Nashville, TN 37222. SA International Central Office is also the appropriate entity to direct professional inquiries. However, if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned directly.

Sincerely,

_____[Your first name.]
Public Information Committee (PIC) [Or other appropriate title.]
of the SA Southern California Area Intergruop (SCAI)
() - _____. [Your phone #.] (Optional)
Enclosures: as noted, above
cc: SCAI. ICO

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