

What It Means to Say “Yes” to the iTHIRST Ministry:

Your “yes” is more than a commitment—it’s a calling. When you join iTHIRST, you enter a sacred mission of healing and spiritual accompaniment for those who have an addiction. Here’s how we walk this Journey together:

- **Bi-Monthly Fellowship and Formation**
Join twice-monthly Zoom calls for spiritually rich sessions that deepen your understanding of addiction and prepare you to minister with compassion and grace.
- **Bring iTHIRST to Your Parish**
Collaborate with others to prayerfully explore how to establish iTHIRST in your parish—creating a space of refuge, mercy, and hope for those in need.
- **Unite in Purposeful Dialogue**
Engage in small group discussions to share wisdom, develop outreach strategies, and unite as Christ’s Church.
- **Begin the iTHIRST formation Journey**
Start your spiritual and educational formation in iTHIRST, where faith, knowledge, and compassionate service unite to change lives, beginning with your own.

*This is more than a ministry.
It responds to Christ’s cry from the Cross:
“I thirst.”*

Here is what the iTHIRST Ministry is asking you to consider:

1. Learn about the spiritual dimension of addiction. Dive deep into understanding the intersection of faith and recovery. Develop insights and walk alongside those who are struggling.
2. Become part of the solution. Addiction is one of the most significant challenges of our time. It’s not just a medical issue; it’s a spiritual one. Together, we can address it with love, understanding, and faith.
3. Ignite your passion for service. This is your chance to help others on their journey to healing. Your involvement can change lives, whether as a spiritual companion, volunteer, or supporter.
4. Strengthen your faith. Join iTHIRST to witness how faith influences recovery. Your faith can be the light of hope for those who feel lost and broken.
5. Join Us. We need your help to provide education, healing, and hope to those affected by addiction.



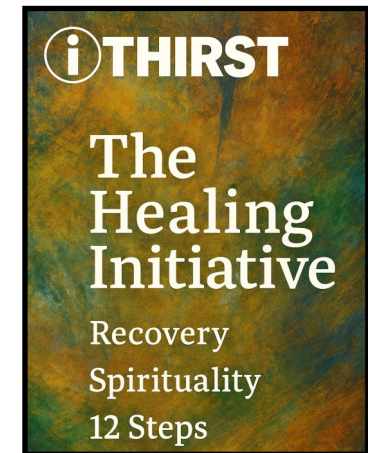
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ARCHDIOCESE OF SANTA FE

Office of Pastoral Outreach



Addiction and the Intersection of Spirituality and Recovery

A journey of compassion, hope
and healing.

We prayerfully invite you to walk
with us in this sacred new
beginning—an outreach of hope and
healing in response to addiction, a
cross that now touches nearly every
family’s life.

iTHIRST Ministry

Addiction and the Intersection of
Spirituality and Recovery

Archdiocese of Santa Fe
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A Cry from the Heart of the Church

We come before you carrying the heavy burden of countless families within our spiritual community, whose hearts are crushed beneath the weight of anguish, fear, and silent suffering. Those struggling with addiction are not strangers; they are our brothers and sisters, our sons and daughters, our friends and parishioners.

Tragically, instead of receiving compassion, too many encounter judgment, rejection, and shame. The false belief that addiction is a mere choice or moral failure is a grave distortion of truth. This misconception, fueled by misinformation and flawed theology, has inflicted deep wounds, tearing apart families, silencing cries for help, and isolating the very souls Christ came to heal.

It is time for the Church to rise—not in condemnation, but in mercy. To stand against the stigma. To proclaim the truth: that addiction is a spiritual affliction deserving a spiritual response, rooted in love, humility, and the unwavering presence of God.

Walking With the Wounded

A Sacred Call to Compassionate Presence

The journey of healing from addiction is not just a path of medicine or therapy—it is a pilgrimage of the soul. Addiction wounds the spirit as deeply as it afflicts the body and mind. In this sacred space of suffering, the Church is called to embody Christ's presence: a beacon of mercy, hope, and unconditional love.

As followers of Jesus, we are invited to walk beside our struggling brothers and sisters, not to fix or judge, but to accompany them with humility and compassion. Healing begins when the soul is seen, heard, and embraced. Faith offers what no earthly remedy can: a profound encounter with the mercy of God, who never abandons His children.

In Christ's light, the Church becomes a sanctuary for the brokenhearted—a place where shame gives way to dignity, isolation to communion, and despair to hope. Let us be faithful companions, listening with love, praying with persistence, and bearing witness to the truth that every life, no matter how wounded, is precious in God's eyes.



Standing Together in the Face of Addiction

Addiction is no longer someone else's struggle—it is our collective battle. Addiction represents a spiritual, emotional, and societal crisis that affects nearly half of all families, inflicting deep wounds of pain, fear, and isolation.

We are called to respond not with judgment but with compassion, not with silence but with our presence. The Church must lead with boldness, walking hand in hand with those who suffer, as Christ walks with all who are broken.

This is not a distant issue. Whether through drugs, alcohol, pornography, gambling, work, technology, or toxic relationships, addiction reaches into our homes, parishes, and hearts. It is not a matter of if, but how it has impacted our lives.