

Schizophrenics get grace from Pope

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The following is a letter that was presented to Archbishop Thomas Collins that was forwarded to Pope Benedict XVI related to the recent indulgence announced for the mentally ill as it relates to schizophrenia.

"We wish to express our thanks that the Catholic Church now has an indulgence for the service of the mentally ill through the foresight of Pope Benedict XVI. There are over 10 million people who have schizophrenia and are Catholics across the globe who may potentially be assisted by this church move."

"We hope that this thoughtful move will at least help raise awareness of the sad plight and blatant global discrimination against the mentally ill and especially those that with schizophrenia, who are the most rejected of the mentally ill. This move takes much courage by Pope Benedict XVI personally and could potentially save lives of Catholic schizophrenics all across the world."

"We understand that Dr Austin Mardon is meeting for 40 minutes with Your Grace on the afternoon of February 28 in Edmonton. As a noted person with schizophrenia we praise the role that Dr. Mardon has played in furthering the cause of the mentally ill through providing material to you that has been distributed to all Catholic priests in the Archdiocese of Edmonton. Dr. Mardon is anxious that you consider his next suggestion that you distribute the short piece to every bishop and then if at all possible to every priest in Canada."

"As the organization representing people with schizophrenia and their families across the globe we would hope that this information could eventually be distributed throughout the global Catholic church."

"Finally, it would be an honour if you could forward this letter to Pope Benedict XVI, in order that he may know of our gratitude and support for this indulgence to help the severely mentally ill of the world."

Yours sincerely,

Diane Froggatt
Secretary, World Fellowship for Schizophrenia and Allied Disorders

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