

Greetings to all:

Welcome to *Faithful Response*, a ministry of Lutheran Disaster Response of New York and Catholic Charities, Diocese of Rockville Centre. We hope you find our services to be of help to you as you continue to work with the challenges you experienced as a result of the events of September 11 or the continuing military conflicts in Afghanistan, Iraq, and other places throughout the world where you or your family members may be working to defeat terrorism.

Faithful Response starts with the assumption that people often turn to their faith communities to help them with life's crises. Some studies suggest that as many as 4 out of 10 Americans looking for mental health services consult their churches first, so we believe that it is fitting to draw on the strengths of faith communities and expand their resources to provide continuing assistance to people still suffering from stress associated with 9/11 or the war on terror.

Included in this group are family members and other dependents of those who were killed in the 9/11 tragedies, injured survivors and their families, and displaced workers and their families. In addition, *Faithful Response* will provide continued services for rescue, recovery and reconstruction workers, in particular law enforcement personnel, firefighters, EMS workers, and other workers who continue to suffer from the health effects of 9/11. Furthermore, any military returnees or their families are invited to request services.

You might ask why we're beginning this program almost 4 years after 9/11. What we've learned is that symptoms of post-traumatic stress may take years to emerge in an individual coping with trauma. We recognize, therefore, that continuing assistance is often necessary. The professionals associated with *Faithful Response* can help you deal with your distress by using therapies such as EMDR, hypnosis, and SE (somatic experience) which have been researched and recognized for their capacity to heal trauma quickly and comprehensively.

Faithful Response addresses the needs of individuals and families still suffering from the effects of 9/11 in a context that represents Lutheran and Roman Catholic traditions. In keeping with our respective religious traditions, we will provide compassionate care to all who seek it. We hope you will give us the privilege of working with you and your loved ones.

Cordially,

Michael Arcari
Director, *Faithful Response*