

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – August 7, 2025

A New Movement for Clergy Mental Health and Disability Gathers Momentum

CHICAGO, IL – As mental health crises surge across the nation, a groundbreaking movement rooted in faith, justice, and healing has emerged: Clergy Care Collective—a 501(c)(3) public charity dedicated to transforming how the Church cares for its own.

Founded by the Rev. Matthew González, J.D., a teacher, lawyer, former businessman, and pastor with lived experience of mental illness, Clergy Care Collective seeks to uplift seminarians, clergy, and all who serve the Church by providing radical support, education, and advocacy rooted in the Gospel of Jesus Christ and Catholic Social Teaching.

“This work is about loving those who labor in love,” said Rev. González. “Too often, pastors suffer silently. Our mission is to break the silence and rebuild a Church that cherishes the hearts, minds, and bodies of its ministers.”

With national reach, Clergy Care Collective intends to offer peer support group for clergy and seminarians, worship and retreats for renewal and resilience, one-on-one pastoral care consultations, especially for those in discernment, advocacy training on disability justice and mental health inclusion, and a charitable fund supporting homeless and disabled individuals awaiting adjudication for Supplemental Security Income (“SSI”). We also fervently advocate for a much greater monthly benefit amount for those on SSI, and no independent asset limit.

Clergy Care Collective is ecumenical, welcoming all Christian traditions while drawing deeply from Catholic spirituality, social teaching, and the lives of the saints, especially St. Dymphna, patron saint of those with mental illness as well as mental health professionals. Rev. González earlier this year consecrated his entire ministry to St. Dymphna and her queen the Blessed Mother—both bona fide miracle workers.

We are also committed to celebrating religious scholarship, building a vibrant network of theologians, Hebrew Bible scholars, historians of Christianity, pastoral care theologians, ethicists, liturgists, and others whose work reflects and informs the ongoing relevance of the Gospel in our world. Their voices enrich our mission and ground it in intellectual integrity, tradition, and insight.

Much more information, including an opportunity to make a fully tax-deductible donation, is available at <https://www.clergycarecollective.org>

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Clergy Care Collective Launches to Support Mental Health of Clergy and Seminarians

Chicago, IL — A powerful new nonprofit has launched to respond to a pressing but too often unspoken crisis: the mental health and holistic well-being of clergy, seminarians, and those discerning ministry. **Clergy Care Collective**, founded in Chicago but with national reach, is a 501(c)(3) public charity dedicated to offering support, advocacy, education, and community rooted in the Gospel of Jesus Christ and Catholic Social Teaching. The organization is intentionally ecumenical and welcomes all Christian traditions.

Founded by Rev. Matthew González, J.D., a lawyer, teacher, former businessman, and seminarian who has himself struggled with mental illness, and his distinguished Board of Directors made up of fellow pastors and a public interest lawyer, Clergy Care Collective seeks to break the silence around clergy mental illness and neurodivergence by creating safe, compassionate spaces for healing, resilience, and flourishing. The nonprofit provides programs such as peer support groups, workshops, pastoral care consultations, and advocacy training—along with a growing resource library and pastoral care toolkit.

“Too many pastors and seminarians suffer in silence,” said Rev. González. “Our faith calls us to love boldly, to support one another in weakness, and to build a Church where no one carries their burdens alone. Clergy Care Collective was born out of that call.”

The organization is also passionately engaged in **disability and mental health advocacy**, calling for structural changes to policies such as the Supplemental Security Income (“SSI”) benefit and asset limit, which leave many disabled individuals in poverty. Once donations allow it, a **charitable fund** will be established to support individuals awaiting SSI adjudication, many of whom face homelessness or extreme financial precarity. Through this work, the Collective joins a growing movement to bring the Gospel to bear on issues of justice, poverty, and human dignity.

Clergy Care Collective affirms the sacred role of ministry as a source of transformation for both individuals and communities. It honors the work of theologians, ethicists, and religious scholars through its **Affiliated Scholars network**, and celebrates the spiritual legacy of saints like **St. Dymphna**, patron of those suffering from mental illness, to whom the founder has consecrated his ministry.

Matthew invites churches, seminaries, religious institutions, and the media to partner with Clergy Care Collective in building systems of care that honor the humanity and sacred calling of all ministers. “If we are to build a Church that reflects Christ’s love,” he said, “we must begin by loving those who serve it—especially when they are suffering.”

Much more information, including an opportunity to make a fully tax-deductible donation, is available at <https://www.clergycarecollective.org>

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