

The Painis Real - but so is HOPE

## Lord we Pray for THOSE WHO HAVE A MENTAL ILLNESS

Help us understand that the way we talk about people with a mental illness affects the people themselves and how we treat the illness. So often people who have a mental illness are known as their illness; people say that "she is bipolar" or "he is schizophrenic"; when we talk about mental illness we should not use that phrase. People who have cancer are not cancer; those with heart disease are not heart disease. Let us always remember that people with a mental illness are not the illness — they are beautiful creations of God.

There is so much fear, ignorance and hurtful attitudes that the people who suffer from mental illness needlessly suffer further. Help us to support and be compassionate to those with a mental illness, every bit as much as we support those who suffer from any other illness.

Grant courage to those for whom we pray and fill them with hope. If it is according to Your Divine Will, grant them the recovery and cure they desire. Help them to remember You love them; they are never alone.

Saint Dymphna, Patron of those with a Mental Illness, pray for us.

Catholic Institute for Mental Health Ministry www.sandiego.edu/cimhm