



BOOK ANNOUNCEMENT

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A Ministry of the United States Province of Holy Cross

TWO NEW BOOKS OFFER HOPE, COMFORT AND DISPEL MYTHS ABOUT CATHOLICS AND SUICIDE

NOTRE DAME, Ind.—Ave Maria Press and the Association of Catholic Mental Health Ministers have teamed up to release two books aimed at helping families affected by suicide and those who minister to them.

Death by suicide is usually sudden, often violent, and frequently comes at the end of a long and difficult struggle with a mental illness. Heaped on top of that is a social stigma that leaves loved ones in shock and often burdened with shame.

When a Loved One Dies by Suicide was written by Catholics who have lost a loved one to suicide. The contributors share their personal stories of loss, of learning to cope with the crushing grief, of finding comfort in faith and community, and of discovering hope as they began to move forward again.

This book dispels the misconceptions about what the Church teaches about suicide and offers a wealth of guidance and support to help you find your own path toward healing. The contributors include Deacon Ed Shoener, Bishop John P. Dolan, Msgr. Charles Pope, Leticia Adams, Tom and Fran Smith, and clinical experts in the field of mental health and suicide.

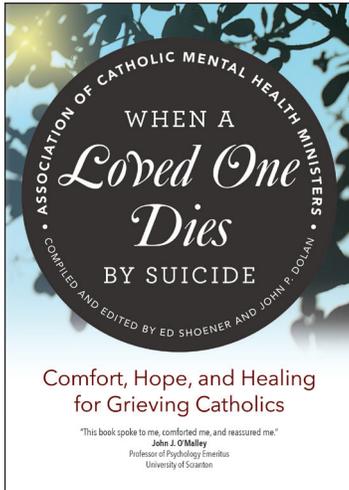
When a *Loved One Dies by Suicide* offers:

- encouragement with practical matters such as taking care of yourself emotionally, physically, and spiritually;
- ways to let others know what you need and find a network of support;
- prayers of comfort and encouragement; and
- solace, hope, and healing from within the rich traditions and teachings of the Catholic Church.

Many pastoral leaders feel ill-equipped to respond to the turmoil of those who face the death by suicide of a loved one. *Responding to Suicide* is the first book written for Catholic leaders that takes a holistic approach to understanding suicide and ministering effectively in its aftermath. The book addresses common concerns of the bereaved following a suicide: skepticism that Catholic leaders will understand; fear that the Church teaches that their loved one is in hell; and belief that they will find little if any support in the Church.

More than a dozen leading mental health practitioners, Catholic theologians, and pastoral care experts share how best to respond to suicide as leaders in parishes, schools, healthcare systems, and other Church settings.

(more)



When a Loved One Dies by Suicide

Comfort, Hope, and Healing for Grieving Catholics

By Deacon Ed Shoener and Most Rev. John P. Dolan

ISBN: 978-1-64680-013-1

128 pages • \$11.95

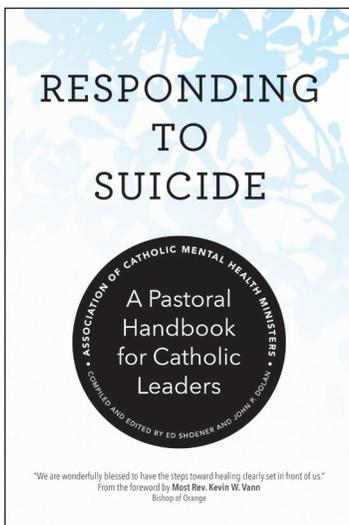
Responding to Suicide

A Pastoral Handbook or Catholic Leaders

ISBN: 978-1-64680-011-7

224 pages • \$18.95

Also available as an eBook.





The book offers a cross-disciplinary approach that provides basic information about the central role of mental health in suicide and clarifies Church teaching about suicide, funerals and burials for those who have died by suicide, and their afterlife.

Practical takeaways for pastoral leaders are included:

- Dos and don'ts when talking about suicide.
- Guidance for preaching and planning funerals.
- Information on the role of mental illnesses in suicide.
- Resource lists for those who grieve as well as for your own professional development.
- Suggested protocols for ministering to a school or parish community following a suicide.
- Ideas about forming parish outreach ministries to the bereaved that address the needs of suicide loss.

ABOUT THE AUTHORS

The Association of Catholic Mental Health Ministers is a lay association whose members walk with people living with a mental illness and their families to help them find the support and services that they need. ACMHM members work to eliminate the stigma and discrimination that people living with a mental illness encounter in the Church and in the world. Members strive to strengthen mental health ministry in the Catholic Church by networking and sharing resources.

catholicmhm.org



Ed Shoener was ordained a permanent deacon in 2004 and serves at St. Peter's Cathedral in the Diocese of Scranton. He is a founding member of the Association of Catholic Mental Health Ministers, the Catholic Institute of Mental Health Ministry at the University of San Diego, and the Scranton Mental Health Ministry. He serves on the boards of the Council on Mental Illness, National Catholic Partnership on Disability, and Pathways to Promise. He earned a graduate certificate in spiritual direction from the Aquinas Institute of Theology.

Shoener's family and friends founded The Katie Foundation after his daughter, Kathleen, died by suicide in 2016. The obituary he wrote for her went viral. The Shoeners live in Scranton, Pennsylvania.

thekatiefoundation.org

Facebook: The Katie Foundation

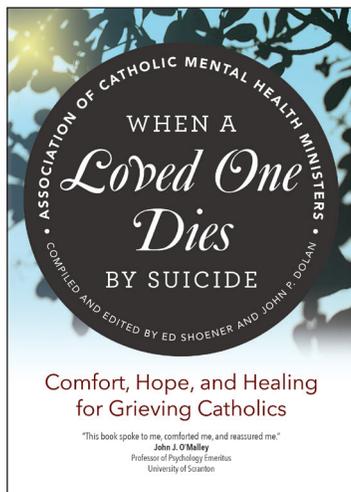


Most Rev. John P. Dolan is auxiliary bishop of San Diego. He also serves the diocese as vicar general, moderator of the curia, and vicar for clergy. Ordained to the priesthood in 1989, Dolan became auxiliary bishop in 2017.

He is the chaplain of the Lost Boys of Sudan, a member of the Catholic Institute for Mental Health Ministry, and a board member of Father Joe's Villages, a ministry to the homeless. Dolan earned his bachelor's degree in philosophy from the University of San Diego and master's degrees in divinity and theology from St. Patrick's Seminary in Menlo Park, California. He is the author of *Rose of Lima: A Nine-Day Study of Her Life* and

Who is Like God? A Nine-Day Journey with St. Michael.

sdcatholic.org/bishops/auxiliary-bishop-dolan/



When a Loved One Dies by Suicide

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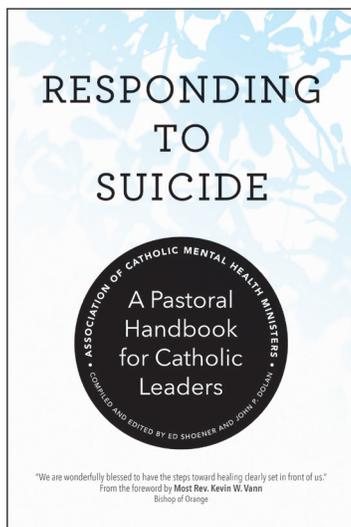
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PRAISE FOR *WHEN A LOVED ONE DIES BY SUICIDE*

"When our family lost our son Zachary to suicide, we rediscovered the power of community, especially our Catholic community. The community embrace during those early months allowed us to find meaning in tragedy and helped us to move forward. This book is a welcome contribution to the faith journey that accompanies survivors of suicide loss and is a bright path forward for those turning to their faith during this terrible ordeal."

Dan Misleh

Executive Director
Catholic Climate Covenant

"I have lost two children to suicide, one in 2006 and another in 2011. For anyone grieving such heart-rending loss, this book will be a steady help and great source of comfort. Each of the shared stories in this book illustrates that—with faith and loving support—a transformation from a life of intense grief to one of hope and healing, of post-traumatic growth, is truly possible."

Ann Marie McCrone

Grief Support Facilitator
St. Peter's Cathedral
Scranton, Pennsylvania

"This is a long overdue, compassionate, and practical resource for people of faith trying to make sense of losing a loved one to suicide. These pages are filled with deep wisdom, accurate Church teaching, and realistic suggestions based on the latest psychological research to help survivors cope and heal in the aftermath of suicide."

Roy Petitfils

Licensed Professional Counselor
Author of *Helping Teens with Stress, Anxiety, and Depression*

PRAISE FOR *RESPONDING TO SUICIDE*

"*Responding to Suicide* is a powerful book. The authors provide practical and faithful guidance to those who will work with people touched by suicide. In direct and compassionate language, the stories told in the book will shape our response, making us more empathetic and helpful. I have faced suicide personally and professionally. This book would have helped me then, and I'm so very glad it is available now."

Kathy Mears

Chief Program Officer
National Catholic Educational Association

"A beautiful blending of the personal and the pastoral, *Responding to Suicide* is a revelation—and something the Church has needed for a long time. Deacon Ed Shoener has taken his own grief and transformed it into a moving and consoling gift that will benefit Catholics everywhere who have lost a loved one to suicide. The contributors of this powerful book teach pastoral leaders how to offer insight, compassion, consolation, and hope."

Deacon Greg Kandra

Journalist and blogger at *The Deacon's Bench*

"*Responding to Suicide* is a fantastic book and great gift to the Catholic Church. This is a valuable and practical resource for anyone serving in ministry. Led by personal testimony from Catholic leaders, this book dispels the stigma of suicide on a pastoral level and advances this necessary discussion with clarity, humility, and courage."

Scott Weeman

Founder and executive director of Catholic in Recovery