

# Register for Catholic Day at the Capitol 2018 Today!

The 2018 Mississippi Legislative Session will get underway on January 2, and Catholic Charities Jackson's Office of Parish Social Ministry's Catholic Faith In Action Team is collaborating with Catholic Charities in the Diocese of Biloxi in preparation for the Annual Catholic Day at the Capitol on Wednesday, January 17, 2018. The day will begin at the St. Peter Cathedral Center.

This year we will focus on the broken Mental Health Care system in Mississippi and the urgent need to enact legislation that will bring about needed change. Mississippi is currently facing a lawsuit for its lack of compliance with the 2009 Olmstead Supreme Court ruling which required states "to provide community-based treatment for persons with mental disabilities when... such placement is appropriate."



Angela Ladner is the Executive Director of the Mississippi Psychiatric Association, a statewide medical specialty organization whose physician members specialize in the diagnosis, treatment and prevention of mental illnesses, including substance use disorders. Angela has persistently lobbied Mississippi lawmakers to make the necessary changes that will allow for more community-based treatment options.

Angela will give the keynote address and moderate a panel of speakers on various topics related to mental health, its diagnosis and treatment, and the current mental health care crisis the State of Mississippi is facing.



Dr. Joy Hogge is the Executive Director of Mississippi Families as Allies, the only statewide organization run by and for families of children with mental health challenges in Mississippi. Along with Angela, Joy has been an energetic advocate of the importance of a responsive and consumer and family driven system of care for mental health. Joy will speak after lunch about practical ways we can advocate with consumers of services and their families to ensure our system is responsive to them and the needs they identify.

After lunch participants will walk to the Mississippi Capitol Building's South Steps for a press conference by Bishop Louis Kihneman. Afterwards there will be an opportunity to observe the session in the House of Representatives, to tour the Capitol Building, or to meet with individual Legislators. (Individual meetings with legislators should be arranged on your own in advance.)

## Below is a detailed itinerary for the entire day.

- 09:00 AM:** Arrival at St. Peter Cathedral Center, name tags, coffee, and refreshments
- 10:00 AM:** Greeting/Welcome – Sue Allen, Catholic Charities Jackson, Office of Parish Social Ministry
- 10:05 AM:** Welcome, Opening Remarks and Prayer – Bishop Joseph Kopacz, Diocese of Jackson
- 10:20 AM:** Keynote Speaker and Panel Moderator - Angela Ladner, Executive Director, Mississippi Psychiatric Association
- 11:00 AM:** Panel Presentation on various aspects of Mental Health Care and the Need for Reform
- 12:05 PM:** Mass at the Cathedral of St. Peter
- 12:45 PM:** Box Lunch  
Capstone Speaker: Dr. Joy Hogge, Executive Director, Mississippi Families as Allies
- 01:45 PM:** Bishops' Press Conference on Capitol steps – Bishop Louis Kihneman, Diocese of Biloxi
- 02:00 PM:** Observation of the House proceedings, tour of the Capitol, and meetings with Legislators (if you have prearranged them)
- 03:00 PM:** Optional informal coffee and networking at St. Peter's before return home

All are welcome to attend. To register for Catholic Day at the Capitol 2018, please visit [www.CatholicCharitiesJackson.org](http://www.CatholicCharitiesJackson.org) today!