**Knock Out Opioid Abuse Day**

**Faith Leader Speaker Notes- Stigma Theme**

“The disease of addiction has been ravaging throughout the country, taking the lives of thousands of people every single year.

As servants of God, it is our duty to help those who are struggling and to offer hope to all those who feel hopeless. We know that there is no shame in God and that there is hope for everyone, but the stigma surrounding substance use says otherwise.

Today is Knock Out Opioid Abuse Day in New Jersey and it serves as a great opportunity for each of us to help put an end to the stigma that often hinders people from seeking treatment. In an epidemic that seems hopeless, we must be the ones to spread hope, so I encourage each of you get involved within your communities so that we can break through this barrier.”