ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

OUTLINE FOR TRAINING MINISTERS OF CARE

Extraordinary Ministers of Communion to the Sick

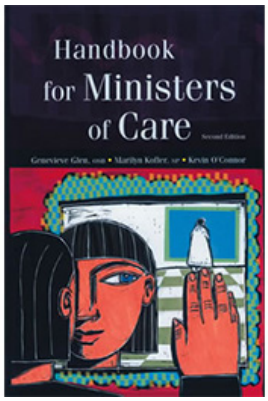
Structure of Programs

Parishes or institutions should exercise care to make sure their formation program for auxiliary ministers to the sick is designed to cover the six mandated topics listed below. Once a program has been completed, the pastor or chaplain of a parish or institution needs to submit names of the minister of care candidates who have completed the program. These people will then be officially mandated.

Topics Covered

Parish training programs should be a minimum of twelve hours. They should be conducted by a qualified ordained, lay or religious facilitator and include at least the following six topics:

1. **The Spirituality of the Minister**
   The Call to Ministry
   Ecclesiastical Identify of the Minister
   The Prayer Life of the Minister
2. **The Experience of Suffering**
   Aging, Chronic Illness, Death and Dying
   Special Pastoral Concerns, e.g. people living with HIV, Hospice Care, etc.
3. **Pastoral Listening Skills**
   How to Listen and How to Respond
4. **Theology of Suffering and Sickness**
   What does our Catholic Tradition teach us?
   How do we communicate this to others?
5. **Ministerial Procedures**
   Relating to the health care agency, hospice, chaplain, family of the sick or homebound
   Reviewing local hospital policies and procedures for ministerial visits
6. **Prayer and Sacraments**
   Theological Dimensions and Practical Administration
   A Thorough Familiarity with Pastoral Care of the Sick
   A Review of Eucharistic Theology



These sessions do not have to be given in the order shown above. The purpose of the outline is to list the areas that need to be covered in the training program.

Handbook for Ministers of Care, Second Edition; Liturgy Training Publications, Chicago