



Roman Catholic Diocese of Victoria

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MEMO

Date: July 7, 2022 **Attachments:** 4
To: Clergy, Parish Staff, Pastoral Care Coordinators
From: Most Reverend Gary Gordon, Diocese of Victoria
Re: Pastoral Care Outreach Training online sessions, September - November 2022

Over the past several years, as an initiative of the Diocese of Victoria Health Care Committee, training sessions have been offered for Pastoral Care Ministry volunteers to visit the lonely, sick, injured, elderly, and dying in hospitals, seniors' residences, extended health care facilities, and at their homes. As we look to the future, the need to provide basic virtual training in order to equip more Lay Pastoral Care visitors to become part of a parish pastoral care team is essential. This training is also offered to parishioners who care for their family members, as a means to help share the message of Christ's healing love and compassion with those in need.

The next series of online Pastoral Care Outreach Training sessions will be held via Zoom on Saturday mornings from 9:30 – noon, starting on September 24 and running til November 26, 2022 (with a break on October 8 for Thanksgiving). Please find attached the session topics and relevant dates.

We ask for your help with promotion and registration. Sample ads that could be used in your bulletin or announcements are attached, as is a poster. As you can see, people are asked to register with their parishes. A sample registration spreadsheet is attached which could be used to record names. Please ensure that people who register know they will require:

- A phone number and an email address
- A computer, tablet or smartphone with speakers, microphone and webcam
- A reliable internet connection

Space is limited to 25 participants from your diocese, and preference will be given to those who can participate in all nine sessions. Those who do complete the full series will receive a Certificate of Completion.

Pastors are asked to please review and authorize the final registration list before sending it to the Diocese of Victoria Pastoral Care Training Program contact person, Moira King (moiraking@shaw.ca). **Lists must be received by September 21, 2022.** Moira will then contact registered parishioners to confirm their attendance, answer any questions and provide them with session materials, Zoom connection details, etc.

Looking ahead, the Pastoral Care Outreach Training series will be offered again in winter 2023, from January 28 – April 8 (with a break on March 18 and 25 for spring break).

Through our Baptism we are called to be loving brothers and sisters to all and to care for the vulnerable, the sick and the marginalized. These sessions will help the participants to gain knowledge and skills to actively live this calling. It is hoped that, with your support, we will hear from registrants with the desire to live the Catholic acts of mercy through the ministry of Pastoral Care. As one participant said: *"I have learned so much in these sessions, And it has opened my eyes to possible future opportunities to serve."*

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