


*Geriatric Spiritual Care*

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**Overview of Program**

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Presented by Sr. M. Peter Lillian Di Maria, O. Carm.  
Avila Institute of Gerontology, Inc.  
Carmelite Sisters for the Aged and Infirm




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**Spiritual Care Specific to Geriatrics**

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- Being **present** to elders living in Long-term Care and other settings
- Variety of needs, especially the memory impaired
- Ministering to elders, their families and the staff
- Care-partnering vs Caregiving

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**Benefits of the GSC Certificate Program**

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- It is a bridge for those seeking a path to a more in-depth study of Pastoral Care through the Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) course.
- It is an option for those who want to volunteer with elders but are unable to commit to the CPE course.
- It helps one gain an understanding of ministering to those who are memory impaired.
- It is aligned with the Competencies for Pastoral Care.

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**Course Requirements**

- 65 hours of class time separated into 5 modules
- 55 hours clinical time in home served by the Carmelite Sisters for the Aged and Infirm
- Course work includes various written assignments, quizzes and group discussions

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**Overview of Geriatric Spiritual Care**

**MODULE 1: Dynamics of Spiritual Care**

- To develop the technique of life review as a source for rendering geriatric spiritual care.
- To recognize the individuality of spirituality.
- To acquire an understanding of prayer, ritual, and sacraments in the life of elders.

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**Overview of Geriatric Spiritual Care**

**MODULE 2: Theology of Suffering**

- To identify a theology of suffering through the use of Old and New Testament verses.
- To emphasize the spiritual value of the Paschal Mystery.
- To come to terms with the reality of death and the dying process.
- To comprehend the dynamics of grief and appropriate responses.

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**Overview of Geriatric Spiritual Care**

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**MODULE 3: Active Listening**

- To better understand the technique and significance of active listening when interacting with elders.
- To become more comfortable in dealing with silence.

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**Overview of Geriatric Spiritual Care**

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**MODULE 3: Active Listening**

- To recognize behavior as manifested by people with dementia.
- To better understand the distinction between symptom and problem.
- To understand the dynamics with family and staff.

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**Overview of Geriatric Spiritual Care**

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**MODULE 4: Moral Ethics**

- To enhance the participants' understanding of the theories and principles of ethics as a source for a decision-making process.
- To broaden an understanding of the major religions of the world and their influences in creating values within society.

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**Overview of Geriatric Spiritual Care**

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**MODULE 4: Moral Ethics**

- To establish a methodology for discovering right and wrong.
- To utilize case studies as a source of understanding the decision-making process.

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**Overview of Geriatric Spiritual Care**

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**MODULE 5: Palliative Care**

- Discuss palliative care.
- Address difficult conversations during the dying process.
- Recognize symptoms and understand basic medical terminology during the dying process.

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**Overview of Geriatric Spiritual Care**

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**Community Networking**

- To identify components of a Spiritual Care Network.
- To understand parish ministry to elders.
- Address current issues in spiritual care.

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**Overview of Partners in Pastoral Care Ministry**

- Spiritual Care to Elders is a Specialized Ministry - just as other ministries, and each requires specific topics
- There are core topics needed in all areas of Pastoral Care ministries
- Best Practices
- Networking and Resources

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*“One must have a deep  
and abiding love for the elderly  
and a real desire to be of service to them.”*

*---Venerable Mary Angeline Teresa McCrory, O.Carm.*

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**Contact Information**



AVILA INSTITUTE  
of GERONTOLOGY, Inc.  
*Education for Compassionate Care*

**Sr. M. Peter Lillian Di Maria, O.Carm**

**600 Woods Road**

**Germantown, NY 12526**

**(p): 518-537-5000, ex: 1229**

**(e): [srpeter@avilainstitutue.org](mailto:srpeter@avilainstitutue.org)**

**[www.avilainstitute.org](http://www.avilainstitute.org)**

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