

# **EMPATHIC PASTORAL CARE SOLUTIONS**

A Bold Pastoral Care Initiative

**BIBLICAL  
MANDATE**

*“I was sick  
and you visited me.”*  
(Matthew 25:36)

# A PARTNERSHIP FOR MINISTRY

ARCHDIOCESE OF  
GALVESTON-HOUSTON



CATHOLIC HEALTH  
INITIATIVES



# ASSESSMENT

# **ARCHDIOCESE PROFILE**

**10 Counties, 8,800 square miles**

**1.77 million Catholics**

**133 Resident Priests & 146 Parishes**

# **HOSPITAL SURVEY**

**HARRIS COUNTY – 84 Hospitals**  
**(includes Houston)**

**METRO HOUSTON – Scores More**

# PASTORAL NEEDS

Catholic Chaplain Corps (CCC)  
Serving Houston and Beyond

HOWEVER

*Fewer Priests Now Available !!*

# **PASTORAL NEEDS**

**Large Catholic Population**

**18% to 25% hospital patients**

**Isolation from Supportive Community**

**Increased Medical Costs**



# **PASTORAL BENEFITS**

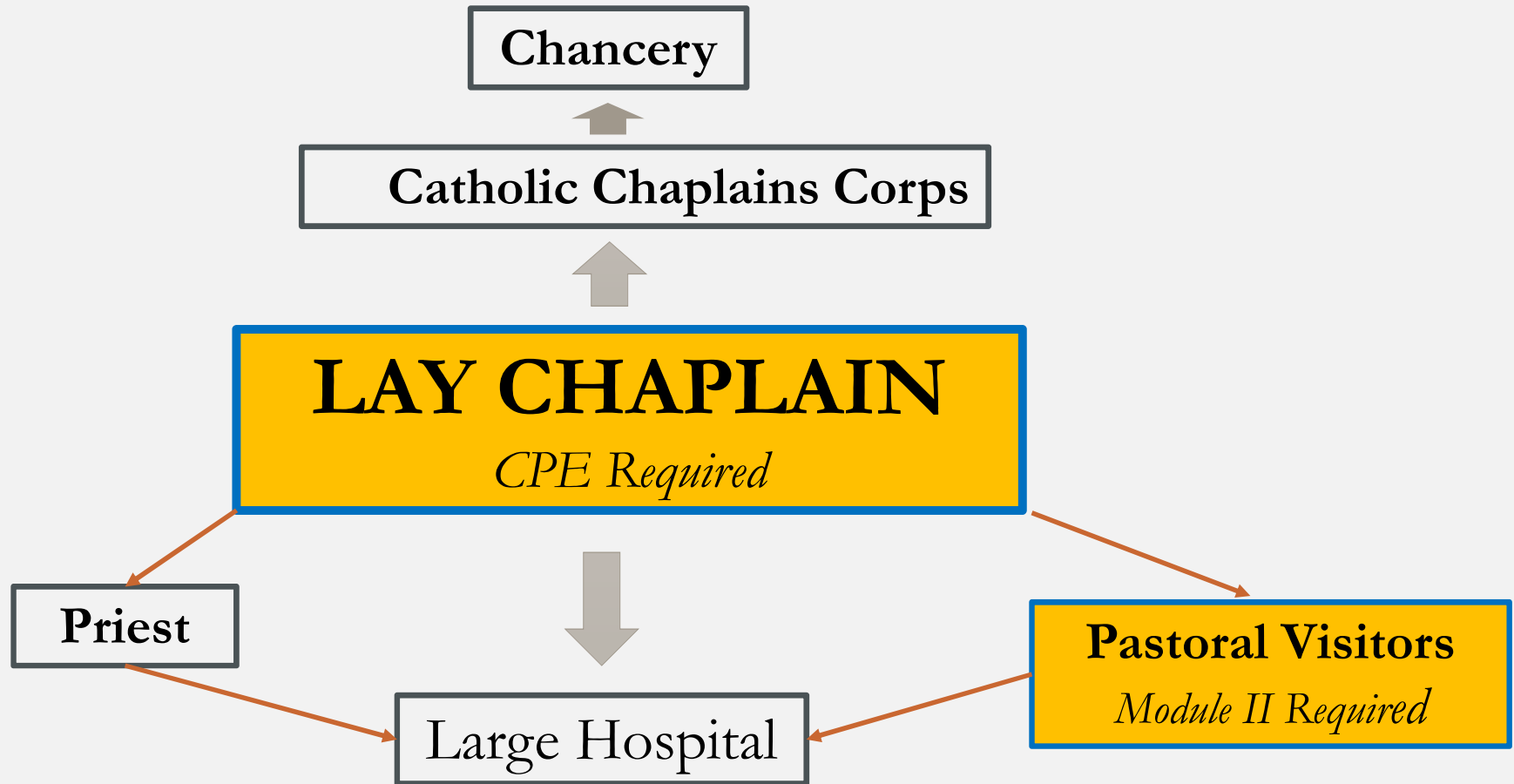
**Positive Impact of Religion on Health**

**Strengthened Ministry**

**Expanded Ministry**

# IMPLEMENTATION

Large Hospitals



# LAY CHAPLAIN

Professionally trained

Office space within Chaplain's suite

Lay Chaplains in three hospitals

# **LAY CHAPLAIN**

## **JOB DESCRIPTION**

**Face of Church – Crisis Situations**

**Identify Catholic Patients**

**Triage Catholic Referrals – Priest**

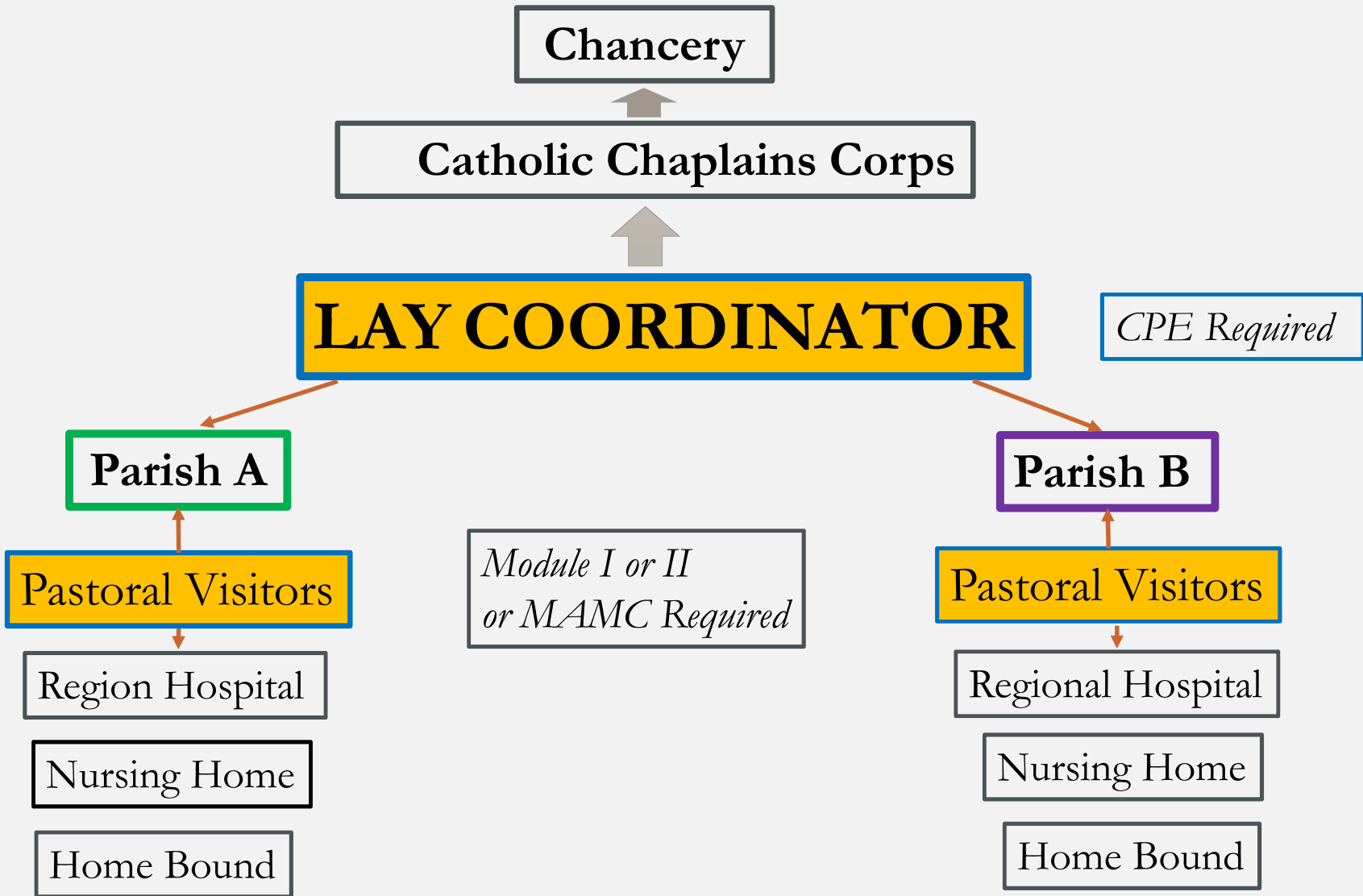
**Coordinate Pastoral Visitor's Ministry**

**Follow-up Visits**

**Collegial Relationships**

# IMPLEMENTATION

Regional Hospitals,  
Nursing Homes, Home-Bound



# **LAY COORDINATOR**

## **JOB DESCRIPTION**

**Administrative, funding partnership – parishes**

**Relationships – institutional representatives**

**Relationships & coordination – parish leaders**

**Recruiting, training, sustaining Pastoral Visitors**