



Partners in Pastoral Care

Continuing the Healing Ministry of Jesus
in the Name of the Church

PROJECT BOOKLET

Templates for Formation

SUMMARY:

A Template for Programs of Formation for Pastoral Care ministers in Diverse Settings through Partnership of Arch/diocesan Offices, Academic Programs and National Associations



The Partners in Pastoral Care Project is a product of the National Association of Catholic Chaplains (NACC) and its Partners

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VI PATHWAYS OF FORMATION – HOLISTIC, DEVELOPMENTAL, AND SPIRAL

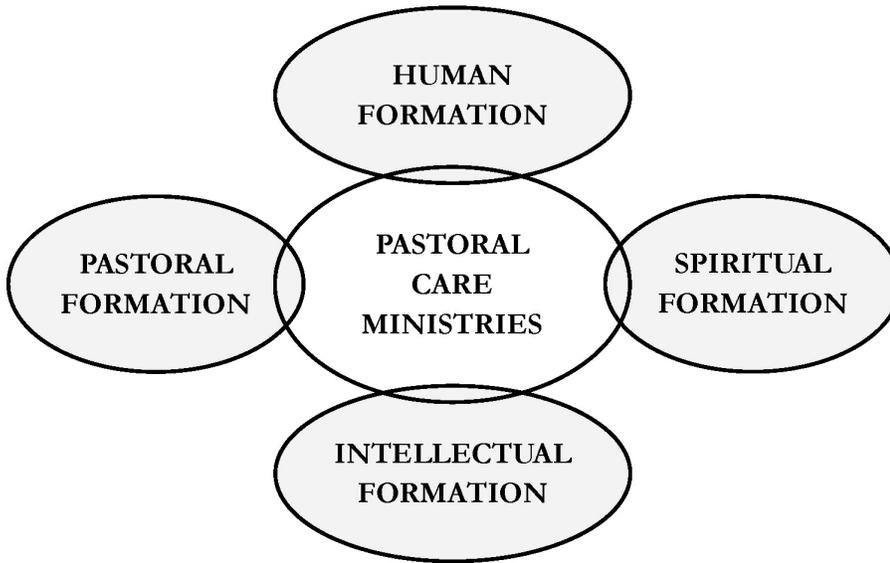


Figure One: The Intersecting of the Four Pillars of Formation for the Holistic Formation of Pastoral Care Ministers

PATHWAYS OF FORMATION FOR GROWTH

Pathways of Formation for Pastoral Care Ministers are addressed here:

- ◆ **Foundational** for every person who seeks to become involved in pastoral care
- ◆ **Discernment** for the person who seeks to determine his/her gifts for service in specific pastoral care settings, such as prison, senior care, home or health care, etc.
- ◆ **Leadership** for a person who seeks to be responsible for assuring that all elements of pastoral care are addressed for a particular setting, such as a pastoral care coordinator for a region or arch/diocese, a board-certified hospital or prison chaplain.

These pathways provide ways for those candidates to engage in more responsibility and leadership based upon their time, talents, and commitment to continuing formation.

GROWTH IN THE FOUR FORMATIONAL DIMENSIONS

The four areas of growth are related to one another – in a similar manner as the six tasks of catechesis or six areas of a Catholic life lived (knowledge of faith, liturgical education, moral formation, prayer, education for living in Christian community, education for evangelization and apostolic life) – separated for understanding but inter-related in lived experience.

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In this vision one keeps deepening the understanding of self, those served, partners in the community represented, the resources for the work and skills needed. With that comes increased growth in pathways of experience, awareness of the breadth of and responsibility for the ministry.

The pathway being created is designed to allow for growth in all four dimensions, or understanding and growth so that one can sustain the ministry and live the mission. The process needs to offer each candidate whatever he or she needs for successful discernment of the best way to offer time and talent to the ministry chosen or to the most appropriate ministry based on the gifts discerned and the environment where they can make the most impact for good. This point about greatest impact is guided by the Ignatian principle of magis. Those who have the greater awareness and gifts share in the greater responsibility.

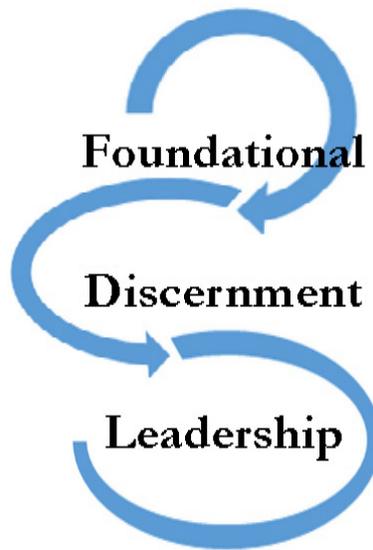


Figure 2: The Three Pathways of Formation for Pastoral Care Ministers

A. FOUNDATIONAL

Scope of Practice: Someone who completes the Foundational Pathway understands the basics of pastoral care ministry, especially empathetic listening, pastoral care presence, knowing how to assess and be exposed to the diversity of pastoral care settings.

Preparation Focus: Candidates focus on growth in all four dimensions of formation ministry enough to be able to discern the call to pastoral care:

HUMAN

- ◆ Understand oneself
- ◆ Understand those whom and with whom one will serve
- ◆ Understand the cultural and religious diversity of those served

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SPIRITUAL

- ◆ Reflection on the work and its relationship to one's own call to holiness
- ◆ Reflection on the call in the scriptures and the motivation for one's inclination for this ministry
- ◆ Understand the resources that the Church offers the minister and those ministered to on road to holiness

INTELLECTUAL

- ◆ Reflection on the spiritual and corporal works of mercy
- ◆ Reflection on what it means to serve "in the name of the Church"
- ◆ Understanding of basic Catholic Social Teaching as the grounding for this work
- ◆ Identify and understand the basic doctrines of the Catholic faith and a Catholic interpretation of the Scriptures as the main source of Christian spirituality

PASTORAL

- ◆ Awareness of the particular needs and skills necessary to serve in one's chosen setting
- ◆ Understanding of the culture of the setting (home, senior care center, prison, health care facility) one has chosen and how it impacts one's approach to the ministry

B. DISCERNMENT

Scope of Practice: Someone who completes the discernment pathway understands more deeply the meaning of the healing ministry and its practices in the Catholic Church, namely the needs for pastoral care in the specific setting in which one is discerning to serve. Such as: being prepared to visit, accompany, bring Holy Communion, and pray with those in the pastoral setting they will assist to serve.

Preparation Focus: One should focus on further growth in spirituality to motivate and sustain the ministry, as well as the specialized knowledge and skills for the area of ministry (home care, senior care, prison ministry, health care setting) where he or she will be devoting one's ministry.

HUMAN

- ◆ Greater understanding of what particular gifts and strengths one brings
- ◆ Awareness of the gifts those served and the gifts of those with whom one is partnering in the pastoral care setting
- ◆ Greater understanding of the diversity of language and culture

SPIRITUAL

- ◆ Greater focus on what is in the Church's treasure of spiritual resources that will support that service I am called to do

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- ◆ Ability to assess further the spiritual needs of those served in the setting and how one can accompany them

INTELLECTUAL

- ◆ Articulate basic theological and moral teachings of the Church and their basis in Scripture
- ◆ Determine what aspects of faith needed to know to best serve particular needs in this setting, such as leading prayer, scripture study, or adult catechesis

PASTORAL

- ◆ Develop the skills needed for the ministry discerned. For example, one may learn how to assist in bible study, RCIA, Extraordinary Eucharistic ministry, etc.
- ◆ Recognition and acknowledgment of the gifts of those being served so that those served also appreciate the consequence of their baptismal call to serve the needs of others

C. LEADERSHIP

Scope of Practice: The Leadership Pathway will prepare one not only to serve but to lead others in service. This comprehensive preparation allows one to serve as a faith companion, a group leader or a coordinator of services in their specialized pastoral care setting. An example would be the ability to identify specific spiritual care and sacramental needs, such as Sacraments of Initiation, Healing or Vocation. The equivalent of a Leadership pathway candidate who has completed the program for a hospital setting could be a Board-Certified Chaplain, if one has attained all the qualifications and competencies required for board certification.

Preparation Focus: The leadership candidate will be able to apply most of the content learned in specific ministerial settings. In addition, the candidate will gain a deepening spirituality to motivate and sustain themselves. The candidate gains the knowledge and skills to prepare and organize others in the ministry specialization in which s/he is involved.

HUMAN

- ◆ Focuses on comprehensive growth using the developed competencies as a guide

SPIRITUAL

- ◆ Deepens the commitment to pastoral care as a way to live one's baptismal call
- ◆ Aids others, especially those served, in the discerning their baptismal call
- ◆ Grows in their practice of liturgical and personal prayer to nurture and sustain oneself in ministry

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INTELLECTUAL

- ◆ Understands all six dimensions of a Catholic life lived (knowledge of faith, liturgical education, moral formation, prayer, education for living in Christian community, education for evangelization and apostolic life) – Prepares, assists, and mentors others for ministry.

PASTORAL

- ◆ Assumes greater responsibility for all aspects of the ministry in the pastoral care setting.
- ◆ Leads others in assuring that the needs of those served are met as comprehensively as possible in any given setting: such as hospital, prison, veterans, eldercare, care of migrants, etc.
- ◆ Exemplifies partnership with others responsible for the persons' care
- ◆ Assures that the partners are served as well.

Growth in life-long learning and improvement in pastoral care ministry is always a goal.