WHO can be a chaplain?

Chaplaincy is open to anyone who feels called to support people with their spiritual and emotional well-being. Chaplains come from all walks of life, including laymen and laywomen, priests, religious and deacons.

Is there a DEMAND for chaplains?

There is definitely demand for board-certified professional chaplains to start today! In fact, many rural communities are experiencing critical shortages for spiritual care. With the average age of Catholic chaplains at about 60, demand for chaplains will increase as this generation enters retirement.

This is a great time to Choose Chaplaincy!
What do chaplains do?

Chaplains are professionals who provide spiritual and emotional support to people in many different settings.

As a chaplain, you will listen to people who are in a very vulnerable place. You’ll celebrate with families who have received great news. You’ll mark the beginning of lives, the end of lives and the many transforming moments in between.

Where do chaplains work?

Chaplains work wherever there are people. You’ve likely seen professional chaplains in healthcare and senior care environments, or perhaps hospice. But there are also chaplains in places like prisons and the military. You could even be a chaplain in a corporation, a college or a youth camp.

What training do I need?

Most employers require board certification for full time employment as a chaplain. The National Association of Catholic Chaplains offers board certification to Catholics in good standing who:

1. Hold a graduate degree in theology, divinity, religious studies, pastoral studies or spirituality from an accredited institution.
2. Complete four units of Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) accredited by ACPE.
3. Successfully meet NACC competencies and standards.

What is NACC?

The National Association of Catholic Chaplains advocates for the profession of spiritual care and educates, certifies, and supports chaplains, clinical pastoral educators and all members who continue the healing ministry of Jesus in the name of the Church. NACC represents professionals dedicated to the spiritual care of persons experiencing pain, vulnerability, joy and hope.

For more information visit nacc.org.

What does it pay?

Professional chaplains earn a good living! The median annual salary for chaplains in the United States is $59,000, with different industries reporting different compensation rates. There are many opportunities for career growth and advancement as a chaplain, which can bring salaries into the six-digit range for leadership roles.