

# Frequently Asked Questions

## *Pastoral Care Training for Laity*

*A Distinctly Catholic Program for Parish Ministry*

This FAQ answers common questions about the Pastoral Care Training for Laity program, including registration, session content, and how it supports Catholic parish ministry.

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| <b>Dates/Format:</b><br>14-hour, 3 sessions<br>In-person training | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ <b>Friday, November 13, 2026, from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.</b></li><li>▪ <b>Saturday, November 14, 2026 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.</b></li><li>▪ <b>Saturday, November 21, 2026, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.</b></li></ul> |
| <b>Location:</b>                                                  | <b>Holy Redeemer Parish (host Parish)</b><br>44 Rothesay Drive, Kanata K2L 2X1                                                                                                                                                                   |
| <b>Registration - online:</b>                                     | <a href="http://ottawacornwall.ca/events/pastoral-care-training-2">ottawacornwall.ca/events/pastoral-care-training-2</a>                                                                                                                         |

Please note: Space is limited to 50 participants, and the program will proceed with a minimum of 25 participants. Registrations will be reviewed in the order received, subject to pastor approval and available space.

### 1. Who may register for the course?

Pastoral care volunteers, coordinators, and others serving or preparing for parish pastoral care ministry may register with their pastor's approval. The sessions offer practical guidance and spiritual reflection for parish ministry.

### 2. Can I attend if I am still discerning this ministry?

Yes. Those discerning pastoral care ministry may find the training helpful for learning its spiritual, practical, and parish-based dimensions. Participants not yet volunteering should speak with their pastor or parish contact about next steps.

### 3. Why is my pastor's approval required?

Your pastor's approval helps ensure this ministry is carried out in collaboration with the parish priest and within the parish community. Those serving in pastoral care, including Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion when applicable, do so with the parish priest's authorization and supervision.

### 4. Do I need previous experience or training?

No previous pastoral care experience or training is required.

### 5. What if I cannot attend all three sessions?

You may still register, and the cost remains the same. Because the sessions build on one another, participants are encouraged to attend the full 14-hour program. When space is limited, priority may be given to those able to attend all three sessions.

### 6. What topics are covered?

The sessions cover Catholic foundations for pastoral care, listening and accompaniment, ministry boundaries, prayer and rites, collaboration with the parish priest, and pastoral care visits in home, hospital, and long-term care settings. The program also includes formation related to the Eucharist and bringing Holy Communion to those unable to attend Mass. Please consult the Program at-a-glance for details.

## **7. Does the program address long-term care and seniors' residences?**

Yes. The program offers practical guidance for individual and group visits with parishioners in private homes, long-term care residences, and seniors' residences.

## **8. Will I receive confirmation of completion?**

Participants who attend the full 14-hour program may receive confirmation of completion according to the Archdiocese of Ottawa-Cornwall process. The training supports formation but does not appoint anyone to pastoral care ministry; authorization remains with the parish priest.

## **9. Will the program be offered again?**

This offering is a pilot project and a collaboration between the program developer/trainer and the archdiocese. Participant and parish feedback will help assess interest, identify parish needs, and guide future offerings and possible schedules.

## **10. Where can I find registration details?**

Registration details, including dates, location, schedule, and cost, are on the Archdiocese of Ottawa-Cornwall website at <https://ottawacornwall.ca/events/pastoral-care-training-2/>. Parishioners should review the information and confirm any parish-specific requirements with their pastor before registering.

## **11. What is the cost and how do I pay?**

The program costs \$150 per participant. This fee includes materials, online templates, light refreshments, and lunch on both Saturday sessions. Payment is due to the Archdiocese before the program begins. You may pay by cheque payable to R.C.E.C.O.C., by electronic transfer to [france.hotte@ottawacornwall.ca](mailto:france.hotte@ottawacornwall.ca), or by cash on or before November 13<sup>th</sup>. Participants may ask their parish whether financial support is available.

## **12. What does R.C.E.C.O.C. stand for?**

R.C.E.C.O.C. is an initialism (or acronym) used as a legal and corporate name abbreviation. Specifically, it stands for The Roman Catholic Episcopal Corporation of Ottawa–Cornwall.

## **13. Who can I contact with additional questions?**

Questions may be sent to [pastoralcare@ottawacornwall.ca](mailto:pastoralcare@ottawacornwall.ca). You may also speak with your pastor if you are unsure whether the training fits your current or future parish ministry role.

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## **About the trainer**

Participants will be guided by Mrs. Michèle Clermont, the main facilitator and one of the lead pastoral care volunteers at Divine Infant Parish. She developed the program curriculum and content through research, drawing on Catholic teaching, Scripture, papal documents, the work of well-known contemporary theologians, and many years of parish ministry experience. Her approach is practical, faith-centered, and rooted in the real questions parish volunteers face when accompanying the sick, the elderly, and those unable to attend Mass. Participants will benefit from her experience in pastoral care, faith formation, children's liturgy, Safe Environment training, and parish-based formation. She has also helped establish the Archdiocese's first Safe Environment Office and has extensive experience organizing and facilitating training and continuing education events. A few guest speakers will also present during the program, bringing additional experience and perspective to selected topics.