

# "Partners in Pastoral Care"~ A Live-Streamed ~ 6-Hour Formation/Training Program, May 30, 2019

## Catholic Laity in Pastoral Care Ministry - Equipping, Coordinating, Sustaining

The program provided an overview of a large-scale pastoral care program utilizing Catholic laity, including an assessment of its first year of operation, and description of its administrative and educational components. Attention was given to its pedagogical approach, with its emphasis upon empathetic listening. Explanation included related didactic material, experiential learning exercises, and consultation on participants' patient reports (verbatim). Discussion was given to the crucial identity formation process in becoming a Pastoral Visitor. All other elements of the curriculum for this 20-hour module was shared and discussed. The objectives and detailed session information, was available on the **NACC website**. <https://www.nacc.org/conference/6-ftp-catholiclaity/>

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### Reflection from St. Mary's Church in Oneonta

*"On May 30, 2019, eight lay ministers of Pastoral Care met at St. Mary's in Oneonta to for a day long inservice on Geriatric Spiritual Care offered by National association of Catholic Chaplains. The program was livestreamed from the national meeting and featured speakers Sisters Peter Lillian, O.Carm. and Annelle Fitzpatrick, CSJ. Their topics included Elder Abuse, Communicating with the Memory Impaired, Palliative Care and a whirlwind trip through the major cultural and religious traditions and the attitudes and customs relating to death. The presentations were disturbing, hopeful, surprising and enlightening.*

*The sisters do their outreaching ministry under the umbrella of the **Avila Institute of Gerontology** and are based in Germantown and Rockville Centre, NY, offering certification courses in Geriatric Spiritual Care.*

*The Church of Saint Mary in Oneonta is fortunate to be a diocesan center for teleconferencing, allowing eight of us to reap some of the benefits of attending the national meeting without the time and expense required for travel. We look forward to enjoying more such presentations in the future."*

- Carmel Ann Sperti, D.Min.