

# CATHOLIC PSYCHIATRIC PASTORAL CARE ANNUAL PASTORAL CARERS TRAINING COURSE

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Dear all

I am writing to Sisters, Brothers and Priests Religious as we advertise our Annual Pastoral Carers Training Course for 2020.

This year Catholic Psychiatric Pastoral Care (CPPC) celebrates its 33rd anniversary as a Ministry of the Archdiocese of Brisbane. The Religious who have been Pastoral Carers with CPPC over these 33 years have made a very special contribution as they readily discover close connections between their own distinctive charisms and the Ministry of CPPC.

Since the foundation of CPPC as a Ministry of the Archdiocese in 1987, 53 Religious women and men from 22 different Congregations, Sisters, Brothers and Priests, have completed the CPPC Pastoral Carers Training Course. In 2019 Sr Stella Noskoff RSJ graduated from the Course and is now involved in weekly Ministry with CPPC in the Tuesday Hospital Ministry and the Friday Catholic Companionship Ministry.

Up until 2017 four Seminarians from Holy Spirit Seminary Banyo Queensland had completed the CPPC Pastoral Carers Training Course.

In 2018 all three of the 4<sup>th</sup> year class of Holy Spirit Seminary completed the Course and again in 2019 the three 4<sup>th</sup> year Seminarians undertook the Course. Like his predecessor Monsignor the now Bishop Anthony Randazzo, who sowed the initial seeds, it is the wish of the Seminary Rector Monsignor John Grace to see that the future Priests throughout the Dioceses of Queensland are trained in Catholic Psychiatric Pastoral Care.

We will be celebrating our 33rd Anniversary as a Ministry of Centacare Pastoral Ministries in the Archdiocese of Brisbane on Saturday May 30<sup>th</sup> with a Mass at 10.00am, including the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick, in St Patrick's Church Fortitude Valley. Archbishop Mark Coleridge will be the Principal Celebrant. You are most welcome to attend.

At the Annual Clergy In-Service in 2014 the Archbishop spoke to us about 'The Joy of the Gospel'. The Archbishop said that there were some passages in the 'Joy of the Gospel' which, as it were, Pope Francis wrote in his own hand. The Archbishop said he would like sometime to collect these passages together. I have no doubt that one of these passages is Paragraph 200:

'Since this Exhortation is addressed to members of the Catholic Church, I want to say, with regret, that the worst discrimination which the poor suffer is lack of spiritual care. The great majority of the poor have a special openness to the faith; they need God and we must not fail to offer them his friendship, his blessing, his word, the celebration of the sacraments and a journey of growth and maturity in the faith. Our preferential option for the poor must mainly translate into a privileged and preferential religious care.'

Taken from: *'The Joy of the Gospel'* by Pope Francis, 2013

What Pope Francis has spelt out in Paragraph 200 is what we have been endeavouring to do at CPPC for the past 33 years.

I believe that the ministries of CPPC provide a unique opportunity for the Church and especially Religious, in our time, to not fail the poor, to correct 'this worst discrimination which the poor suffer' and to ensure that our preferential option for the poor is mainly translated into a privileged and preferential religious care'.

In these days when so much more publicity in Australia is being given to the care of people with mental health disorders, CPPC now has developed so many avenues for being in contact with people with mental health disorders, especially those with severe mental health disorders, avenues which are not available through any other Ministry or Organisation. These avenues enable us to carry out the hopes of Pope Francis in the fullest measure.

A very beautiful component of the Ministry of CPPC is the Prayer Ministry comprising Priests and Religious who have completed the Pastoral Carers Training Course, who have been in active ministry with CPPC and who are now unable to continue in active ministry with CPPC. Each week the Prayer Ministry receive a list of the names of those people in Hospitals, Supported Accommodation Services or at the Members Day Centre who are in special need of prayer. We are indebted so much to the Prayer Ministry for the continued fruitfulness of CPPC.

May I conclude by seeking your cooperation in advertising our Catholic Psychiatric Pastoral Carers Training Course for 2020 among the Members of your Religious Congregations? Please find enclosed the 2020 advertisement.

On behalf of the Co-ordinator and Registered Mental Health Nurse Mrs Janine De Maria, Pastoral Carers, Members and Priests and Staff, I wish to offer a heartfelt word of gratitude to you and your fellow Religious, for your great support of, and continuing prayers for and interest in, the Ministry of CPPC.

Yours in Christ

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Fr Jim Smith'.

Fr Jim Smith  
Chaplain Director  
Priest of the Archdiocese of Brisbane

Attached. Pastoral Carers Training Course advertisement for 2020