

Formation For Ministry Fall Workshop

MINISTERING TO THE DYING

Presence, Prayer, and Practicalities in the Final Stages of Life

Accompanying a loved one in their final days, from a Catholic perspective, is a profound act of love, faith, and mercy, deeply rooted in the Church's understanding of life, death, and eternal hope. It's a time to embrace the sacredness of human life and to help the dying person prepare for their ultimate journey to God.

In this workshop, we'll come together to pray, learn, and share from two local experts in the area of pastoral care to the dying to help participants gain an understanding, comfort, and grace to accompany those in their final days.



Father Charles Vavonese, a Catholic priest for over 50 years, has served the people of the Diocese of Syracuse in many ways. Over the last decade, Father Vavonese has created *Project Compassion*, a comprehensive training series teaching how to find peace, comfort, and acceptance at the end of life. He studied Clinical Pastoral Education at Hartford Hospital in Connecticut. For over 30 years, Fr. Vavonese worked in administration for the Diocese of Syracuse Catholic Schools. Father also served as the Director of the Formation for Ministry Program. He has been a member of the Trinity Health Integrated Care Board, the Trinity Health Quality Care Initiatives Committee, and is currently a member of the Trinity Health Expert Panel on Palliative Care.



Reverend Jana Biesanz, is the Director of Mission and Outreach for Francis House. Previously, she served as the Program Director for Authentic Presence, a contemplative end-of-life educational program, and as an Interfaith Chaplain for Hospice of Central New York. An Association for Death Education & Counseling certified thanatologist, Jana also trained in clinical pastoral education through SUNY Upstate's Department of Spiritual Care and continues as on-call clergy for the hospital. She brings 17 years of contemplative training and practice to the spiritual care, grief support and end-of-life education she offers.



Saturday, September 20th
9:00 AM - 3:00 PM



HOLY CROSS CHURCH, DEWITT
4112 E Genesee Street, DeWitt

REGISTER NOW

