

Community of Hope at St. Luke's



Community of Hope is one of the most successful international programs designed to train volunteer lay leaders in Christian communities for the ministry of lay chaplains for pastoral care. The program is based on Benedictine practices leading to humility (a way to see ourselves), balancing (a way to see our time), and stability (a way to see spiritual growth). Pastoral care is when a person is being “present” in a listening, compassionate, non-controlling manner to an individual or group for the purpose of consciously representing God to them and seeking to respond to their spiritual needs. Lay Chaplains can work as an outreach of the parish, to the homebound, to nursing homes, the homeless, outpatient clinics, hospitals, prisons, women’s ministries, youth ministries, mission trips,

community centers. The training centers in Benedictine spirituality, believing that if the caregiver is not taking care of himself, he or she cannot be of help to others.

This 14 week course involves studying about Benedictine Spirituality, theology of pastoral care, pastoral identity, listening skills, prayer, Christian meditation and silence, motivational spiritual gifts, the pastoral visits and boundaries, confidentiality and debriefing, understanding family systems, grief: coping with loss, pastoral care for seniors, care for the caregiver, commitment to ministry.

Brother Michael Gallagher OSB of Holy Cross Monastery describes Community of Hope :

"Community of Hope is a wonderful way to be a listening and healing presence in our world. It is steeped in Benedictine spirituality, with its emphasis on wholeness and holiness in community. You cannot go through the training and not have a different attitude toward yourself and others.

I would recommend it to all who are interested in finding deeper meaning and purpose in their lives."

The class at St. Luke's will begin September 2 and continue weekly until November 18 meeting on Tuesday nights in the library from 6 to 7:30. If you are

interested in this ministry, contact Joanna Seibert.

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Joanna