



**ARCHDIOCESE  
OF PORTLAND IN  
OREGON**



**Catholic Charities**

### **Parish Visitors to those who are Homebound**

## **INVITING VOLUNTEERS TO CONSIDER VISITATION MINISTRY**

- Make announcements following Mass as well as at parish group meetings.
- Use bulletin announcements and parish bulletin inserts or newsletters.
- Consider personal invitations by the pastoral staff or other visitation volunteers as a particularly effective means of calling new volunteers.
- Schedule parish ministry "Fairs" to promote all volunteer opportunities.

### **Sample bulletin notices (to be adapted)**

Parish visitors provide our parishioners who can no longer attend Mass with a special presence of care and fellowship. Bringing Christ and community to those who cannot physically be present at church is a vital responsibility of our faith family. Please consider being that special person who lights up the day of a senior at home. Visitation involves spending time with parishioners who are unable to come to church, due to age, a disability or health conditions.

Visitors spend approximately one to two hours per week bringing friendship and support through their presence. As visitors spend time with the people they visit, they also receive personal enrichment that adds to the quality of their own lives.

Should you have a loved one or neighbor who might like to be visited by a Pastoral Visitor or if you feel you might be called to this ministry, please call \_\_\_\_\_  
Please get permission from your loved one before calling.

Parish Bulletin Insert or Letter

*The concern that Christ showed for the bodily and spiritual welfare of those who are ill is continued by the Church in its ministry to the sick. This ministry is the common responsibility of all Christians, who should visit the sick, remember them in prayer, and celebrate the sacraments with them.*

Pastoral Care of the Sick

Dear Friends and Parishioners,

I ask you to prayerfully reflect on the above passage. As baptized Christians, all of us are called by the Lord to various ministries within the Church.

God may be calling you to serve God's people as a Visitor to those who are homebound. Homebound Ministry involves visiting people in their homes who are unable to attend church. There is a minimum commitment of a 2-4 hours monthly.

You will receive training in visitation. In addition, you will receive support throughout the year through occasional gatherings to share prayer and to reflect upon the ministry.

As a Visitor, you will bring the spiritual comfort of the Lord, as well as fellowship and support, in the time that you spend with the people whom you visit. Through these visits, you will also receive personal spiritual enrichment.

I ask you to please pray for this ministry. If you feel that you might be called to it or would like additional information, please fill in the bottom part of this letter and mail it to our Coordinator of Visitation or call . Through prayerful consideration of this request, I know that the Holy Spirit will guide you and bless you. Let us pray for one another.

Sincerely yours, *signed by the Pastor*

NAME:

ADDRESS:

DAYTIME PHONE:

RETURN TO:

\*Adapted from the Archdiocese of Boston's Resource Packet "In Support of Visitation Ministry"