

# Compassion in Action: Parish Ministry Training

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# Compassion in Action: Parish Ministry

## Definition

A personal presence of empathy, compassion and listening provided by the faithful to someone who is suffering (mentally, emotionally, physically and/or spiritually).

# Compassion in Action: Parish Ministry Training

## Definition

Faithful are trained and supervised to visit and provide Orthodox Christian care to hurting brothers and sisters in the parish, or to neighbors in the community.



The focus of Compassion in Action Ministry is a visit – an attentive Orthodox, caring presence for one who is suffering in some way.



To clarify, this ministry of caregiving does not focus on “doing things” for the sufferer (e.g., cleaning the house, helping him/her get into the shower) but, rather, focuses upon the care receiver’s need for an Orthodox person’s presence as the center and sole reason for the visit.



# An Active Partnership

Compassion in Action: Parish Ministry Training is a partnership of the clergy and the faithful, that involves them in ministry at critical life junctures of parishioners or neighbors



# The Distinctiveness of Compassion in Action: Parish Ministry Training

## The Example of the Samaritan Woman Encountering Christ (John 4:7-39)



Using the image of the Samaritan Woman (St. Photini), encountering Christ, we can see that in this meeting:

- there is listening and understanding
- ministry occurs
- real need and truth are uncovered
- healing happens
- transformation of life results

Transformation and healing occur between specific persons in relationship.

# The Distinctiveness of Compassion in Action: Parish Ministry Training



Not only is the care receiver transformed.

The care giver is transformed.

The parish is transformed.

# The 5 Steps of the Program

1. Pre-Ministry: Prepare
2. Pre-Ministry: Clarify & Engage
3. Launch & Implement
4. Supervise
5. Acquire Feedback & Adjust



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