

Date

Registered Nurses, _____ Church

I invite you to take the opportunity to consider Parish Nurse Health Ministry in our faith community here at _____. Being a Parish Nurse/Faith Community Nurse can be an extension of clergy and staff ministry and faith community outreach, education and support of parishioners. Parish Nurses have had roles in nursing that prepare them for this Ministry and a discernment to minister to the Body, Mind and Spirit as an expression of their faith in a further response to Health Ministry. A first step to this role would be a discussion with clergy & leadership in our faith community after reviewing information on parish nursing. Considering the role, you will have evolves with planning with clergy and the leadership group. There are more than 50 Parish Nurses currently in the Diocese of Saint Cloud from twelve denominations. Our Parish has a fund to help pay for the class and room and board based on sharing a faith community nursing role here at our church and there are scholarships available. We encourage you to see if you can devote time to this ministry.

To discuss, please call: _____

What It Is Parish Nursing

Parish Nursing is the specialized practice of professional nursing that focuses on the intentional care of the spirit as part of the process of promoting wholistic health and preventing or minimizing illness in a faith community. It is a part of a broader outreach health ministry. With parish nursing and a structured health ministry program, the parishioners find connectedness, encouragement, hope and love.

Parish Nursing is an independent practice of professional nursing and is defined by the Minnesota Nurse Practice Act as Registered Professional Nurses in the Specialty of Faith Community Nursing. Parish nursing focuses on health promotion within the parish as a whole, a family or an individual, based on standards of care and performance outlined by the American Nurses Association.

Parish Nursing is not “hands on” nursing, a parish nurse cannot change dressings, give medications, etc., but a Parish Nurse is a Referral Source for those who need services.

Parish Nurse Qualifications

The International Parish Nurse Resource Center, recommends the following registered nurse qualifications for a parish nurse:

- Graduate of an accredited registered nursing program
- 3-5 years of clinical nursing practice
- Current registered nurse license in Minnesota
- Ability to work independently and within the context of a team
- Community assessment skills
- Possesses a good understanding of spirituality and religion
- Completion of a Basic Parish Nurse Preparation Course (5 days) or on-line

Basic Parish Nurse/Faith Community Nurse Preparation Courses for RN's

1. Concordia Parish Nurse Preparation Course
<http://www.concordiacollege.edu/directories/offices-services/parish-nurse-ministry/>
2. FCNN Foundations Course. <http://www.fcnnctc.org/>
3. The Foundations of Faith Community Nursing Curriculum is also offered online (found on the CentraCare St. Cloud Hospital web site below). Based on the current IPNRC curriculum, the program topics include:
 - the role of the parish nurse,
 - biblical healing and the Church's ministry,
 - integrating faith and health,
 - health promotion activities,
 - and working with persons across the lifespan.

In addition:

- there is a pastor/nurse panel,
- mentoring session,
- Service of Healing,
- Dedication Service

More on FCN can be found at:

www.centracare.com/faith-community-nursing

Partial scholarships may be available to assist with program fees. The Central MN Parish Nurse Ministry Committee has several scholarships of \$250 available. Catholic Education Ministries has scholarships for this class. For scholarship information, refer to the Parish Nursing Education section.

Course meets the requirements of the Minnesota Board of Nursing related to professional nursing components for approximately 35 contact hours.