

## Section 2: Licensed Lay Ministries

### Doc. 2F: Eucharistic Visitor

*A Eucharistic Visitor is a lay person authorized to take the Consecrated Elements in a timely manner following a Celebration of Holy Eucharist to members of the congregation who, by reason of illness or infirmity, were unable to be present at the Celebration. A Eucharistic Visitor should normally act under the direction of a Deacon, if any, or otherwise, the Member of the Clergy or other leader exercising oversight of the congregation or other community of faith.*

The Eucharistic Visitor is a confirmed communicant in good standing functioning with permission of the Bishop and should normally act under the direction of a deacon, if any, or otherwise, the congregation's Priest-in-Charge. Once licensed, the Eucharistic Visitor functions solely at the discretion of the Priest-in-Charge and is licensed only in the congregation in which the Eucharistic Visitor is a member at the time of licensing. The Eucharistic Visitor, under the direction of the Priest-in-Charge, will receive annual refresher training and must apply for renewal of licensing every three (3) years.

### **Training**

The applicant for Eucharistic Visitor will be trained and found competent to the Priest-in-Charge's satisfaction in the following areas of knowledge and practice:

- Eucharistic Theology, including the Reserved Sacrament
- Pastoral skills including being able to address issues related to the homebound, nursing homebound, the terminally ill, death and dying
- Understanding aging and family dynamics
- Understanding and demonstrating competency in liturgy used in ministering to the sick and shut-in
- Understanding the mechanics of administration of the Eucharist in various settings
- Willingness and competency in keeping confidentiality
- Knowledge of when to notify clergy if changes have occurred in those visited
- Commitment to report regularly to the clergy on those visited
- Commitment to make visits on a regular basis
- Safeguarding God's Children
- Anti-Racism Training

Training in the above areas will be met through workshops conducted by the Priest-in-Charge or by a Diocesan workshop provided by clergy throughout the diocese.

### **Certification**

The Priest-in-Charge shall request renewal of the Eucharistic Visitor's license every three years. Annual refresher sessions, under the direction of the Priest-in-Charge are required. The license can be revoked by the Bishop at any time, upon request of the Priest-in-Charge.

### **Documentation**

The Priest-in-Charge will maintain documentation for the Eucharistic Visitor that shall contain the following:

- Evidence of training, examination and competency in the areas listed above under "Training"
- Certification of the Eucharistic Visitor's completion of required diocesan training
- A copy of the application sent to the Bishop by the Priest-in-Charge
- A copy of the certificate from the Bishop licensing the person to be a Eucharistic Visitor

Documentation of licensing of Eucharistic Visitors will be maintained and displayed in the parish.