

Outreach Commission

Communion Visitor Ministry (CV)

Revised 8/2016

<p>Structure: (Currently volunteer coordinated)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a volunteer CV coordinator and a back-up CV coordinator • These two coordinators are supported by a team – a “steering committee” - that helps plan the training and formation of parish volunteer <i>Communion Visitors</i> (EMHC who visit those who are sick, in the parish community, and those at home or in long-term care facilities who are no longer able to attend the Sunday liturgy.) • The coordinators are also supported by the front office receptionist who directs inquiries to the coordinators via phone or email. • Volunteer EMHC, who are formed and trained to visit in the community, are available to meet the current parish needs for Communion Visitors. • Prayer ministry holds those we visit and the EMHC in their prayers. 	<p>Annual Budget: (2016–2017) \$ 400</p>
<p>Current Needs: 1. Increase funds to send CV to CC conferences, and/or UP workshops</p> <p>A <i>Communion Visitor</i> (CV) is a member of St. Ignatius parish who is an extraordinary minister of Holy Communion (EMHC) and has received special training and formation to minister in the community. They are commissioned to bring Communion to those who are ill and those who are no longer able to worship with the community on Sunday. They visit in homes, retirement communities, assisted living facilities, memory care facilities, rehabilitation facilities, hospitals and hospice. They conduct Communion Services in independent living centers and long-term care facilities. <i>Communion Visitors</i> bring Jesus in the Eucharist and they bring the comfort and presence of the community when they visit. They are a valuable resource for families and caregivers during times of difficult illness and are comfortable praying with those who are ill, those near death and their families. They volunteer under the direction of the CV coordinator and pastor.</p> <p>When an inquiry is received regarding someone who is ill or at home requesting Communion or a visit, the office administrator sends an email to the <i>Communion Visitor</i> Coordinator (or back-up). Coordinators are prepared to respond within two days to inquiries.</p> <p>When the sacrament of the anointing of the sick is requested, the coordinator will coordinate this with the priest, unless it is an emergency in which case the office staff will immediately notify the priest. In general, <i>Communion Visitors</i> do not visit in the hospital as the pastoral care team of the hospital will coordinate communion services for Catholic patients.</p> <p>Training and support for all EMHC serving in this ministry is available and is generally held three times a year, including an annual retreat. Attendance is currently voluntary but it is expected that CVs will attend two of the three gatherings. Additional opportunities for formation and support are available in the community, including the Archdiocese Ministry Formation Program and Catholic Charities. A community resource book has been compiled and is available for CVs.</p>	
<p>Current Steering Committee/Team: Tina Auerbach (Coordinator) Kathy Jackson (Back-up Coordinator) Katie Elia *(Chaplain) Chris Benenson (Funeral Ministry)</p> <p>*Katie Elia is available as a chaplain consultant – both to the EMHC who ask for support and to visit parishioners in their home in time of spiritual crisis.</p>	<p>Current Goals:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Conduct regular <i>annual review of ministry</i> with CVs 2. Update Call to Protect and Background checks 3. Encourage greater participation of CVs in the training and formation workshops (make mandatory?) 4. Introduce bereavement support –coordinated with the Funeral Ministry (Worship Commission) 5. Revive the “Card Ministry” 6. Consider, in the future, a Parish Nurse