



THE CATHOLIC DISTANCE UNIVERSITY

Life Long Learning in the Faith Through Distance Education

DIACONAL FORMATION IN CATHOLIC HEALTHCARE ETHICS

Diaconal Formation in Catholic Healthcare Ethics is a 16-hour course that has a twofold purpose:

1

To equip deacons to help families and individuals make healthcare decisions for themselves or their loved ones that are consistent with Catholic moral teaching when parishioners approach them for help and guidance.

When families are faced with making medical decisions and are unsure of how to proceed ethically, they often turn to the parish for guidance. The deacon frequently helps people wade through these issues.

2

To equip deacons to offer parish seminars on Catholic healthcare ethics and develop ministries that educate the faithful on these issues.

Parishes often call upon diocesan offices to provide resources and seminars to help parishioners develop living wills that are consistent with Catholic moral teaching. Diaconal Formation in Catholic Healthcare Ethics allows this service to expand exponentially by giving deacons the tools they need to effectively serve their parishes.

Charity is the most important ministry of a deacon. Among other things, deacons assist the members of the faith community in living out the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy. Diaconal Formation in Catholic Healthcare Ethics is one way to strengthen this ministry.

Diaconal Formation in Catholic Healthcare Ethics is an excellent way for Deacon Directors to provide Continuing Education and Formation credits to their deacons.



COURSE DESCRIPTION

Diaconal Formation in Catholic Healthcare Ethics is a 4-week online course. Each week there are readings, videos, questions for discussion with other deacons and written assignments that provide deacons with opportunities to apply what they have learned to real life pastoral care situations. Deacons can log into the course at any time during the week to participate.

Week One

Philosophical and Theological Foundations of Catholic Healthcare Ethics

Christian Anthropology, The Origin and Meaning of Human Life, The Human Person and His Body

Philosophical Methods Used in the Practice of Catholic Healthcare Ethics with Emphasis on Natural Law and Personalism

Week Two

Moral Premises and the Preeminence of Conscience

Moral Premises Derived from Natural Law and Personalism

The Role of Conscience, Conscience Formation and Errors in the Understanding of Conscience

The Principle of Cooperation in Evil



Week Three

Ethical Decision Making in the Beginning of Life

Human Love in the Divine Plan

Responsible Parenthood

Natural Family Planning

The Truth about Contraception

Assisted Reproductive Technology

Genetic Counseling and Stem Cell Research

Week Four

Ethical Decision Making at the End of Life

A Broader Definition and Understanding of Euthanasia

Ordinary/Proportionate Care and Extraordinary/Disproportionate Care

Assessment of Benefits and Burdens

Withholding and Withdrawing Care

Do Not Resuscitate Orders

Palliative Care

Nutrition and Hydration

Medical Futility



For more information on the course and enrollment information, please visit: cdu.catalog.instructure.com

Discover the Difference... Real Community, Real Presence

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