

# INSPIRED TO SERVE

*“Jesus said to her, ‘Mary!’ She turned and said to him in Hebrew, ‘Rabbouni!’*

*John 20:14 NRSV Catholic Edition*



## *From the Director's Desk*

DENICE FOOSE, BCC, MBA

### ***“How Resurrection Faith Develops”***

*“Jesus said to her, ‘Mary!’ She turned and said to him in Hebrew, ‘Rabbouni!’ (which means Teacher)  
John 20:14 NRSV Catholic Edition*

Jesus’ address – “Mary” – is one of the most poignant moments in all the resurrection narratives found in the Gospel of John. Verse 14 comes from the well-known account of Jesus appearing to Mary Magdalene (John 20:11-18).

Remember the context. Early on the first day after Jesus’ crucifixion, Mary Magdalene visits the tomb but finds the stone rolled away and Jesus’ body is gone. She earnestly searches for Jesus and consults the disciples, the angels, and the supposed gardener about the removal of the body.

Remarkably, when she actually sees Jesus, Mary doesn’t recognize him. In Mary’s case, the mere sight of the risen Jesus does not lead to understanding or faith.

It is only when Mary hears Jesus call her by name does she come to faith. Jesus calls Mary by her name and that makes all the difference. She responds to the voice of the living Christ. And, of course, his voice continues to be heard in Christian preaching, the sacraments, and the testimony of Christian words, deeds, and lives.

Jesus calls you and me. And we recognize his voice...and respond in faithful ways. Those faithful ways include service as a Pastoral Visitor.

We are grateful to you and your faithfulness. We give thanks that Jesus continues to call you by your name. Amen.

### **Pastoral Visitor 2021 Commissioning Ceremony**

Exciting news! The 2021 Commissioning Ceremony for Pastoral Visitors will be conducted on **Sunday, August 29, 2:00pm – via Zoom**. We are honored that Bishop Elect Italo will lead the service. This annual service is an important celebration in the life of our Pastoral Visitor program. The Commissioning Form can be accessed [here](#).

Please fill out even if you’re unsure when your hospital will reopen.

# *Bishop-Elect Dell'Oro*

On May 18, Pope Francis appointed Rev. Italo Dell'Oro, C.R.S. of the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston as the new Auxiliary Bishop for our Archdiocese. We are blessed and grateful to continue serving in ministry with Bishop Italo.

## *From the Education Desk*

REV. TED SMITH, D.MIN.

### **“Our God-given Capacity to Feel Fear”**

A couple of weeks ago, I started re-reading a book written by Dr. Leroy Howe, one of my seminary professors. It was published by Paulist Press. “Comforting the Fearful: Listening Skills for Caregivers” is a compact volume (162 pages) but packed with provocative insights. It’s a slow read, at least for me, requiring extra time to grasp and ponder. Characteristic of his scholarship, Dr. Howe wrote for lay caregivers (like Pastoral Visitors) as well as clergy. Note the subtitle!

The Preface sets the book’s engaging tone. The following quotes from those opening sentences caught my attention.

“This book is about helping fearful people – ourselves included – not only to understand, but to cherish the fears all of us share and, most important, to search for God in them.

When we are in the grip of a very real and powerful fear, it may be difficult to believe that there could be anything positive about the experience. From the standpoint of our faith, there are two important things to be said about our fears. The first is that the capacity to feel them at all is one of God’s greatest gifts to us. And the second is that our deepest fears make possible our deepest experiences of God.” (ix)

Christian wisdom has long asserted that we often find God amid intense fear and other feelings of human anguish. Dr. Howe’s first point, however, caught my attention: “Our capacity to feel and experience fearful feelings is one of God’s greatest gifts to us.” Perhaps that perspective is embedded in your spirituality. Great. But I need time to prayerfully reflect on that one to expand my understanding of a gift – especially one from God.

### **FOUNDATION COURSE (VIRTUAL) – FALL 2021**

The CCC is pleased to announce the Fall 2021 Foundation Course for training as a Pastoral Visitor. This introductory course equips laypersons for ministry by presenting basic pastoral care skills and knowledge, plus essential grief theory. It is also an excellent opportunity to refresh pastoral skills, especially considering in-person restrictions due to the COVID pandemic.

This course consists of 8 virtual sessions. Identical seminars will be offered on Thursday and Saturday mornings, 9:00am – 10:45am, on alternating weeks. You can simply choose which day you prefer -- Thursday or Saturday.

The following are the program dates:

August 5 or 7, 19 or 21

September 2 or 4, 16 or 18, 30 or

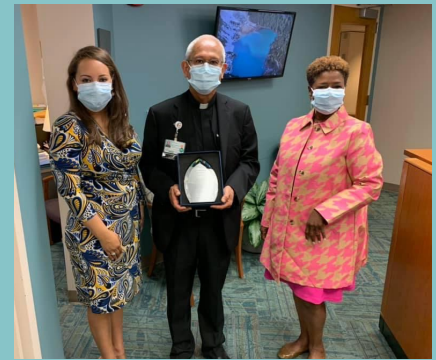
October 2, 14 or 16, 28 or 30

November 11 or 13

Registration deadline for the course is July 15 and the fee is \$50.00. If taking this course as a refresher, there is no fee.

We welcome your participation and invite you to consider this opportunity. If interested, please contact [dfoose@archgh.org](mailto:dfoose@archgh.org) or go to our website:

<http://www.archgh.org/chaplaincorps>



### **Fr. Arnel Recognized – Congratulations!**

The CCC is delighted to announce that Fr. Arnel recently received the prestigious **2021 Angel Award** from M.D. Anderson. This is an annual award given to worthy recipients in honor of Sister Alice Potts, a beloved Chaplain who served the hospital for 30 years. Fr. Arnel is certainly a worthy recipient and has faithfully served in the spirit of Sister Potts with “compassion for suffering, advocacy for the voiceless, and commitment to the vocation of ministry.”

Congratulations Fr Arnel!  
We, too, thank you for your service. We are extremely proud of you.

### **Enrichment Series – Fall 2021**

We are planning another Enrichment Series this fall. An announcement of the topics and times will be forthcoming.