



Diocesan Health Facilities, Roman Catholic Diocese of Fall River
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For immediate release
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Palliative Care Program Training at 5 Diocesan Nursing Homes

Palliative Care Program training is underway at the five nursing homes in the Diocesan Health Facilities system. Classes are being held for staff at Catholic Memorial Home, Fall River; Madonna Manor, No. Attleboro; Marian Manor, Taunton; Our Lady's Haven, Fairhaven; and Sacred Heart Home, New Bedford.

The program consists of five modules:

- Pain Management
- Symptom Management
- Communication, the dying process and death
- Nutrition and hydration
- Bereavement, coping with grief and loss

Classes are mandatory and will be taught by staff from various departments including staff development, nursing, social services, and pastoral care. Through education the staff will be able to promote optimal quality of life for the residents, appropriately and aggressively manage pain, and acknowledge the psychosocial and spiritual concerns of the resident and family regarding dying and their expressions of grief.

The Palliative Care Program will provide supportive care for residents and families during the last stage of life by enabling them to participate in interactions of their choice, in a supportive environment, with the assistance of compassionate caregivers.