

DIOCESAN SPIRITUAL CARE COORDINATOR Role Description*

When a disaster strikes, Diocesan Spiritual Care Coordinators support local parishes to effectively and efficiently bring the love of Jesus to their communities. As Anglicans in disaster response, we turn chaos into compassion, assisting families to find their “new normal” in times of disaster.

There are 3 stages to any disaster and 4 components in each stage.

Stage 1 - First Response. When a disaster strikes, First Responders provide search and rescue activities for public safety in which parishes do not engage.

Stage 2 - Emergency Relief. Parishes engage with the community to provide spiritual care, distribution of emergency relief supplies, meals and coordination of debris removal. Parishes may establish volunteer housing and showers for volunteer disaster response teams. The first steps of case management are initiated during Emergency Relief.

Stage 3 - Long Term Recovery. Long Term Recovery includes the repair and rebuilding of family homes, providing spiritual care, volunteer coordination and donations management. The local parish provides case management of recovery projects.

The 4 components incorporated in the above 3 stages are: **spiritual care, volunteer coordination, donations management, and case management.**

Diocesan Spiritual Care Coordinators will:

- Seek growth and wisdom in God’s call to serve those in need.
- Accept disaster survivors where they are emotionally and spiritually.
- Help survivors absorb what has occurred, understand how they are reacting, and decide what they need to do next.
- Communicate regularly with survivors through visitations, call chains, cards and notes, in order to reduce a feeling of isolation.
- Embody a spiritual understanding of anger and ambivalence that helps the Coordinator accept and creatively work and pray with a person under significant stress due to traumatic hardship.
- Be loving and understanding in the midst of another person’s suffering.
- Be open and honest in conversations and prayers with God (and one another) for the sake of psychological, social and spiritual well-being.
- Rely on God’s word for strength, understanding and peace, particularly Psalm 17:13-14, Psalm 30:8-10, Psalm 38:1-2, Psalm 44:17-22, Psalm 77:7-10 and Psalm 88:13-14.
- Demonstrate grace and guidance in the face of fear, anger and mixed emotions, enabling survivors to prayerfully give to God a *piece of their mind* so that they may better come to God’s gift of that *peace of mind* which surpasses all understanding.
- Demonstrate the need to wait upon God, for one’s understanding of self, others, life and God; to be silent, listen and sense God’s presence in self, family and community.
- Demonstrate the need to be thankful, living by the Spirit in hopefulness and trust, experiencing grace freely and being loved freely for naught.

- Give your testimony, when you are asked, as the survivor tries to understand what has happened to them. This will be the time, not before, to share your story.
- Provide sacraments, rites, or ordinances by locating the appropriate clergy, if necessary.
- Manage personal stress by exercise, regular well-balanced meals, plenty of rest, fresh air, devotional reading, prayer and meditation.
- Assist Provincial Disaster Response Coordinator in scheduling Spiritual Care Training for their dioceses/parishes.
- Assist Provincial Disaster Response Coordinator in the training of Youth and/or Adult mission trips that are disaster-related.
- Recruit and manage a team of parish members to lead in Spiritual Care (Providers).
- Develop relationships and partnerships with other volunteer disaster response organizations.

When a disaster strikes in the Diocese:

- Support the Diocesan and Parish Disaster Response Coordinators with the distribution of emergency relief supplies, meals and debris removal.
- Participate in recurring briefings with the Diocesan and Parish Disaster Response Coordinators and the Provincial Disaster Response Coordinator.

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