



ORDER OF MALTA®
AMERICAN ASSOCIATION

ST. BERNADETTE PALLIATIVE CARE MINISTRY

Fostering Dignity in the Elderly, Frail, Sick, and Terminally Ill

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ)

What is St. Bernadette Ministry?

The St. Bernadette Ministry serves those who are near or at the end of life, the frail elderly living in nursing homes or at home, individuals who are experiencing loss of dignity, or those whose life is nearing sunset. It is a Christian response to the Culture of Death, Physician Assisted Suicide and Euthanasia, Loss of Dignity and Denial of Personhood. Everyone has a beautiful story to tell and to share in the preciousness of passing on wisdom. *My Life Story: A Legacy Project* is a way to remember and be remembered through sharing a legacy document with family and friends.

How do I get involved? Who do I contact to get started?

Contact your Area Chair who will direct you to a member of the Palliative Care Committee.

What training is available?

Order of Malta volunteers are matched by skill set with the interviewee's clinical situation. Professionals with clinical interviewing skills may be matched to those interviewees with advanced disease, while other Order of Malta members are matched with those with higher functional abilities.

What skills should I have to become a St. Bernadette volunteer?

Volunteers are engaged, patient and active listeners who can comfortably and easily communicate in person. Communication skills involve talking balanced with active listening. Ability to use word programs such as Microsoft Word and email is essential.

What is the time commitment per interview?

Each interview takes a total of 5-6 hours inclusive of an initial conversation, interview, transcript edit, review of draft document with the interviewee, and presentation of the final published document.

What are the costs associated with the Legacy Project?

Interviewees are not charged. The cost of an audio recorder is about \$35-50. Transcription service fees can vary, ranging from \$30-60 per interview. These costs will be covered by Area grants.

Is there ongoing support for the volunteers?

Those with clinical interviewing skills who can provide a therapeutic intervention will perform the interviews on their own. Non-clinical members will be aided initially by skilled members. A comprehensive guidebook, ongoing supervision and peer-to-peer support are also provided.

St. Bernadette, pray for us.