



PRESS RELEASE

August 27, 2024

FORTUNATE FAMILIES INC ANNOUNCES ADDITIONAL MINISTRY FORMATION SESSIONS FOR TRANSGENDER ACCOMPANIMENT AND EDUCATION.

Fortunate Families Inc, of Lexington, KY, is launching additional ministry formation sessions using a series of 15 videos on the lives of transgender and non-binary persons.

The Ministry Formation Program is designed for the formation of pastoral ministers to enable the participants to better accompany transgender and non-binary persons as they embrace their lived reality in the context of their Christian faith. It combines facilitated cohort meetings with practical experience accompanying a transgender/non-binary person.

Group Educational Sessions are designed for dioceses, schools, parishes, medical associations, parish LGBTQ+ ministries, and similar organizations to help them understand the many issues that affect the personal and spiritual well-being of transgender and non-binary persons and their families. Groups should have their own facilitators.

Recorded in 2021/22 and 2024, the videos are facilitated by Sister Luisa Derouen, OP and Fortunate Families. Serving the Catholic Church for over 50 years, for over two decades Sister Luisa has been an advocate on behalf of transgender and non-binary persons, ministering among them and their families, and giving witness to their dignity and worth as human beings and to the sacredness of their lives.

Upon her retirement Sister Luisa has documented her life's work in order to share her years of knowledge, experience and professional relationships, so that these sessions can be used in service of those who wish to be a supportive presence of God in trans and non-binary persons' lives.

Topics Include:

- Words Matter: Language and Terms
- Transgender History in the U.S.
- Spiritual Companionship, Counseling, and Spiritual Direction
- Our Sacred Bodies: Medical Realities for Trans People
- Conscience, Development of Doctrine, and Catholic Teaching Related to LGBTQ+ People
- Transgender Children
- Psychological Considerations
- Legal Challenges of Transgender Individuals
- What is Non-binary?
- Theological, Moral, and Pastoral Issues In Spiritual Accompaniment of Trans People
- Faith and Spirituality
- Workplace Inclusion for Transgender and Non-Binary People
- Family Dynamics
- Cisgender Partners/Spouses
- Parenting a Transgender Child

Additional information can be found on the Fortunate Families website, www.fortunatefamilies.com. Individuals for the Ministry Program should apply on-line by September 27th. Sessions will begin in October. Groups can apply year-round. To apply as a group please contact Fortunate Families directly:

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