



Association of
**Catholic Mental
Health Ministers**

Grounded in Catholic teaching, this Companionship training program is a great program to help our parishes and their ministers better accompany people living with a mental health challenges or illnesses.

The Association for Catholic Mental Health Ministry (CMHM) is a Lay Association of the Christian Faithful whose members are called to be a healing presence in the lives of people with mental illness. We see Christ in those who live with a mental illness. We practice a ministry of service and presence; like the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:30-37), we do not look the other way or walk past those living with a mental illness but instead pour the oil and wine of the Gospel into their lives. We walk with people living with a mental illness to help them find the support and services that they need.

We are inspired by Saint Pope John Paul II who wrote: “It is everyone's duty to make an active response: our actions must show that mental illness does not create insurmountable distances, nor prevent relations of true Christian charity with those who are its victims. Indeed, it should inspire a particularly attentive attitude towards these people who are fully entitled to belong to the category of the poor to whom the kingdom of heaven belongs (cf. Mt 5:3).”

One of the primary goals of the CMHM is to provide the tools, methods and insights that allow parish communities to confidently minister to people with a mental illness without fear or prejudice. This Companionship training program helps meet that goal. We are glad that you are taking this training program and trust you will find it helpful and inspiring.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Ed Shoener'.

Deacon Ed Shoener, President
Association of Catholic Mental Health
Ministers

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Dolan'.

Bishop John Dolan, Chaplain
Association of Catholic Mental Health
Ministers