

INSPIRED TO SERVE

*"Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your toil is not in vain in the Lord."
1 Corinthians 15:58*



A Note From The Director

Denice Foose, BCC, MBA

I'm delighted to announce a new bi-monthly (every other month) electronic publication from the Catholic Chaplain Corps (CCC). Today we're launching the inaugural issue of Inspired to Serve: The CCC Newsletter. It will provide a wide range of informational updates and ministry-related features. Here's a sample of our anticipated articles: updates on the CCC's expanding caring ministry program; announcements on continuing education opportunities; reflections on spirituality and ministry by CCC Priests; vignettes on poignant ministry moments from Pastoral Visitors; and hospital news about caring ministry facilitated by Lay Chaplains. Other updates and features will be added as we strive to provide informative and inspirational reading. We also welcome your response and suggestions. The need for this type of communication has become increasingly apparent. Due to the dedicated effort of so many colleagues, we now have over 300 persons on our master roster. This geographical and numerical expansion of our ministry is a splendid development; we rejoice and give heart-felt thanks. As we continue to grow, however, it's important to strengthen our connection and sense of community. We sincerely hope the Newsletter will contribute to that objective, and we will continue to feel inspired to serve!

Upcoming Pastoral Visitor Trainings

St. Anthony
The Woodlands
Tuesday
12:30 pm - 3:30 pm
Sept. 17 - Oct. 29

St. Martha's
Kingwood
Wednesday
1:00 pm - 4:00 pm
Sept. 4 - Oct. 30

St. Dominic's
Texas Medical Center
Thursday
9:00 am - 12:00 pm
Sept. 5 - Oct. 31

Priest Spiritual Reflection

Fr. Italo Dell'Oro, C.R.S., Vicar for Clergy, Director Secretariat for Clergy

The timeframe I had to prepare this note overlapped the 15th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C, which proclaims the Gospel of the “Good Samaritan” (Lk. 1:25-37). It could not have been better. In that gospel passage, a doctor of the law asks Jesus what he needs to do to inherit eternal life; Jesus directs him to the “law” which this man knows well, and prompts him to share how he understands it. Insightfully, the doctor of the law knows that he needs to bring together two different passages from the books of Deuteronomy and Leviticus in order to enunciate the two-fold commandment of love of God and the neighbor. Promptly, Jesus approves his understanding and, therefore, invites him to act on it. However, we learn that the doctor of the law, in order to get out of having to act on what he has just enunciated, asks the famous question, “and who is my neighbor?” As if to ask whether his neighbor would be his “next-door” neighbor, or a member of his family or of the same town, or others. At this point, Jesus begins telling the story of the man who was assaulted and beaten on his way to Jericho from Jerusalem, of the two valuable men of religion walking by and around him and of the Samaritan man who, instead, decides to approach him, guided by the compassion that he had felt at the sight. At the end of the story, Jesus asks another question that catches all of us off guard once we understand its implication. “Who became neighbor to the wounded, the hurt, the suffering man?” Of course, “the one who showed mercy towards him!” In fact, we may feel compassion toward the suffering ones, but until we approach them and bring to them the care that we can, nothing happens, not even in ourselves. But if he move toward such people, miracles occur. Like the seventy-two disciples that Jesus sent ahead to prepare his way, so dozens of Pastoral Visitors “scurry” Hospitals in the Medical Center, The Woodlands, and surrounding areas. There, they meet our fellow members of the Catholic Church – and others, who suffer in their bodies or are in anguish over their family members; they bring to them the consolation of a caring presence at the same time that they gather more information to make sure that the needed sacraments may be also offered. Later on, the Priest Chaplains meet with the patients and their families and by their very presence and the true and real presence of God in the sacraments of the anointing of the sick, of forgiveness and of the Body of Jesus, they offer the same consolation with which themselves have been consoled. “Go and do likewise,” says Jesus to the doctor of law; and he says it to us as well. I am truly uplifted to see how the CCC brings about the Gospel mandate to act on our compassion and to become merciful, just like our Father in Heaven is merciful. “Go and do likewise!”

UPCOMING ENRICHMENT SEMINARS

Ethics Workshop: Tools for Medical Decision Making

St. Luke's Medical Center
Sunday, October 6, 2019
2:30 pm - 4:00 pm

Dementia Workshop

St. Mary's Seminary
August 23, 2019
9:00 am - 12:00 pm

If you are interested in either seminar, please email dfoose@archgh.org. While admission is free, registration is mandatory to ensure adequate amount of supplies.

For information on upcoming seminars:

Skills Presentation Debriefing

Texas Medical Center
St. Dominic
August 27th
7:00 pm - 9:00 pm
dfoose@archgh.org

For The Woodlands
schedule, email
ncoons@archgh.org

For the Kingwood schedule,
email
scarneyy29@gmail.com

Chat with the Chaplain

BY CHAPLAIN DAWN MALONE

Many patients have a status of "NPO" (Latin: nil per os) while they are in the hospital. This means that the patient is not allowed to consume anything by mouth. Some patients are intubated so their inability to eat is obvious; others may be waiting on a procedure so their NPO status may be temporary. There are other patients who are always NPO because they are unable to swallow. Some of these may have feeding tubes. We must be mindful of the patient's dietary situation. Even if a patient is allowed to eat, s/he may be on a liquid, soft, or even gluten-free diet that does not allow for Holy Communion to be tolerated safely.

Additionally, some people do not understand that the Eucharist is "food." They may incorrectly assume that Communion could never harm them. It becomes our responsibility to remind them that we live in a broken world with bodies that don't always function perfectly. Our best practice, and a non-negotiable in my own Eucharistic ministry, is to ask the communicant these two questions; first, are you allowed to eat? and secondly, if so, are you on a special diet? Also, as you ask these questions, realize that some patients will not be mentally able to consent to receiving Holy Communion. Some people have altered mental status or are simply confused about their own dietary restrictions. When in doubt, ask the RN. It takes delicate, compassionate work to help patients understand why we cannot always offer them Communion and to make Spiritual Communion a beautiful, meaningful alternative. Being of loving service to God's people means doing all we can to keep them safe.



Your Catholic Chaplain Corps team.

Summer Reading

Rev. Dr. Ted Smith

A "who-done-it" page turner? Not, not exactly, but still worthy of your consideration. It's a solid primer for ministry for clergy and lay persons alike: *Introducing the Practice of Ministry*. The author is highly respected Kathleen A. Cahalan, Ph.D., Professor of Practical Ministry at Saint John's University School of Theology and Seminary in Collegeville, Minnesota.

Dr. Cahalan, a devout Catholic layperson, draws upon the Church's tradition and current scholars to make important distinctions between discipleship, calling, and vocation. She extends this discussion by describing six "practices of ministry" and three charisms for each practice. Of special interest for us is Dr. Cahalan's discussion of the "ministry of care" with its three charisms: 1) a compassion for the suffering and well-being of others, 2) the ability to guide, direct, and facilitate healing and reconciliation, and 3) the capacity for active listening and discerned responses. You're encouraged to consider this 200-page, modestly priced volume (Kindle \$6.02, paperback \$17.30). It's worth your investment.

Social Media

Be sure to stay up to date with our special events, pictures, and shout outs by joining us on Facebook and Instagram! @CatholicChaplainCorps

We love hearing from our team and seeing you in action. If you and other teammates take pictures, please be sure to email them to us! They could be featured in our next newsletter or highlighted on Facebook!

For all submission requests, please email Kate Bond at kbond@archgh.org.