



Creighton Pastoral Care

By Russ Perry

The pastoral care givers at Creighton University Medical Center are an eclectic group of ordained, vowed, and lay servant ministers who provide round the clock pastoral care to everyone in the Hospital—patients, families, and staff. They are integral members of the care team consisting of physicians, physician’s assistants, nurse practitioners, nurses, care managers, social workers, physical therapists, pharmacists, clinical nursing assistants, pulmonary technicians, and all the other disciplines that comprise the modern hospital health care team. Our pastoral care givers’ common denominators are Jesuit education, a commitment to Ignatian spiritual values, clinical pastoral education, multi-culture experience and sensitivity, and a genuine charism of love and service to God and all of His people. The location of Creighton in the heart of the inner city of Omaha provides us a unique opportunity to serve the underserved and to provide a compassionate healing presence acknowledging the dignity and value of each person that passes through the doors of our Hospital.

Crisis Ministry

Pastoral care givers serve as integral members of the trauma team at Creighton. In this capacity we provide compassionate support to patients, family, and staff in the stressful time of medical crisis. We provide a



Pastoral Care Chaplains: Mike, Mary Ellen, Deacon Larry, Sr. Joanne, Deacon Russ, Fr. Charlie, and Fr. Ott.

compassionate and caring presence during triage, diagnosis, treatment, recovery, and sometimes death. We are trained and experienced in providing a compassionate listening presence in crisis situations of all types. We are intimately familiar with the grieving process. Our training and experience in this area facilitate our accompanying grieving persons on their difficult and stressful journey. Pastoral care is in a unique position to lead by providing a practical hands-on example of compassionate care to all members of the care team. Our Ignatian values are thus part of our “faith in action” as we proceed through the daily process of providing quality pastoral care in the health care environment. It is our objective to be the living embodiment of Ignatian

spiritual values at Creighton University Medical Center. While we are entrusted with this leadership we are by no means alone in this valuable endeavor. Dedicated members of our care team from all disciplines model this behavior daily at Creighton. In May of 2010 Creighton University Medical Center was surveyed by the national Joint Commission. In characterizing the results of the survey, Creighton Medical Center CEO, Gary Honts stated, “I believe these outcomes reflect the high quality care and compassion we show our patients every day.” This element of compassionate care in the Ignatian Jesuit tradition is the signature of Creighton’s commitment to the highest quality of care and is a major factor in patient satisfaction.

Skills

Pastoral care givers are skilled in empathic listening and employ many of the same techniques used in Ignatian spiritual direction. We are called by the Gospels to love and serve all of God’s people.