



Understanding and Applying the *Ethical and Religious Directives for Catholic Health Care Services:*

AN EDUCATIONAL RESOURCE FOR THE CATHOLIC HEALTH MINISTRY



Prayers

Introduction

PRAYER RESOURCE

OPENING PRAYER

Lord God, creator and sustainer of life, be with us today as we study and discuss what it means to share in the ministry of healing. Open our hearts and minds so that we may more truly reflect your compassion and concern for each person we meet. Help us to understand the important role we play in this ministry and impel us to dedicate ourselves to your service. We pray in your holy name. Amen.

OR

O Lord Jesus Christ, comfort of all who suffer, your words and deeds show a special love for persons who are poor and vulnerable. Instill within our hearts the compassion and mercy you showed to those who were poor, hungry, sick, and dying. Fill our hearts with zeal to change the unjust structures of our society so that all women, men, and children may flourish. All this we ask in your holy name. Amen.

READING

For God who said, “Let light shine out of darkness,” has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. But we have this treasure in clay jars, so that it may be made clear that this extraordinary power belongs to God and does not come from us. (2 Corinthians 4:6-7)



Part One - The Social Responsibility of Catholic Health Care Services

PRAYER RESOURCE

OPENING PRAYER

O God, comfort of all who suffer, your words and deeds show a special love for the poor and vulnerable. Instill within our hearts the same compassion you showed to those who were poor, hungry, sick, and dying. Fill our hearts with zeal to change the unjust structures of our society so that all women, men and children may flourish. We ask this in your Holy Name. Amen.

READING

For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me. (Matthew 25:35)



Part Two - The Pastoral and Spiritual Responsibility of Catholic Health Care

PRAYER RESOURCE

OPENING PRAYER

O God, who calls us to promote health and relieve human suffering, be with us as we live out our calling to be a healing presence in the world. Help us to be living signs of your grace and compassion. We pray in your Holy Name. Amen.

READING

A leper came to Jesus and, kneeling down, begged him and said, “If you wish, you can make me clean.” Moved with pity, he stretched out his hand, touched him and said to him, “I will do it. Be made clean.” The leprosy left him immediately, and he was made clean. Then, warning him sternly, he dismissed him at once. Then he said to him, “See that you tell no one anything, but go, show yourself to the priest and offer for your cleansing what Moses prescribed; that will be proof for them.” The man went away and began to publicize the whole matter. He spread the report abroad so that it was impossible for Jesus to enter a town openly. He remained outside in deserted places, and people kept coming to him from everywhere. (Mark 1:40-45)



Part Three - The Professional-Patient Relationship

PRAYER RESOURCE

OPENING PRAYER

O God, creator and sustainer of all, you call us to participate in your healing ministry and delegate to us a sacred trust, that of meeting you in the person of everyone who comes into our care. Grant us a spirit of respect and integrity, of honesty and truthfulness. Guide us to ask in each situation, “What is for the good of this patient?” Support us in the difficult decisions we make on your behalf. We ask all these things in your Holy Name. Amen.

READING

There was a woman afflicted with hemorrhages for twelve years. She had suffered greatly at the hands of many doctors and had spent all that she had. Yet she was not helped but only grew worse. She had heard about Jesus and came up behind him in the crowd and touched his cloak. She said, “If I but touch his clothes, I shall be cured.” Immediately her flow of blood dried up. She felt in her body that she was healed of her affliction. Jesus, aware at once that power had gone out from him, turned around in the crowd and asked, “Who has touched my clothes?” But his disciples said to him, “You see how the crowd is pressing upon you, and yet you ask, ‘Who touched me?’” And he looked around to see who had done it. The woman, realizing what had happened to her, approached in fear and trembling. She fell down before Jesus and told him the whole truth. He said to her, “Daughter, your faith has saved you. Go in peace and be cured of your affliction.” (Mark 5:21-34)



Part Four - Issues in Care for the Beginning of Life

PRAYER RESOURCE

OPENING PRAYER

O God, author of life, you are the creator of every human person. You give the precious gift of life, sustaining each family, reflecting the love of your Holy Spirit. Fill each family with gratitude for the gift of life. Be with them when they are sorrowful. Be with them when they are joyful. Guide us, support us and give us your grace for this sacred calling. Amen.

READING

So God created humankind in God's image, in the image of God he created them; male and female God created them. God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply." (Genesis 1:27-28)



Part Five - Issues in Care for the Seriously Ill and Dying

PRAYER RESOURCE

OPENING PRAYER

O God, creator and sustainer of all life, the death of each person recalls our human condition and the brevity of our lives on earth. Bring the light of your love and power to all who are dying and to those who love them and mourn their passing. Be with us as we minister to them and their families, that we may honor the sacredness of this passage into unending life. Amen.

READING

Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord; Lord, hear my voice!
Let your ears be attentive to my voice in supplication.
If you, O Lord, mark iniquities, Lord, who can stand?
But with you is forgiveness, that you may be revered.
I trust in the Lord; my soul trusts in his word.
My soul waits for the Lord, more than sentinels wait for the dawn.
(Psalm 130)



Part Six - Forming New Partnerships with Health Care Organizations and Providers

PRAYER RESOURCE

OPENING PRAYER

O God, guide us as we seek to further your healing ministry in challenging times. Grant us faithfulness to your purposes for your people. Grant us openness and creativity as we partner with others and seek new ways to minister. Keep ever before us the vision of your compassionate concern for every person who suffers. We ask all this in your Holy Name. Amen.

READING

John summoned two of his disciples and sent them to the Lord to ask, “Are you the one who is to come, or should we look for another?” When the men came to him, they said, “John the Baptist has sent us to you to ask, ‘Are you the one who is to come, or should we look for another?’” At that time he cured many of their diseases, sufferings, and evil spirits; he also granted sight to many who were blind. And he said to them in reply, “Go and tell John what you have seen and heard: the blind regain their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, the poor have the good news proclaimed to them.” (Luke 7:18-22)



Conclusion

PRAYER RESOURCE

THIS PRAYER MAY BE SELECTED BY THE FACILITATOR FOR USE AT THE END OF EACH SESSION OR AT THE FINAL SESSION.

Lord God, your grace and love never fail us. Guide us and support us all the day long. Sharpen our minds, enhance our skills, and open our hearts that we may serve you by serving others. Help us to bring healing and compassion, health and comfort to our brothers and sisters in Jesus Christ. We ask all these things in your Holy Name. Amen.

