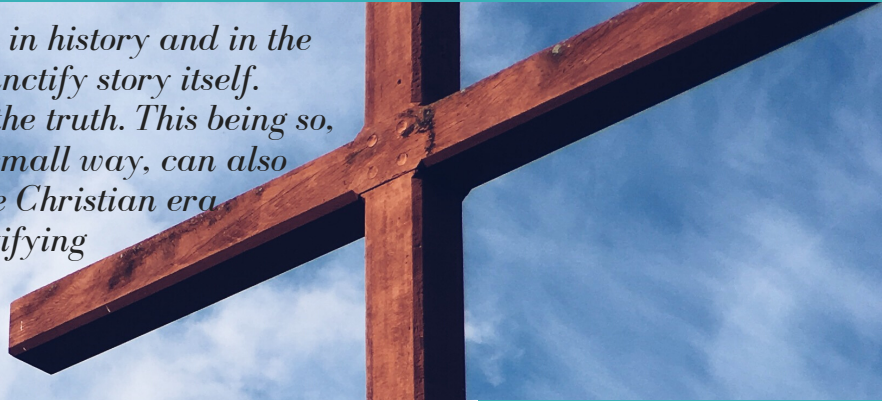


INSPIRED TO SERVE

"What God has done in the telling of His story in history and in the telling of fictional stories in His parables is sanctify story itself. Storytelling is God's chosen method of telling the truth. This being so, we can see how our own stories, in their own small way, can also be conveyers of truth, and we can see how the Christian era has breathed new life into literature by sanctifying the role of storytelling"
-Joseph Pearce



From the Director's Desk

Denice Foose, BCC, MBA

Welcome to our second issue of Inspired to Serve, a bimonthly newsletter of the Catholic Chaplain Corps. This issue begins a special three-part series on God's ongoing narrative in creation and our lives, and the arenas within which we can listen to God's storytelling – our own lives, the lives of others and the world itself. These three issues form a collage of reflections on these themes. We hope they stir your own reflection.

We're indebted to Kay Hawthorn, one of our devoted Pastoral Visitors, for the suggestion. She shared a quote from Joseph Pearce, author and Director of the Center for Faith and Culture, Aquinas College, Nashville, Tennessee. In a devotional piece, Pearce wrote,

"Storytelling is God's chosen method of telling the truth. This being so, we can see how our own stories, in their own small way, can also be conveyers of truth, and we can see how the Christian ear has breathed new life into literature by sanctifying the role storytelling."

So, we take Pearce's important reminder about God's commitment to storytelling as our series' focus. We are pleased to share Nannette Coons' personal reflection about the power of listening to stories from her family. The Educational Corner will draw upon Frederick Buechner, noted author and Presbyterian minister. In a little different view, our colleague Father Desy shares a personal reflection about his priestly ministry. Thank you for your interest in and support of Inspired to Serve. As always, we welcome your comments and suggestions.

Check Us Out!

We recently revamped our website, so let us know what you think! Check us out at:

archgh.org/chaplaincorps

To stay up to date with what is going on at the CCC, be sure you like on us on Facebook and follow us on Instagram:

[@catholicchaplaincorps](https://www.instagram.com/catholicchaplaincorps)

My Own Story

By Fr. Desmond Daniels

The 'Art of Pastoral Care' is an ongoing process of Holistic Formation. One approach could include the following:

- a) Pastoral Competence - Skills building viz. skillful talking and empathic listening & Capacity building.
- b) Setting Boundaries - Self-care, time management, etc.
- c) Team Ministry - Best practice model of accountability, communication and collaboration.
- d) Ministering to patients from diverse religious/faith traditions and cultures.

I am deeply grateful to the Director & Staff of the Catholic Chaplain Corps and our team of Chaplains – both Clergy & Lay Chaplains, for the opportunity to deepen my understanding of the overarching concept of Pastoral Care of the Sick in addition to “Sacramental Care”.

Thanks to the Director and Staff Chaplains, Department of Spiritual Care and Education, Houston Methodist Hospital, who have educated me to be 'more pro-active & less re-active' in addressing the Spiritual Needs of patients & their families. Kudos to the Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) program at Houston Methodist Hospital, which has impacted my ongoing formation while ministering to the sick and their families in the Texas Medical Center.

In the light of the above mentioned learning goals, my lived experience during the past year of Pastoral Ministry has been very rewarding. Entirely by the grace of God, the fraternal support of my colleagues, the patients and their family members, I have completed CPE – Unit I successfully. Having come to realize how the image of the Wounded Healer (by Henri Nouwen) has become a reality in my life, I have experienced inner healing. Besides, my Spiritual life has been enriched and I thank the good Lord for this opportunity to share in this important ministry.

Prayers will continue for our patients, their families, and our pastoral visitors every day.

Pastoral Visitors Recruitment

Additional Pastoral Visitors (PV) are needed!! And you, as a faithful PV, play a vital role in this effort. Your "testimony" about this important ministry is extremely compelling to others. Given the size of the Texas Medical Center, there's a special need for more PVs. Of course, we welcome all new PVs at every hospital we serve.

Please contact
Kate Bond at
kbond@archgh.org

Chat with the Chaplain

BY NANNETTE COONS

My mother was a storyteller. It was the way she connected us to our family history. She told us stories of her past, her parents' past, of our past...her stories could be funny, joyful, sad, angry, or painful. We knew her through her stories, and they helped to form our identity. Yet, when she was told she had three months left to live and she needed someone to hear her stories of grief, loss and dying I could not listen to them, they were too painful for me because I was absorbed in my own grief. In fact, it is only through deep reflection since her death that I see what she was trying to convey to me in those last stories.



A PV Encounter

*Divine Mercy Chaplet Story
Kay Hawthorn, Pastoral Visitor
BSLMC 10+ years*

The male patient was in bed and appeared to be peacefully sleeping when I entered his hospital room. So as not to wake him, I quietly introduced myself to a young woman there, the patient's daughter who was no more than thirty years old. She was waiting for her mother to arrive as the doctors had decided to move her father to hospice that day. Though she spoke in a normal tone of voice, the patient remained asleep, chest rhythmically rising and falling.

She told me that her father had asked for the Divine Mercy Chaplet to be said in his presence. His daughter was unfamiliar with the chaplet.

Stories are important. My mother's love of stories increased in me the wonder and awe I feel when I hear another's story. Awe gives that sense of reverent wonder at the life another has lived, and how God has been revealed in their life. Awe conveys the sense of God's presence in the midst of our engagement with the story of another, as well as God's action in the life of the other.

As story companions we have the awesome opportunity to not only hear another's story, but to also bring it to life: give it a voice. Our intentional hearing of the other's story creates that holy space where we get the opportunity to hear another's life unfold and to witness God's presence in that.

I told her that the prayers were repetitive, much like the Rosary, and that I would lead the prayers. I asked her to join in when she was comfortable reciting them. When we finished, I offered to stay with her until her mom came, but she assured me she just wished to be with her dad.

About forty-five minutes later, I encountered the young woman approaching me in the hospital lobby. She came to me and said, "I was hoping I would run into you. I want you to know that my Dad passed away shortly after you left the room. I feel sure he heard us praying the Divine Mercy Chaplet for him and when we finished he was ready to go." She left his room to meet her mother who would be arriving soon. She was not crying, but instead seemed to be at peace with the loss of her dad.

"Write that when they say this chaplet in the presence of the dying, I will stand between My Father and the dying person, not as the Judge, but as the merciful Savior."
(Diary of St. Faustina)

Save the Date:

Annual Recommissioning Mass and Reception

August 22, 2020

-5pm vigil Mass

-Reception

directly following
Mass

Co-Cathedral of the
Sacred Heart

1111 St. Joseph

Pkwy @ San

Jacinto Houston Tx

77002

More details to
follow

From the Education Desk

Rev. Ted Smith, DMin

Frederick Buechner, now in his 90's, has had a long and distinguished ministry as writer, novelist, poet, autobiographer, essayist, preacher and theologian. He's an ordained Presbyterian minister and author of more than thirty published books.

Called a "major talent" by the New York Times, and "one of our most original storytellers" by USA Today. Buechner is a truly gifted writer and thinker.

One of the major themes identified in his informative website, frederickbuechner.com, is "Listening to Your Life." It is Buechner's conviction that when we pay attention to our life, to the people with whom we are closest, to the things that happen to us – this is the best, and most authentic way to experience ourselves and God. Here's a quote from **Beyond Words**, a devotional book by Buechner:

"You never know what may cause them (these experiences). The sight of the Atlantic Ocean can do it, or a piece of music, or a face you've never seen before. A pair of somebody's old shoes can do it....you can never be sure. But of this you can be sure. Whenever you find tears in your eyes, especially unexpected tears, it is well to pay the closest attention. They are not only telling you something about the secret of who you are, but more than not God is speaking to you through them of the mystery of where you have come from and is summoning you to where, if your soul is to be saved, you should go next."

Later Buechner shares this quote from his second memoir, **Now and Then**:
"If I were called upon to state in a few words the essence of everything I was trying to say both as a novelist and as a preacher it would be something like this: Listen to your life. See it for the fathomless mystery that it is. In the boredom and pain of it no less than in the excitement and gladness: touch, taste, smell your way to the holy and hidden heart of it because in the last analysis all moments are key moments, and life itself is grace."

I have learned much from Frederick Buechner. I think he has much to teach all of us. He certainly has strong convictions about the power of listening, of paying attention, to ourselves, friends, and the world...for when we do, we may – no, will – hear God's continual voice calling to us. And as we listen well, our ministry will be richer for it.



Foundation Trainings

Woodlands

1/9/2020 - 2/27/2020,
Thursday Evenings.
For more information, check out Archgh.org/Chaplaincorps under the education tab.

Centralized Location

Location and dates pending. If you're interested, email kbond@archgh.org.

Silent Retreats

Come Away

"Empathetic
Contemplative
Listening"

Silent Retreat Dates

Nov 22- 23, 2019
March 6 - 7, 2020
July 31 - Aug 1, 2020
Oct 30 - 31, 2020

Location: Ruah
Spirituality Center
Villa de Matel
6510 Lawndale
Houston, Texas
77023

Facilitator: Marie
Noack

To Register:
713.927.7534

Cost: \$ 95

Continuing Education

One of the CCC's core strategic commitments is education. Our investment in equipping laity for pastoral care ministry is well-known. Equally inspiring is the commitment for continuing education demonstrated by numerous CCC colleagues. We're so pleased to provide this update:

- Fr. Arnel begins his 1st unit of Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE)
 - Fr. Desy begins his 2nd unit of CPE
 - Chaplain Nannette Coons begins her 4th unit of CPE
 - Fr. Ian begins Spanish class at Rice University
 - Chaplain Dawn Malone continues her Masters in Pastoral Studies at University of St. Thomas
- and last, but not least
- our own ethics faculty member Deacon David Garvis, PhD, has been named Baylor St. Luke's Medical Ethics Scholar.

On a high note:

Two of our Pastoral Visitors have been asked to serve on the Ethics Committee as community representatives of their respective hospitals.

- Wendi Ewbank (Houston Methodist West)
- Ling Ling Beerman (Memorial Hermann Cypress)

These invitations are a high honor. Both will provide a much needed Catholic presence and voice during these clinical discussions.

We're very proud of every one of our team colleagues.



Fr. Arnel Barrameda



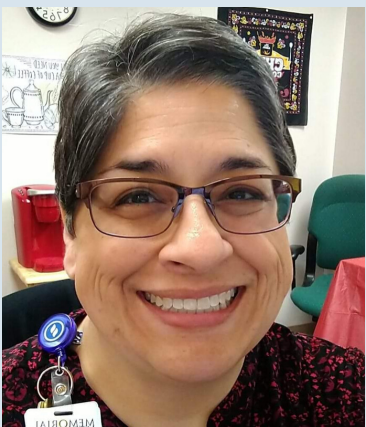
Fr. Desmond Daniels



Chaplain Nannette Coons



Fr. Ian Balisnomo



Chaplain Dawn Malone



Deacon Dr. David Garvis



PV Wendi Ewbanks



PV Ling Ling Beerman