



INSPIRED TO SERVE

“Blessing in the Chaos”

To all that is chaotic in you, let there come silence. Let there be a calming of the clamoring, a stilling of the voices that have laid their claim on you, that have made their home in you, that go with you even to the holy places but will not let you rest; will not let you hear your life with wholeness or feel the grace that fashioned you. Let what distracts you cease. Let what divides you cease. Let there come an end to what diminishes and demeans and let depart all that keeps you in its cage. Let there be an opening into the quiet that lies beneath the chaos, where you find the peace, you did not think possible and see what shimmers within the storm.

~ Jan Richardson

April-June 2023



From the Director's Desk

Romani Perera

Welcome to our Newsletter to the inspired.

I hope this email finds you well. I'm delighted to announce the Catholic Chaplain Corps (CCC) Inspired to Serve, the CCC Newsletter is back again. I am writing today to say a resounding thank you for all your continued support and we are grateful for your ministry.



As we continue to grow, however, it's important to strengthen our connection and sense of community to our CCC family. This newsletter will provide a wide range of informational updates and ministry-related features. We also welcome your response and suggestions. It is your support that allows the CCC to keep dreaming new dreams to extend the impact of our ministry.

Also let me take this opportunity to THANK YOU Fr. Tom Rafferty for his service to our CCC ministry and WELCOME Fr. Clark Sample will serve as Vicar for Clergy and Secretariat Director as of July 1st, 2023.



To all of our CCC Team
and
Pastoral Visitors who
are doing an
outstanding job serving
our Patients,
Family and Staff!
**9039 Served in June
2023.**





Chat with the Priest

By: Fr. Desmond (Desy)

My **core commitment** as a Priest Chaplain with Catholic Chaplain Corps, has been providing sacramental and pastoral care ministry to Catholic patients, their families, and healthcare professionals in the Texas Medical Center. Thanks to the collective efforts of CCC colleagues, Priest Chaplains, Lay Chaplains, and (lay) “Pastoral Visitors,” Catholic ministry at Houston Methodist Hospital has significantly increased in scope and efficiency. Accountability, Communication and Collaboration are key values for my Ministry as a Hospital Chaplain.

A PV Encounter

By: Janice Poinsett, Methodist Hospital The Woodlands

From the time of my Confirmation I’ve always been drawn to the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy. Throughout my life I have found ways to actively support these Works as an educator, in my family and friendships and in my parish. With the help of the Catholic Chaplain Corps’ pastoral care training I have been able to grow in my relationship with the Trinity through the moments spent with the lonely, sick and aged I have served. These special children of God have taught me how to trust in God and give

to Him all my worries, sufferings and fears. I find that when people are suffering they sometimes find it hard to pray. So, at those times I offer the person I’m visiting this short aspiration: “Jesus, I surrender myself to you, take care of everything.” We’ve all been called to serve our neighbor, especially those in most need, and the CCC has provided all of the pastoral visitors with the training tools needed to be effective visitors.

A Word from Division Director

Ken Carlson, MDiv. Mission Integration, Texas Division, CommonSpirit Health



The Catholic Chaplain Corps has been a long standing partner with Baylor St. Luke’s Medical Center providing a wide range of frontline ministry to patients, families and staff. Each member of the CCC assists in the pastoral ministry of the hospital attending to calls for Sacramental needs, pastoral visits, special blessings for staff, celebrating the Mass and many other functions. They play an integral role in the life of the Spiritual Care Department partnering with staff chaplains and chaplain residents to both learn, mentor and educate staff and patients about the unique nature of the faith foundation of the hospital. The CCC also coordinates a robust group of pastoral visitors who come from a number of parishes around the Houston area and are trained by the Catholic Chaplain Corps to provide ministry to patients and families.

Through their direct support, they assist the CCC in meeting the needs of our Catholic patients by bringing Holy Communion, lending a welcome ear and offering a gentle smile when needed. The CCC also helps us grow in our Catholic identity by providing a direct connection to the founding congregations through their religious attire and their welcoming charism and openness while maintaining the open nature of our ministry of care for all. They inspire others to live up to our mission, vision and values which helps spread our ideal of Human kindness while making the healing presence of God known in our world. In gratitude for their dedication to their vocation to serve the Lord through others, we lift up Fr. Ernest and Sr. Ranis for their lived reality of compassionate care and ongoing collaboration.

From the Education Desk

Foundation Course – Essay

Rev. Theodore M. Smith, D.Min.



Rev. Ted Smith

One of the perennial challenges in pastoral care is to provide effective responses to persons experiencing grief. One aspect of this challenge is establishing a truly empathic connection without offering premature expressions of comfort or giving unrealistic assurances about a future outcome. These impulses are understandable because of our genuine desire to “help”, but they are nonetheless flawed over-reaches and significantly limit the value of a sustained empathic connection.

The Rev. Dr. Howard Thurman, the highly respected 20th century theologian and author offers this insightful reflection on responding to persons in grief. It is worth careful reading. For example, he speaks of “seeking” to understand the other, without saying that he does, in fact, understand their story.

So, here’s Dr. Thurman’s eloquent statement on his limitations as a caregiver, with a clear declaration of what he can offer. It’s entitled, “I Share With You the Agony of Your Grief,” from his *Meditations of the Heart* (1953).

*I share with you the agony of your grief,
The anguish of your heart finds echo in my own.
I know I cannot enter all you feel,
Nor bear with you the burden of your pain;
I can but offer what my love does give: The strength of caring,
The warmth of one who seeks to understand,
The silent storm-swept barrenness of so great a loss.
This I do in quiet ways, that on your lonely path You may not
walk alone.*



Denice Foose

Pastoral Visitor Trainings:

Woodlands

Aug 10, 24, Sept 7, 21, Oct 5th,
& Nov 2nd

TIME: 9:30 am-12:30 pm

Thursday Mornings

St. Dominic’s Center TMC

Aug 12, 26, Sept 9, 23, Oct 7,
& Nov 4th

TIME: 9:00 am-12:00 pm

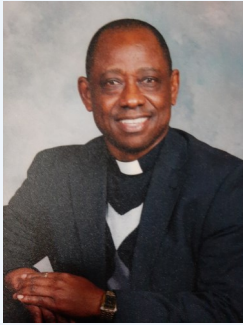
Saturday Mornings



For more information, check out Archgh.org/ChaplainCorps under the training tab.

A Big Welcome to our newest Priests and Lay Chaplain

Biography of Fr. Ernest Emeka Emeodi



Fr. Ernest Emeka Emeodi is a Nigerian Canadian Catholic priest, ordained for the Catholic Diocese of Nnewi, Nigeria, on August 21, 1999. He had his seminary formation in Nigeria at Seat of Wisdom Seminary, Owerri, where he received bachelor's degrees in philosophy and theology in 1995 and 1999, respectively. In 2015, he received a master's in pastoral theology from St. Paul's University, Ottawa, Canada. Currently serving as Catholic Priest Chaplain at St Luke's Medical Centre Texas, under the Archdiocese of Galveston – Houston.

My hobbies are playing and watching soccer, listening to Christian and traditional music, cooking and going for long walk.

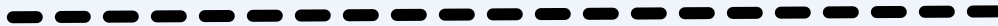


Biography of Fr. Christian Christopher, SSS



My homeland is in the North of Sri Lanka. While I was working to become an accountant, every day before work, I attended Mass and prayed the Divine office before the Sacrament with the priests and brothers of the Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament at a church near my office. Experiencing this type of prayer life and observing the hospitality of the priests and brothers extended to their congregation kindled the existing fire within me to become a priest in that congregation.

I was ordained in August 1983 and I returned to the USA to pursue doctoral studies (Doctor of Ministry) at Catholic Theological Union in Chicago. I am very happy to be a part of the new venture, sharing with SSS religious of other cultures and backgrounds. Once again, I am invited to do the hospital ministry in the USA.



Biography of Lay Chaplain, Charlotte Toliver



My name is Charlotte Ann Toliver. I am a mother to one daughter and grandmother to four children who are the joy to my life.

I'm currently working at Houston Methodist Hospital Sugarland a PRN chaplain and Houston Methodist Hospital a part time Lay chaplain for the Catholic Chaplain Corp. I'm interesting in contributing to the chaplain ministry, learning new skills and having a compassion for ministry. Ministering to others who are experiencing hurt, physically, mentally, emotionally and spiritually.

I enjoy much of my time with family, friends and volunteering in the church and community. I am a active member at St. Mark Catholic Church and a member of Saint Peter Claver Women Auxiliary. My positive thoughts are nothing is impossible!