

# Spiritual Care

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Mission and Goals of Mercy's Spiritual Care Department

The human person is by nature spiritual. Mercy Medical Center's Spiritual Care staff seek to honor and facilitate the search for meaning and integrity in the experiences of life — including sickness, death, and bereavement — by offering presence, compassion, listening, support and education.

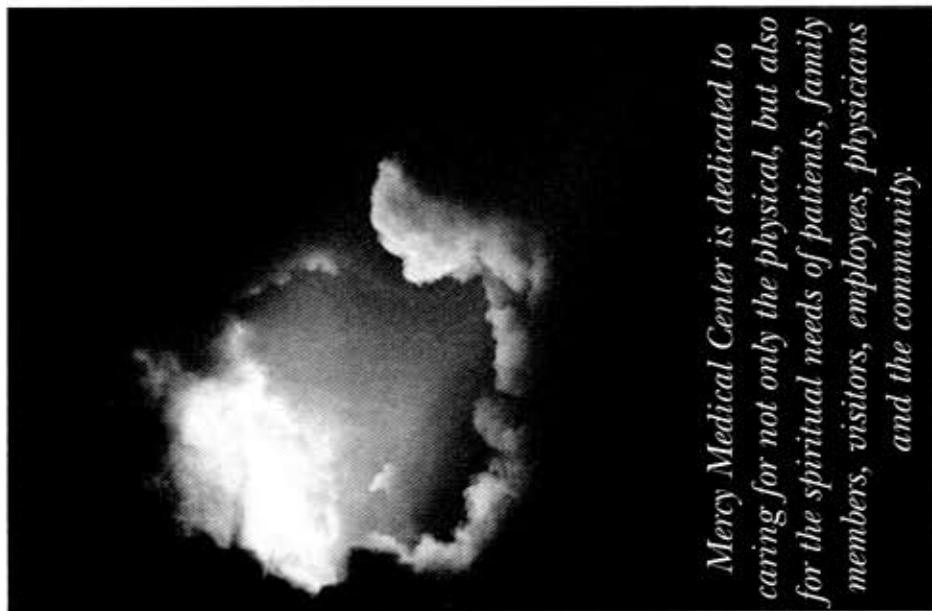
Recognizing the individual's right to self-determination, Spiritual Care staff also act as patient advocates when this right is in question. The Spiritual Care department's professional chaplains work in cooperation with members of other healthcare disciplines at Mercy to offer wholistic care to patients and families.



† CATHOLIC HEALTH  
INITIATIVES

Mercy Medical Center  
*Spiritual Care*

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*Mercy Medical Center is dedicated to caring for not only the physical, but also for the spiritual needs of patients, family members, visitors, employees, physicians and the community.*

Mercy Medical Center • Durango, Colorado  
Spiritual Care Department

Located by the chapel just inside the front lobby entrance.

To contact a chaplain, dial ext. 1444  
or 970-382-1444.

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375 East Park Avenue  
Durango, CO 81301

## Staff Chaplains Help Support Spiritual Needs

Chaplains are available to support your religious, spiritual, and emotional needs during your hospitalization. Through a ministry of presence, listening, comfort and support, chaplains are respectful of your concerns and your views about what gives life value and meaning. Spiritual care can be provided if you have events in your life that interfere with your healing, such as a recent loss of a loved one or major life change.

## Chaplains are part of your health care team

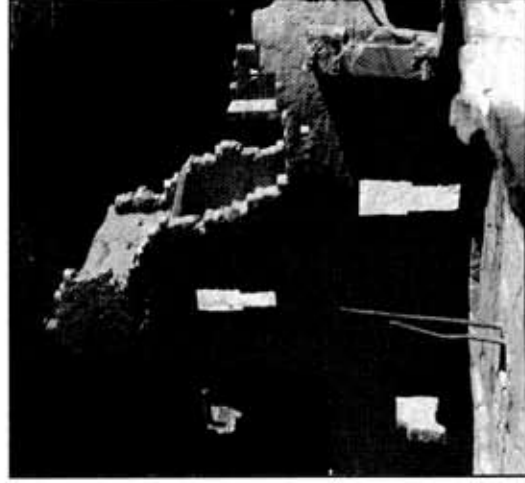
A visit from one of our chaplains may help you cope with the stress of being in the hospital and can help relieve anxiety. Chaplains also support the staff that cares for you and participate in Mercy's Touch, Love and Compassion (TLC) program that offers other "healing experiences" such as massage or relaxing guided imagery.

## Chaplains can provide spiritual resources

Chaplains honor your personal, spiritual, or philosophical beliefs through formal prayer or affirmation of closely held values. At your request, chaplains can contact your minister, priest, rabbi or spiritual leader to also support you.

## Other Spiritual Care Resources Include

- Printed prayers available at the Mercy Chapel
- CareNotes booklets that discuss a variety of subjects relating to illness, hospitalization, bereavement and life transitions
- Catholic Mass in the Mercy Chapel (scheduled times are posted near the chapel on the first floor of the hospital)
- Communion offered by Eucharistic ministers
- Sacraments of Reconciliation and Anointing of the Sick (the hospital chaplain will request these rituals by an available Catholic priest)
- Rosaries available from chaplains
- Chapel available for prayer and reflection times
- Prayer request journal/box (chaplains pray daily for your concerns)



## How Else Can a Chaplain Help?

Chaplains act as patient advocates, speaking to staff and families on behalf of patients or about family concerns.

Chaplains are often present at care conferences as part of a patient's care team to contribute to staff understanding of the spiritual needs of a patient or ethical implications of care plans.

Chaplains can offer information to patients and families about making "advance directives," or living will and medical power-of-attorney decisions.

We've left this area for any thoughts you'd like to write down to discuss with our Spiritual Care staff.

Chaplains are on duty 8am - 4:30pm Monday through Friday, and are on call 24 hours a day, seven days a week. To contact a chaplain, dial extension 1444 or dial "0" for the operator.