Our Mission

We will, in the spirit of the Sisters of Charity, reveal God’s healing love by improving the health of the individuals and communities we serve, especially those who are poor or vulnerable.

Who We Are

The professionals in the Spiritual Care Department have received academic preparation and clinical training for this specialized ministry of healing. We are part of a healthcare team, which recognizes that acceptance, hope, forgiveness, love, and peace are qualities that facilitate healing in our lives.

Because we believe that everyone has an innate spirituality, but not a common religion, we are committed to serving the spiritual needs of all patients, families and staff, whatever their religious tradition. We will gladly contact a minister, rabbi, or other spiritual leader upon request.

Why Spiritual Care is Here

It has long been recognized that emotional and spiritual care play an important role in the medical setting. There is growing evidence that religious beliefs and spirituality bring forth and support the body’s inner healing systems.

Resources are available to explore your experience, some of the underlying factors/stressors in life, and their relationship to body-mind-spirit.

The Services We Offer

- Crisis Intervention
- Counseling/Dialogue
- Ministry to Patients and Families
  - Examine faith/health relationship
  - Name and make use of spirituality and belief systems
  - Verbalize change and recovery
  - Assistance in making ethical decisions
  - Grief facilitation
  - Prayer, sacraments and spiritual support
- Ministry to Staff
  - Interdisciplinary care for patients and families
  - Partnership in search for God's presence
  - Staff support
  - Consultation on ethical issues
- Sacramental Ministry (available upon request)
  - Daily communion to Catholic patients
  - Reconciliation
  - Anointing of the sick
  - Emergency baptism
- Chapel and Inspirational Television
  - Roman Catholic Mass is televised from our chapel Tuesday and Thursday at 11:30 am on Channel 18 (times subject to change)
  - Meditative music and scenery broadcast on Channel 18
  - Chapel is located on first floor Allard, open at all times for prayer and meditation

Contact Us

The Spiritual Care Department is located on the first floor of the Allard Building. Chaplains are available 24-hours a day, 7 days a week. You may ask your nurse or the operator to contact a chaplain or phone us at 406.237.8251.

Describes you:

___ Faith and hope in God and others sustain me.
___ Illness is to be expected.
___ Illness does not fit in my life right now.
___ Where is God in all this?
___ I only wish I could have done something differently.

Any thoughts, issues, concerns, and stressors in life:

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Would you like to talk with a chaplain?
Your nurse will be happy to contact a chaplain for you or you may call direct at 406.237.8251.

Helping Patients

Palliative Care Services team members will meet with you to assess your needs. They are available to discuss with you Advance Care Planning and help you make future health care choices. If you wish they will help you complete an advance directive, like the Five Wishes® booklet.

Team members will talk with you about your physical needs and treat your symptoms. For example these may include:

- Pain
- Fatigue (tiredness)
- Shortness of breath
- Nausea
- Loss of appetite

They are able to help concerns that may be distressing to you such as:

- Depression
- Loss of control
- Anxiety or loneliness

Many patients discuss fears about dying and/or being a burden to their families or loved ones.

Chaplains are available to discuss your spiritual and religious concerns.

Care management staff is available to help you with addressing financial and legal concerns.

For more information, please contact:

Palliative Care Services
406.237.8220

St. Vincent Healthcare

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A Traditional Native American Prayer

On Great Spirit whose voice I hear in the wind whose breath gives life to all the world. Hear me; I need your strength and wisdom. Let me walk in beauty, and make my eyes ever behold the red and purple sunset. Make my bands respect the things you have made and my ears sharp to hear your voice. Make me wise so that I may understand the things you have taught my people. Help me to remain calm and strong in the face of all that comes towards me. Let me learn the lessons you have hidden in every leaf and rock. Help me seek pure thoughts and act with the intention of helping others. Help me find compassion without empathy overwhelming me. I seek strength, not to be greater than my brother, but to fight my greatest enemy myself. Make me always ready to come to you with clean hands and straight eyes. So when life fades, as the fading sunset, my spirit may come to you without shame.

A Prayer for Healing

Loving and tender God, Teach my heart with hope. Touch my mind with clarity. Touch my soul with peace, and Touch my body with the warmth of your healing presence. Grant me: Courage to face the future, Insight to understand life’s trials, Wisdom to discern how I can touch the lives of others, and The comfort of persons who care about me as I reach for your loving hands.

Morning

Lord, I thank you for the dawn of this day. I need every ray of sunshine and the darkness of the morning to fill my life with light. So many things are going to happen today and I am waiting. The doctors will come: what will they say? Help me, Lord, to accept what is. Be with me throughout the day. Remind me each morning of your constant love. I put my trust in you. Amen.

Evening

Loving God, I thank you for this day and now: I rest in your abiding presence, relaxing every tension, releasing every care and anxiety, receiving more and more of your healing life into every part of my being.

In moments of pain I turn to you for strength, in times of loneliness I feel your loving nearness. Lord, give me strength and the will to persevere. Don’t let me lose courage, don’t let me despair. No; as darkness falls, let me find my refuge in you. You are with me. In your mercy grant me a peaceful sleep. Amen.

Serenity

God, grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, the courage to change the things I can, and the wisdom to know the difference.

The Twenty-Third Psalm

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters; he restores my soul. He makes me lie down in green pastures. The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.