



2016/17 Visits to Bishops' Provincial Meetings

Topics most frequently discussed:

1. **Lack of familiarity with NACC:** its mission, members, certification requirements, and what ministry is offered; its relationship to other chaplaincy ministries, Prison Ministry, Airports and the Ports, as well as lay ecclesial ministries in the diocese.
2. **Chaplain designation and endorsement process:** The designations of “lay ecclesial minister” and “chaplain” in the context of Canon Law, and the use of chaplain in the professional health care sectors and the importance of a credentialing process for board certification to ensure the quality of ministry; understanding of endorsement and process of getting to know a NACC member who seeks endorsement.
3. **CPE Programs:** A critical review and understanding of CPE programs, how they relate to NACC, and both issues and importance of CPE training; concern of CPE programs for seminarians; request for knowledge of good CPE programs for seminarians, and others.
4. **Integrating and utilizing NACC members in dioceses:** How to contact NACC “alumni” to equip them to be resources to dioceses; how to acknowledge, integrate, support, and use NACC members in the local church to provide training to others doing pastoral care; use of chaplains in seminary and permanent diaconate courses on pastoral care; the question of commissioning NACC members to provide visibility of pastoral care ministry in local church.
5. **Serving Catholics:** Spiritual and sacramental needs of Catholics, and role of NACC chaplains in facilitating meeting those needs; evangelization and the role of NACC members to minister to those who have been away from Church or been hurt by someone in the Church; accessing Catholic patients in light of HIPAA regulations.
6. **Pastoral care needs beyond hospital paradigm:** hospital no longer only environment for chaplains, as health care has moved beyond hospital walls, and pastoral care is needed in many other settings within the community; formation/preparation of others who are asked/expected to provide pastoral care who are not board certified chaplains; value of connecting with faith community nurses and parish pastoral care ministers.
7. **Concern for quality care for the dying:** Hospice care as a growing need; ethical discernment on end-of-life choices, and how NACC members can help serve in this area.
8. **Seeking practical ways and resources to make known the chaplaincy ministry:** Asking NACC to provide practical ways and resources, such as articles to reprint in publications --bulletins, magazines, etc. to help make the chaplaincy ministry known.