CREATIVE IDEA FOR CHAPLAINCY TODAY AND TOMORROW
AND IN RESPONSE TO POPE FRANCIS’ WORDS

CPE Center -- Name: CHRISTUS Santa Rosa Health System
Location: San Antonio, Texas

CPE Supervisor – Name: Mary Davis
Phone: 210-704-2851
Email address: md.davis@christushealth.org
Best way to contact: email

Title (give your creative idea a name) Images of Pastoral Care, cards

Here is what we did/ how we came to this action:
I find the text Images of Pastoral Care edited by Robert Dykstra, to be an important text for inclusion and study within a CPE residency. When it first came out, I was mystified that it did not actually have images for each chapter; being the visual person I am, I set about creating images and a brief explanation of each chapter to stimulate residents to read chapters that they otherwise might not consider, as well as cards that group the images from a standpoint of their helpfulness for individuals, communities, and the pastor/chaplain’s self care.
I sought permission for the art I used on the cards, and received permission to use them expressly for use within the CPE curriculum (and if shared with other CPE groups, with the understanding that it would only be used within CPE curricula.)
I sent the cards to Robert Dykstra eventually, explaining how helpful I found his work, and how visuals aided mine and others’ expansion of his work. He immediately responded positively, somewhat abashedly wondering how he had not considered the same.
Residents and interns are introduced to the text and cards within the Overview of Pastoral Care presentation given in the early weeks of their orientation. In some units, interns or residents choose a chapter and present a summary of their chosen chapter to the group so that the whole group gains understanding of varied images.
In most units, within verbatim and case studies the Images of Pastoral Care cards are kept on the table, and interns and residents are asked to consider which image of pastoral care they presented within their ministry with the person encountered, and which image(s) might have brought about a different result. Likewise, in peer sections of evaluations, one part of the feedback allows for peers to consider which image of pastoral care their peer most exemplifies, and which image might their peer develop to enhance their pastoral functioning for the future.

These were the outcomes:
Interns and residents gain a working knowledge of the images of pastoral care, rather than a one dimensional intellectual understanding of several authors’ perceptions of the field. Interns and residents reported that they might never have read beyond the “classic” wounded healer image, and might never have explored feminist, African-American, or even “dated” images had their peers not demonstrated their worth and meaning to them within the context of ministry.

This is what we learned:
Integration of a variety of models of pastoral care are vital for emerging ministers, particularly as they integrate their personal and pastoral identity in settings expecting high quality professional pastoral functioning. They will need to know how to speak and act in a board room, how to command presence in a crowded waiting room in a crisis, how to collaborate with inter-faith ministers within the community, how to debrief compassion-fatigued employees, how to lead a family meeting, how to preside spontaneously at an end of life bedside service, and how to address persons who find little meaning in what “spiritual” might mean to most persons. Exploring these models can give them such an edge.

If you use this idea, we have these suggestions:
Please ask the participants to return the cards at the end of unit so we can honor the artists’ permission to keep the art work for use within CPE curricula. Use the cards in conjunction with actual reading of the chapters, as the cards do not adequately summarize the chapters’ perspective.
The Gardener

- Initiate interaction and connection between the plant/individual and the soil/sand where formation and nourishment happen.
- Strengthen or problems in use cannot be considered apart from the other.
- Ministers who think of themselves as gardeners AND plants can grow into an ever-greater sense of their own wisdom and gratitude.

Margaret Zippe Komfeld

The Reticent Outlaw
(midwifing and storytelling)

- The minister is an outlaw in the sense of choosing the fact that her/his life will always be somewhat on the margins—riding in to proclaim justice and peace at times.
- This is a place of creative tension, but also at times a lonely place and a place of discomfort.

Brita L. Gill-Austern

The Intimate Stranger

- The minister is as much a stranger in the acute care unit as are the patients and family members—not only to them but increasingly to himself.
- Ministers are of necessity those who are familiar with the strange and who open themselves to the gut-baring power of strangeness itself.

Robert C. Dykstra

The Wise Fool Reframed

- "The minister who claims to speak for God cannot know what (he) is talking about. God's prophet is also God's fool, because God's prophet cannot speak with any certainty on behalf of a mysterious, unfathomable God."
- Assisting others to see their lives in a different frame often alleviates suffering.

Donald Capps

The Moral Coach and Counselor

- Moral leadership involves a mutual exploration of ideas, values and decisions between ministers and their patients/parishioners, free of coercion or compulsion.

Gaylord Noyce

The Indigenous Storyteller

- Guidance when direction is needed can be presented in the friendly guise of a story.
- Need to both tell and listen to stories

Edward P. Wimberly

Use of Images of Pastoral Care, dependent on Need:

For individuals in need, use:
- The Living Human Document
- Reclaiming the Living Human Document
- The Solicitous Shepherd
- The Ascetic Witness
- The Diagnostician
- The Agent of Hope

For Community needs, use:
- The Living Human Web
- The Moral Coach and Counselor
- The Indigenous Storyteller
- The Gardener

For your needs, or for other caregivers, use:
- The Wounded Healer
- The Self-Differentiated Samaritan
- The Intimate Stranger
- The Gardener
- The Wise Fool Reframed

For times of Advocacy, use:
- The Courageous Shepherd
- The Circus Clown
- The Wise Fool
- The Ascetic Witness
- The Midwife
- The Outlaw