Why should Pastoral Care examine the Directives?

- What the Directives do –
  - Explain what Catholic health care is about—purpose and fundamental value commitments
  - Suggest how Catholic health care should be delivered; sets some basic parameters
  - Articulate principles to which all in Catholic health care are accountable
Ethical and Religious Directives: A Brief Tour

Why Look at the Directives?

- As leaders within the health care ministry, Catholic chaplains
  - Have a responsibility for **educating** themselves and others about the Directives
  - May be asked to **interpret** and **apply** the Directives for physicians, patients and families
  - Should be able to **direct others** to appropriate sections of the Directives

What Are the Directives?

- A *limited* attempt to answer two questions:
  - Who are we? Who should we **be**? *(Identity)*
  - What should we **do** in light of this? *(Integrity)*
- And … to provide **guidance** on ethical issues in health care delivery
Ethical and Religious Directives: A Brief Tour

What Are the Directives?

- Catholic Health Care Ministry
- Catholic Ethical Tradition in Health Care
- Ethical and Religious Directives

Purpose of the Directives (Preamble)

- To affirm ethical standards and norms
- To provide authoritative guidance
- To provide professionals, patients and families with principles and guides for making decisions
Ethical and Religious Directives: A Brief Tour

General Format

- **Six parts** covering six major areas of concern in Catholic health care
- **Each part** divided into **two sections**:
  - **Introduction**: narrative, providing a biblical and theological context
  - Individually **numbered directives** addressing specific issues

The Parts

- **General Introduction**
- **Part One**: Social Responsibility
- **Part Two**: Pastoral Responsibility
- **Part Three**: Patient/Professional Relationship
- **Part Four**: Beginning of Life
- **Part Five**: Care for the Dying
- **Part Six**: Forming New Partnerships
Ethical and Religious Directives: A Brief Tour

Approaching the ERDs

- **Not** an *answer book*—usually requires *interpretation* and *application* to concrete situations
- **Not exhaustive** either of
  - The church's moral teaching
  - Issues in health care ethics
  - **Not a club** with which to beat others
- May need *assistance* in interpreting the directives
- *Different conclusions* are possible

General Introduction: **Who Should We Be?**

The *reason* for Catholic health care:

- Continuing *God's life-giving and healing work* (p. 7/4)
- By *imitating Jesus' service* to the sick, suffering, and dying (pp. 4, 5; 3)
- Response to Jesus’ challenge to “**Go and do likewise**” (p. 38/17)
- Carrying on Jesus’ *radical healing* (p. 4/3)
Ethical and Religious Directives: A Brief Tour

General Introduction: Who Should We Be?

- Ought to be Christ’s “healing compassion in the world” (p. 38/17)
- Ought to restore and preserve health and serve as a sign of final healing (p. 38/17)
- As a ministry of the church (p. 6/4)

Part One: Social Responsibility

Introduction (pp. 8-9/4-5)

- Common values that should distinguish Catholic health care:
  - Human dignity
  - Care for the poor and vulnerable
  - Contribution to the common good
  - Responsible stewardship of resources
  - Consonance with church teaching
PART ONE: Social Responsibility

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>VALUE</th>
<th>THEOLOGICAL REFLECTION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Human Dignity</td>
<td>Catholic health care is rooted in a commitment to defend human dignity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Care of the Poor</td>
<td>Catholic health care is mandated to care for the poor, the uninsured and the underinsured</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Common Good</td>
<td>Catholic health care contributes to the common good, ensuring protection for fundamental rights of individuals and groups</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Responsible Stewardship</td>
<td>Catholic health care is concerned both with the quality of care for the individual and with the health of the community</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Respect for Conscience</td>
<td>To the extent it is able, Catholic health care respects the individual’s conscience but also asks the individual to respect its institutional conscience</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

United States’ Point of View

Rights

↑

Autonomy

↑

Human Dignity
Ethical and Religious Directives: A Brief Tour

Point of View of the Ethical and Religious Directives

Multiplicity of Particular Commitments
(Theological Reflection)

↑

Christian Values

↑

Human Dignity

Catholic Moral Teaching

Good and Virtuous Society

Good and Virtuous Persons

Good and Virtuous Institutions
Why are Institutions part of the Church’s Social Teaching?

If one seeks to influence, shape, direct, heal, elevate, and enrich a complex industrial democracy, it cannot be done simply by the integrity of individual witness. It is done by institutions that lay hands on life at the critical points where life can be injured or fostered, where people are born and die, where they learn and teach, where they are cured and healed, and where they are assisted when in trouble... Institutions always make a difference for good or for ill.

Fr. J. Bryan Hehir

Ten Building Blocks of Catholic Social Teaching

- Solidarity
- Respect for Human Life
- Association
- Participation
- Preference for the Poor and Vulnerable
- Solidarity
- Human Dignity
- Stewardship
- Human Equality
- The Common Good
Catholic Social Teaching

• Human Dignity
  – Rights are the conditions for the realization of human worth in action.
  – Area of health care
    • Right
      – to life and bodily integrity
      – to medical care.
      – to security in sickness
    • Pope John XXIII, *Pacem in terris*, par 11

• Common Good
  – Sum total of those conditions of social life which allow social groups and their individual members relatively thorough and ready access to their own fulfillment
    • Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World, par 26

Part One: Social Responsibility

Key Directives

- **#1.** We are a *community of care animated by the Gospel* and respectful of the church’s moral tradition

- **#2.** We act in a manner characterized by *mutual respect* among caregivers and serving with *compassion* of Christ

- **#6.** *Use* health care *resources responsibly*
Part One: Social Responsibility

Key Directives

#7: Organizations should treat employees respectfully and justly
- non-discrimination in hiring
- employee participation in decision-making
- workplace that ensures safety and well-being
- just compensation and benefits
- recognition of right to organize

Part One: Social Responsibility

Key Directives

#3: Organization should distinguish itself by service to and advocacy for marginalized and vulnerable
Part Two: Pastoral and Spiritual Care

- Pastoral care is an integral part of Catholic health care
- Pastoral care encompasses a full range of spiritual services
  - Listening presence
  - Help in dealing with powerlessness, pain, etc.
  - Assistance in discerning and responding to God's will
- Establish good relationships between pastoral care and parish clergy and ministers of care

Introduction (pp. 12-13/6-7)

- Catholic health care must treat all in a manner that respects human dignity and their eternal destiny; help others experience their own dignity and value
- Care offered must embrace the whole person: physical, psychological, social, and spiritual
### Part Two: Pastoral and Spiritual Care

#### Key Directives

- #15: Addresses **holistic needs** of persons
- # 10: Maintain appropriate **professional preparation** and credentials for staff
- # 10-14, # 20-22: Respect proper authorities in each religion or Christian denomination regarding appointments

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**PART TWO:**

**Pastoral and Spiritual Care**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>VALUE</th>
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</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Human Dignity</td>
<td>Catholic health care has the responsibility to treat those in need in a way that respects the human dignity and eternal destiny of all.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Holistic Care</td>
<td>Catholic health care institutions are communities of healing that embrace treatment of the physical, psychological, social and spiritual dimensions of the person.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Healing Presence</td>
<td>Catholic health care combines medical expertise with other forms of care to promote health and relieve human suffering</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diverse Roles and Collaboration</td>
<td>Within the health care institution, clergy, religious and laity exercise diverse but complementary roles in pastoral care. Also, more frequently, the local parish assumes greater involvement in pastoral care both before and after hospitalization.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Ethical and Religious Directives: A Brief Tour

Part Two: Pastoral and Spiritual Care

**Key Directives**

- #10: Addresses the particular *religious needs* of patients
- #11, #22: Need to maintain an *ecumenical staff* or to make appropriate referrals
- #10, #12-20: Address the *sacramental needs* of Catholics

Part Three: Patient/Professional Relationship

**Introduction** (pp. 17-18/8)

- Grounded in *respect for human dignity*
- Requires *mutual respect*, trust, honesty, and appropriate confidentiality
- Participatory and *collaborative*
- Both parties have *responsibilities*
**Ethical and Religious Directives: A Brief Tour**

**PART THREE:**
Patient/Professional Relationship

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>VALUE</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Respect for Persons</td>
<td>Relationship requires mutual respect, honesty and appropriate confidentiality; avoids manipulation, intimidation or condescension</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interdependence</td>
<td>Neither professional or patient acts independently; both participate in healing process</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commitment</td>
<td>Fact that there is a team of providers does not alter the personal character of the interaction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professional Ethical Responsibility</td>
<td>Professionals take into account the patient’s convictions and spiritual needs and the moral responsibilities of all concerned, including the institution</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Professional-Patient Relationship**

- Relationships among Professionals, including chaplains
  - Catholic health care combines medical expertise with other forms of care to promote health and relieve suffering
  - Diverse but complementary roles
- Relationship to other Caregivers
  - Local clergy
  - Family
  - Friends
Part Three: Patient/Professional Relationship

Key Directives

- #23: *Inherent dignity* of human person must be *respected* and *protected*
  - Honor patients’ right to *make treatment decisions* (#26 and 27)
  - Importance of *informed consent* (#26 and 27)
  - Encourage and respect *advance directives* (#24)
Ethical and Religious Directives: A Brief Tour

Part Three: Patient/Professional Relationship

Key Directives

- Respect choices of surrogate decision makers (#25)
- Respect privacy and confidentiality (#34)
- Consider the whole person when deciding about therapeutic interventions (#33)
- Respect decisions to forego treatment (#32); distinction between ordinary or proportionate means (morally obligatory) and extraordinary or disproportionate means (morally optional)
- Importance of ethics committees (#37)

Part Three: Patient/Professional Relationship

Key Directives

- # 36: Provide compassionate and appropriate care to victims of sexual assault
  - Cooperate with law enforcement officials
  - Offer psychological and spiritual support
  - Offer “accurate medical information”
  - Provide treatment to prevent conception
    - Pregnancy approach
    - Ovulation approach
“Homework” for next week

Accompanying this power point, you will find three cases, each based on one of the three parts of the *Ethical and Religious Directives* presented today. Sometime in the next week, please review at least one of the cases either in groups or alone. For the case(s),

– Discuss what is at stake in the case
– Discuss which directives might offer guidance for the case
– Discuss how the directives might help you in coming to a moral decision
– Discuss any questions or concerns you might have

We will devote the beginning of next week’s session to a brief discussion of the case(s).

Feedback

*Comments?*

*Questions?*