

# Ethical and Religious Directives: A Brief Tour

the catholic health association *growth*

***A Guide through the Ethical and Religious Directives for Chaplains: Overview and Parts 1-3***

***National Association of Catholic Chaplains Audioconference***

***Tom Nairn, O.F.M.***

***Senior Director, Ethics, CHA***

***July 1, 2009***

**CHA**  
THE CATHOLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION  
OF THE UNITED STATES

## 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

3

## What Are the Directives?

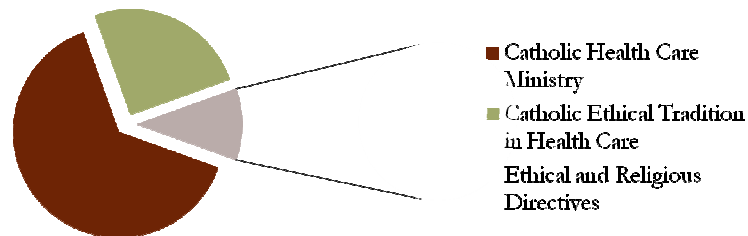
- A *limited* attempt to answer two questions:
  - Who are we? Who should we **be**? (**Identity**)
  - What should we **do** in light of this? (**Integrity**)
- And ... to provide **guidance** on ethical issues in health care delivery



4

# Ethical and Religious Directives: A Brief Tour

## What Are the Directives?



5

## 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**

6

# 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

7

## 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

8

# 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

9

## 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)

10

# 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)

11

## 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**

12

# Ethical and Religious Directives: A Brief Tour

## PART ONE: Social Responsibility

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

13

## United States' Point of View

Rights  
↑  
Autonomy  
↑  
Human Dignity

14

# 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

15

## Catholic Moral Teaching

Good and Virtuous Society

Good and Virtuous Persons

Good and Virtuous Institutions

16



# Ethical and Religious Directives: A Brief Tour

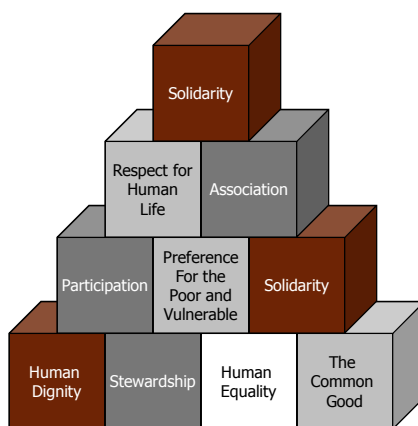
## Why are Institutions part of the Church's Social Teaching?

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

17

## Ten Building Blocks of Catholic Social Teaching



18

# Ethical and Religious Directives: A Brief Tour

## 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

19

## 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*



20

# Ethical and Religious Directives: A Brief Tour

## 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



21

## Part One: Social Responsibility

### Key Directives

- #3: Organization should distinguish itself by service to and *advocacy* for *marginalized and vulnerable*



22

# Ethical and Religious Directives: A Brief Tour

## 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

23

## Part Two: Pastoral and Spiritual 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

24

# Ethical and Religious Directives: A Brief Tour

## PART TWO: Pastoral and Spiritual Care

VALUE	THEOLOGICAL REFLECTION
Human Dignity	Catholic health care has the responsibility to treat those in need in a way that respects the human dignity and eternal destiny of all.
Holistic Care	Catholic health care institutions are communities of healing that embrace treatment of the physical, psychological, social and spiritual dimensions of the person.
Healing Presence	Catholic health care combines medical expertise with other forms of care to promote health and relieve human suffering
Diverse Roles and Collaboration	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.

25

## 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

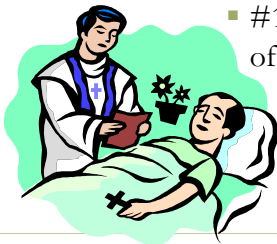
26

# 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



27

## 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*



28

# Ethical and Religious Directives: A Brief Tour

## PART THREE: Patient/Professional Relationship

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

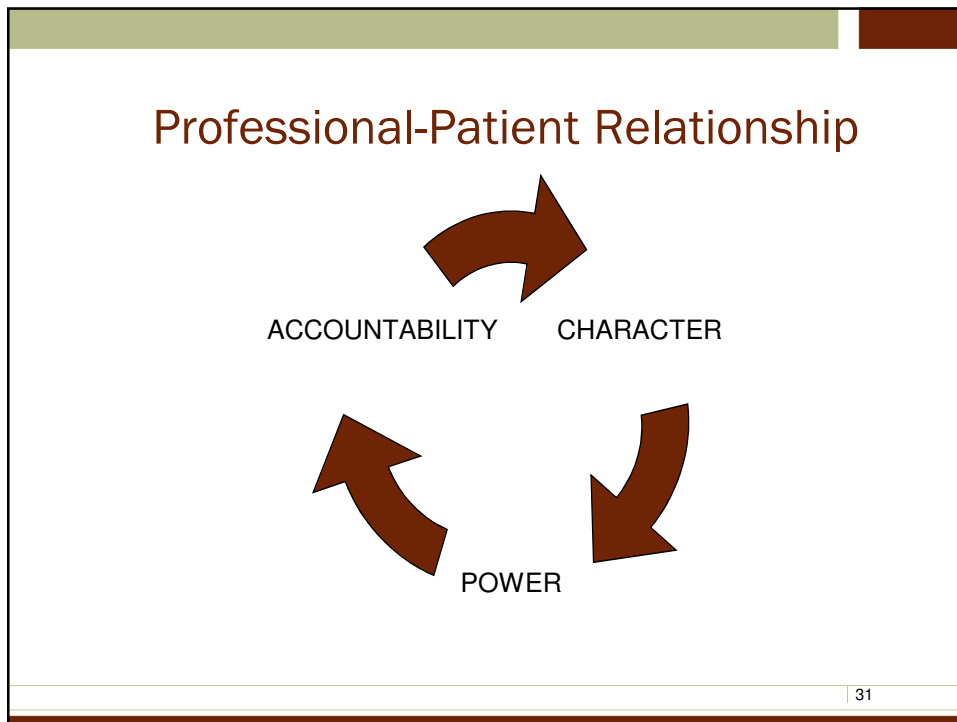
29

## 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

30

# Ethical and Religious Directives: A Brief Tour



## 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)

32



# 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)

33

## 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

34

# Ethical and Religious Directives: A Brief Tour

## “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).

35

## Feedback

*Comments?*

*Questions?*

36