NACC
2019 National Conference

“Partners in Pastoral Care:
Continuing the Healing Ministry of Jesus”
Title:

“Things to know while Ministering to Latino Patients in the Hospital”
“To love a culture means, to penetrate its values, myths, customs, rituals, and ways of being, and to do this with sympathy and openness.

Reflections on Inculturation
Frank Lucido, Ed.D
National Catholic Educational Association

Father Clemente de Dios Oyafemi, BCC & Mr. Javier Castillo
OBJECTIVE:

- Empower fellow chaplains with the skills, tools and the sensitivity they need in order to provide effective pastoral care to Latino/Hispanic patients.

Father Clemente de Dios Oyafemi, BCC & Mr. Javier Castillo
This presentation:

- Understand how Latinos view sickness and death
- Gain insight into the Latino/Hispanic cultures
- Know how to take care of Latino patients in hospital settings
SONG: Alabare, Alabare, Alabare
Does anyone know the difference between Latinos and Hispanics?

- In this presentation we may use the term Latino and Hispanic interchangeably.

- But our focus will be ‘LATINOS’

“Those who were born in Latin-American countries”
INTRODUCTION

"Learning Spanish"
Discussion

- What did you observe in the video?
- What message did you get from the video?
NACC Certification Competencies

- Professional Chaplains should be able to:

- “Provide spiritual care that respects diversity and differences including, but not limited to culture, gender, sexual orientation and spiritual/religious practices.”
Understand how Latinos view sickness and death

LATINO POPULATION IN USA is very significant:

- **USA Census:** 58.9 million Hispanics, July 1st, 2017

- The meaning of **health** and **illness** among Latinos:

  - **Health:**
    - As good luck
    - Reward for a good behavior

  - **Illness:**
    - Natural
    - or supernatural causes

  **Difference:** Ordinary illness and chronic/terminal illness!
DEATH: Latinos seem to view death very lightly on the surface (jokes, celebrations, rituals, parades and other activities) Life after death!
REALITY:

- At the hospital, however, a Latino, during moments of pain and death, confront the same human situations like anyone else!

- God becomes the ultimate recourse
Eating Twinkies with God
Continuing the Healing Ministry of Jesus…

- What did you learn from the video?
- How do we serve and become God to the Patient?
- How do we serve God in the Patient?
FEELINGS OF THE LATINO PATIENT

- Latino/Hispanic immigrants experience:
  - Stress - Being foreigners in the USA
  - Emotional distress
  - Hopeless with terminal disease
  - Fear of strange system, deportation
  - Ostracized
  - Financial worries
  - Language barrier
CULTURAL VALUES OF LATINOS

- Collectivism
- Familism
- Personalism
- Machismo

Time orientation
Respect (usted)
Religiosity (story Chicago)
Simpatía

Sacraments (story CA)
Personal space
Gestures/body language
Mariologists (Story UIC)
HOW TO CARE FOR LATINO PATIENTS

- Spanish is their first language
- Verbal (20%) and non-verbal (80%) communication
- Do not presume the patient’s country of origin.
- ALL MEXICANS ARE LATINOS!
- NOT ALL LATINOS ARE MEXICAN!
TOOLS YOU NEED DURING YOUR VISIT

- Greeting
- Gestures
- Common phrases you will hear from patients
- Common phrases from a professional chaplain
- Conclusion
- Departure
Mutual Ministration may occur

- Elderly Latinos will typically pray for you and bless you at the end of your visit.
- May kiss your hand, if you are priest
- Never say “Adios” to a Latino patient.
- Say “Hasta luego.”
“Catholic healthcare institutions must not fall in the trap of simply running a business; they must be concerned with personal care more than profit. We know that health is relational, dependent on interaction with others and requiring trust, friendship and solidarity... The joy of generous giving is a barometer of the health of a Christian.”

References & Bibliography

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- Message of His Holiness Pope Francis for the World Day of the Sick
- Websites:
  - deltaaetc.org