Listening Session 3/19/2020

NACC resource page: https://www.nacc.org/resources/coronavirus-resources/

Great live on-line Mass resource: https://mass-online.org/daily-holy-mass-live-online/

Prayer of spiritual communion (on resource page)
At SJH in Lexington, KY, we’re looking into Telemedicine options
Found Evening prayer to be effective, and comforting; from the breviary
The Bishop has permitted a Mass in the main chapel—with only the priest and an assistant—that is broadcast to the patients.
Providing pts with link to Mass online
I am an outpatient cancer center chaplain. I serve multiple sites, so already have the option of telemedicine for logistical reasons. It’s effective and easy to use. The persons I serve are of all faiths and none.
I work at a Catholic Nursing Home/Rehab, and the biggest issue right now is not access to the Eucharist, but loneliness. Residents are quarantined to their rooms. We do have some spiritual/emotional programs on our house television.
Livestream from mass-online.org I work in extended care. Will conclude with Spiritual Communion
As a hospice chaplain, by and large I am not allowed into any facilities to visit patients. I have been keeping in touch with families via phone.
How are people documenting their telehealth visits offsite? I currently work at an SUD residential rehab, and am concerned about a local quarantine.
Also have been using "Alexa" over the PA to provide music as introduction to reading the Gospel (Long term care - Convent)
With telemedicine, all you do is email or text a link and you can meet face to face. This is great to offer spiritual care to families who are separated from their loved ones.
You can do at home visits this way too
I also work in a Catholic long-term care facility. As of now I am still able to bring Communion to the residents, practicing standard precautions. I also have a prayer service in the Chapel, televised to rooms. Residents have information on Masses on TV. Families are calling me with requests to see their family members to pray with them. Today I am having a funeral service with a resident who was unable to go to her brother's funeral.
Spiritual Communion shared on resource page
We were instructed that we could still offer comforting support through the phone.
We are restricted from seeing any COVID patients for any reason. Thank you for mentioning these alternatives.
We continue to allow one family member in the room.
Has anyone set up teleconferencing for families of COVID or PUI
https://www.pinnaclehealth.org/l/coronavirus-information
Zero visitors for patients in isolation (COVID19 or not)
We are using Skype with families for some of our residents (long-term care), all who are in their rooms.
Will priest still be able to anoint the dying? That would be very important for some residents and families.

Perhaps, even in all the get up. I can see us as chaplains in general using phones or telecommunications for visits of confirmed COVIDs. (We do not have deaths from that yet at my nursing home in Michigan.)

Nurses are raising concerns about being assigned to a combination of PUI and non-PUI patients, fears of spreading the disease if they are determined to be positive for COVID.

Any pastoral guidelines for priests hearing confessions of isolated patients?

Does anyone have dedicated units?

I'm quarantined (not sick) for 2 weeks and calling assisted living residents on the phone from my home. They seem to be appreciated as a recognition of their isolation and loneliness.

I think some priests would be willing to don the protective clothing to anoint but some will not.

I saw an article on "Drive thru -confession" wonder if this could be done, with say, anointing with an ambulance?

With dying elderly patient, not Covid- in long term care //?

General absolution sounds like a good idea right now

Can reconciliation be done by phone? or skype?

General absolution would be the way to go- my patients are dying from cancer, not Covid.

I agree that general absolution should be used in this crisis. Cheryl NH

We are planning to allow priests to come into anoint and they would follow all infection control procedures (Personal protective equipment). Tim Serban's handout was helpful. ..to use a disposable container to put the oil in (not to use a common oil stock) and to dispose of the cup and oil, gloves, etc. in the biohazard container.

Question about caring for the homebound? We are currently working on guidelines for our priest.

Rural Kenyans cannot get $15 malaria pills, never mind ventilators.

The problem with donning the full gear is that you cannot be heard through the N95 and face shield or your voice is distorted and not comforting at all. Also you look quite frightening.

Through a window will be better, or over the phone. Also safer for the priests.

How are people in Long term care going to deal with Holy week/ Easter? Ideas?

The priest must carry a copy of the prayer that can be discarded and only the amount of oil for the one usage.

We have been told the Mask is 70% effective and only priest 40 years old and younger.

My understanding with Covid 19 is that the particles can enter the eyes as well as nostrils and mouth covered by the n95 and cause infection, hence the necessity for the face shield.

Seems like even if you are not a priest, as a chaplain, you can acknowledge that you are not a priest, that this may not technically be the sacrament, but that God still can hear our words. And we could pray, using words that are based on the text from the sacrament of anointing (though maybe not exact...as we can't offer absolution) to bring comfort to patients when a priest is not available, or allowed, to have contact with the patient.

We allow priests and chaplains in non Covid rooms for last rites

For non-sacramental anointing, non-priest chaplains do offer that and frequently offer the "prayers associated with the last rites" or commending the spirit to God from the pastoral care manual.

We are all focusing right now on the patient. What about the un-infected family members??

Anyone doing anything for nurses/doctors or students who are working on units?

We are providing free meals for our staff so that they do not have to worry about meals
Youville Assisted Living is inviting residents, staff, and families to pray or hold a moment of silence -- collectively -- each day at 9 a.m. We have offered Christian and Interfaith prayers and are inviting anyone to share their own prayer which we can make available.

I heard in countries that don’t have enough ventilators that it will be based on who is most likely to survive (age, underlying conditions, etc.)

Chaplains in our facility steps in to de-escalate if any family member shows up and unhappy for not being able to see and visit their loved ones.

Ethics committees need to get ahead of the curve on coming up with a policy for distributing ventilators, ICU services when the need exceeds the resources.

The Diocese of Dallas website lists the Cathedral Sunday Mass Video English / Spanish and other parishes. A daily reading with a priest or deacon with a reflection message for the Diocese

The Diocese is trying to work out ways to support families electronically who cannot receive Eucharist or other spiritual supports.

Providing phone calls for the family to let them know how the patient is doing and what their loved one wants to say to them.

MI in Lawrence is providing iPads for residents to Facetime with family members. Very appreciative.

The Diocese of Orange in California has posted resources here https://www.rcbo.org/resource/pastoral-care-2/

We are debriefing nurses on units concerned about their own risk and the risk of carrying the virus to other patients, staff or family I’m reaching out to Chinese, Vietnamese, Spanish, Jewish, Muslim and Hindu cultural groups to be sure they know what we are doing.

Bishop Burns has been having a dinner meeting with all of our priest over the last three days. We will issue a document this afternoon to have guidelines for personal Sacramental care in hospital and home. I will send them to you when they are released

I am interested in hearing how bad things are in other parts of the Country. I am in Arizona and we have cases here, but are not in the outbreak stage-no deaths. Can people post an update of what deaths are in their area

Deacon Charlie, can you send a link to the daily reading with reflection messages for the Diocese of Dallas? I'm looking around the website and not seeing it

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I know that the Chaplains I work with in hospice are also concerned about our jobs, as we are in uncharted waters regarding not being allowed to visit. Medicare guidelines are so unclear. Thanks for ongoing prayers.

My docs, nurses and staff are overwhelmed on a normal day as we build long-term relationships with our patients. Then they die- the long-term folks always die. So they (we) are always under stress. This has taken it to a new level as my oncology nurses are fearful that they will be called to do ICU care. They are fearful because some are having immunosuppression due to MS or RA, etc. Some have little kids. Some cannot find child care. (We are using Yammer (sort of like Facebook for system professionals) to help with that.)

In Boone county Missouri, we had a case identified on Tuesday and consequent death the next day.

And the homeless, they closed the shelters to limit the spread. The governor is taking over hotels and bringing in trailers, but they are not ready yet. The homeless with symptoms are admitted but there is nowhere to safely discharge them.
Providing the Sacraments like anointing the Sick is any common standards.

I have to leave to set up Last Rites for a Catholic patient on palliative care who is still awaiting PUI test results. Thank you for this forum. We are all in this together.

We are in the process with our Communication department to release the reflection messages going out over the web. I will check with them this morning and let David know when it is posted. We are all learning how to work from home and communicate.

Give Us This Day and Magnificat are offering their publications free online too

Happy St. Joseph's Day! God bless you!