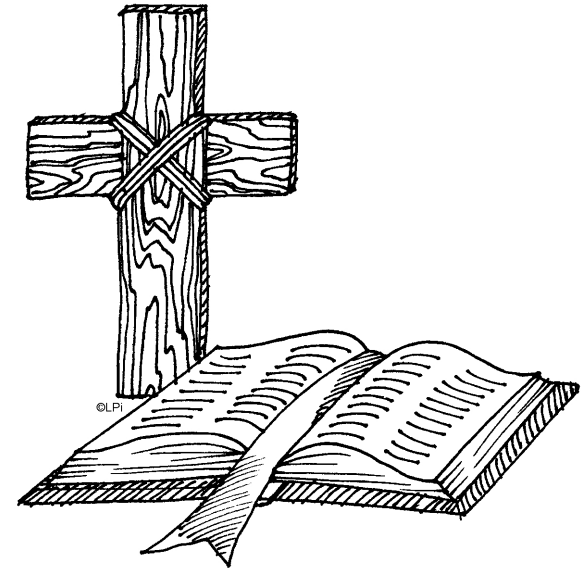




PASTORAL CARE
OF THE SICK



Union Hospital
and the
Terre Haute Deanery
Pastoral Center


Meeting your Spiritual Needs While you are Ill

Union Hospital and the area Catholic churches consider your Spiritual needs an extremely important component in the recovery process to health and well-being. This pamphlet is dedicated to providing helpful information to ease your burdens when you or your loved one endures the pain of suffering an illness.

You and your family have an important role in guaranteeing that your pastoral needs are met in a timely and holy manner. Please ask one member of the family (or a good friend) to be the one person to speak for you if you are unable to make your spiritual needs known. Let them know your wishes as soon as possible upon entering the hospital.

Pastors in Terre Haute share hospital call rotation. In the event of a true emergency they are more than happy to make an immediate visit day or night to celebrate the sacraments. An emergency means in the danger of death or immediate life-threatening surgery.

In a non-emergency situation the parish priest may be called or the on-call priest may be requested. The Sacrament of Reconciliation and the Anointing of the Sick are the two sacraments for which the priest may be called. If the on-call priest is needed and it is not an emergency he will come at his earliest convenience.



I am the bread of life



Share with Family

Please share this information. It is important that your family knows your wishes and the best way to communicate with your parish and the hospital. It would be helpful to offer a copy of this to your loved ones, sit with them, and talk about your desires.



Scripture

"Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord. And their prayer offered in faith will heal the sick, and the Lord will make them well. And anyone who has committed sins will be forgiven."

James 5:14,15

Important Information about the Sacrament of the Anoint of the Sick:

- It is no longer a sacrament solely for the dying.
- It should be administered at the beginning of an illness if possible. One should contact his/her parish priest before an emergency situation arises.
- It may be repeated as necessary, for instance, if the illness becomes more serious or if one recovers and then become ill again from the same or another illness.
- It may be administered in a hospital, health care facility, on a home or during a parish communal celebration.
- It is also important to note that not all illnesses are physical in nature. Many times our emotional and psychological health is in need of the healing grace of the Sacrament.



Blessed Sacrament in Hospital Chapel

Thanks to hard work and financial support by Union Hospital, the Blessed Sacrament is reserved in the hospital chapel next to the cafeteria. The chapel is open 24 hours a day and you or your family are welcome to pray before the Eucharist any time you are in the hospital.

Once you have entered the hospital:

- If your parish has not been notified of your admission please contact them.
- If you wish to receive any of the sacraments, let the nursing staff know you would like to see someone from the Chaplain's office. This is important even if you answered Catholic when asked "religious preference."

The criteria for requesting an on-call priest is:

- The ill person must be Catholic
- The ill person must request to see a priest
- The request must be specific, i.e., needs to be anointed, or needs Sacrament of Reconciliation
- The ill person does not belong to a local parish or is from out of town

Family members who wish a priest to come visit without the patients knowledge or consent may call their own parish priest.

Sacraments of the Sick

Reconciliation (Confession) - your parish priest may be called or a priest from our deanery will celebrate the sacrament with you.

Eucharist—Lay ministers bring the Sacrament of Holy Eucharist to the hospital on a regular basis. It is vitally important that the Chaplain's office knows your wish to receive the Eucharist. The Chaplain's office makes the "Communion list" Notify the Chaplain's office through the nursing staff.