

**We are
Called**

TO HEAL. TO UNITE. TO JUSTICE.



Team Reflection – Huddle

No. 10 Long-term Care Facilities & Racial/Ethnic Disparities

Juana's family moved her into a nearby nursing home in the autumn months of 2019. It was a difficult choice they hoped would be temporary. Then the pandemic came. As the virus held the globe in its grip, feelings of guilt, anguish and fear overcame Juana's adult daughters.

Only 5% of coronavirus cases in the U.S. occur in nursing homes, yet 34% of deaths are nursing home residents or staff. [10.1] Nursing homes are not immune to the health disparities in the general public. Examining the data by race/ethnicity shows nursing homes with primarily non-white residents, like Juana's, experience 3.3 times more COVID-19 deaths than facilities with a majority of white residents. Facilities with mostly non-white residents are more likely to experience lower quality, lower staffing ratios and more serious regulatory deficiencies. The disparities in care appear to be a function of the facility rather than different staff treatment toward the residents.

Nursing homes and long-term care facilities that are part of Catholic health ministry may likely have fared slightly better. Researchers find the most worrisome disparities occur in for-profit organizations. Even still, our Catholic health ministries must continue to strive toward the vision of our tradition to care for our seniors and those most in need.

Consider

Can I imagine myself as an elderly person? How do I hope my family, my neighbors and society will look upon me?

Let us pray in thanksgiving,

We give thanks for the members of our community long in years.

May they have the loving support of family and friends,

that in good health they may have cheer and joy,

and in poor health not lose hope.

Amen.

Adapted from *The Book of Blessings*

[10.1] N.Y. Times, Coronavirus tracker "Nursing Homes."