

Book Reviews

Caring from the Heart: The Convergence of Caring and Spirituality

Sr. M. Simone Roach, CSM, ed.

Paulist Press, New York City, Mahwah, NJ,
1997, 211 pp., \$14.95 (paperback)

HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS AND PASTORAL care workers alike will find a gem in this book. With deft clarity and directness, the editor sets the theme for the entire work with an opening chapter. "Caring is the human mode of being," she states (p. 7). Sr. Roach identifies spirituality as a univer-

sal code word for the search for meaning, an integral, holistic, dynamic force in life for individuals and communities that has everything to do with relationships (p. 11).

Facing the reality that many different people have presuppositions about what *care* means, Rev. Ron Mercier, SJ, in the foreword announces the purpose of the book: to give care providers an *ontology* of care. An ontology is "a way of understanding ourselves not simply as doers or thinkers but as persons of care" (p. 3).

The entire book amplifies the dual care-and-spirituality theme set by the editor in the opening chapter. Its point of the incarnate wholeness of care as distinctively human and a manifestation of

spirituality cannot be missed. Woven together in the concreteness of story, the elements of practical care and deep spirituality emerge throughout the book as one fabric. Technical knowledge and psychological insight are wedded to the explicit respect for religious search and tradition. The holistic style of the chapters is a breath of fresh air in a field often stifled by pious religiosity or scientific disdain.

The contributors are an impressive mix. Many of them nurses, the writers draw from educational, administrative, therapeutic, and artistic experiences. The chapters range from the educational formation of caregivers to the development of their aesthetic sensitivities

BOOK BRIEFS

A Moral Vision for America

Joseph Cardinal Bernardin, John P. Langan, ed., Georgetown University Press, Washington, DC, 1998, 176 pp., \$17.95 (paperback)

This posthumous collection presents a representative selection of the major addresses of Card. Joseph Bernardin on issues of public policy and ethics. It includes essays that articulate an overall framework for moral decisions—"a consistent ethic of life"—and affirm an active role for religious convictions in a democratic society. Other topics considered in these 15 addresses include American foreign policy, euthanasia, healthcare reform, and managed care.

Community Health Information Systems: Lessons for the Future

Karen A. Duncan, Health Administration Press, Chicago, 1998, 165 pp., \$36 (paperback)

This book takes a nontechnical look at

community health information networks (CHINs). Although noting that CHINs have not reached their full potential because of shortcomings in strategic planning and the setting of unrealistic goals, the author argues that CHINs can support community quality review, community enterprise marketing, and community health education. She presents guidelines for developing effective community health systems, and offers hypothetical case studies that illustrate both the strengths of existing systems and obstacles that can impede progress.

The New Rules of Healthcare Marketing: 23 Strategies for Success

Arthur C. Sturm Jr., Health Administration Press, Chicago, 1998, 130 pp., \$26 (paperback)

Written with the manager in mind, this book presents 23 marketing concepts, or "rules," in as many chapters. Swiftly covering the basics, the author explains the role marketing plays in the current

healthcare environment and how marketing can help drive mission and strategies. The short chapters provide practical approaches to executing a successful marketing strategy, creating a brand identity, indentifying new sources of revenue, and increasing loyalty among core customers. Examples from companies such as Nabisco, Federal Express, and Procter & Gamble illustrate the marketing points.

On Moral Medicine: Theological Perspectives in Medical Ethics, 2d Edition

Stephen E. Lammers and Allen Verhey, eds., William B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., Grand Rapids, MI, 1998, 1,004 pp., \$49 (paperback)

This comprehensive anthology of writings on medical ethics from a theological point of view includes contemporary and classical essays, excerpts, and poetry. Divided into three parts, the collection covers perspectives on religion and medicine, such as the relation between

next ISSUE

LEADERSHIP FOR THE NEXT MILLENNIUM

A special section in the November-December issue examines the qualities executives and other managers need to effectively handle healthcare sponsorship, legal and ethical issues, and personal challenges.

Don't miss these articles:

- *Brian O'Toole on a practical approach to resolving ethical problems in leadership*
- *John O'Donohue on leaders' spirituality*
- *Andrea Y. Coleman on "legacy leadership"*
- *Jack Glaser on leadership selection for the Catholic health ministry*

MINISTRY IN THE MARKETPLACE

Rev. Bryan Hehir, in an article adapted from his address to the 83rd Catholic Health Assembly, looks at whether the market is a necessary evil or an opportunity for good.

SERVING THE COMMUNITY

Community Networks, a feature in each issue, details collaboration between Catholic Charities and Catholic health-care organizations. And Arlene Swanson describes a medical center's unique partnership with five Boise Catholic schools.

through art, poetry, and music.

Educators A. Boykin and M. Parker stress that spirituality becomes actual in nursing through the caring called forth in the profession. Spirituality for them is a way of being and living, a way of *knowing* (p. 22). Education in caring, then, has ingredients: an aesthetic kind of knowing that leads to the full realization of connectedness, the patience for alternating rhythms, humility in the face of what one has been given, courage, hope, and honesty. For these two authors, "caring becomes the moral basis for relating" (pp. 25-26).

Physician N. Cannon insists that true health involves reconciliation and personal harmony in addition to alleviation of suf-

fering (p. 38). Therapist M. Dombeck points to pathways to healing: an awakening, hospitality to new learnings, and commitment, specifically to practical activities of healing (pp. 61-62). Professor K. Ericksson insists that a professional nurse should be able to recognize and meet the patient's spiritual needs, whatever the nurse's own personal attitude to spirituality and religion might be (p. 71). This particular chapter was most powerful in its implications for a sound credible lay spirituality. As a woman active in the European healthcare arena, Ericksson speaks without flinching of "variations of human communion" and the bond of "caring communion" (pp. 79-80). Nurse-educators K. Gramling and C. Picard make a strong case in their chapters for careful attention to the aesthetic and emotional in fostering a spirituality of care. The most sensitive "nerve" of the care question is touched by M. Leininger in her chapter, "Transcultural Spirituality: A Comparative Care and Health Focus." Although it was once shunted aside, the diversity of cultural background and religious commitment is now a key focus for the effective care of the future. The greatest challenge for healthcare looms in this area. Educators M. P. McCarthy, M. Ray, S. Sethi, and G. Sherwood issue the call for the deepening of the spirituality of caregivers themselves, and, finally, C. McCulloch gives us remarkable insight into how spirituality when addressed directly is key to the well-being of older persons.

Theologically sound and pastorally sensitive, this book is a veritable feast and a fine addition to the caregiver's personal library. It will also serve as an excellent discussion text for a variety of persons in healthcare or pastoral care. Practical, innovative, hopeful, and energizing, this work sets the pace for fine writing about caregiving.

*Sr. Carla Mae Streeter, OP
Teacher, Systematic Theology and
Spirituality
Aquinas Institute of Theology
St. Louis*

religion and medicine; religious and medical concepts, such as life and its sanctity and nature and its mastery; and specific issues in medical ethics, such as contraception, genetic control, euthanasia, and allocation. The second edition adds selections on new developments in healthcare, including treatment of patients with AIDS and the role of nurses in healthcare.

BOOKS RECEIVED

Healthcare Strategic Planning: Approaches for the 21st Century, Alan M. Zuckerman, Health Administration Press, Chicago, 1998

The Inside Guide to America's Nursing Homes, 1998-99 ed., Robert N. Bua, Warner Books, New York City, 1997

Making the Moments Count: Leisure Activities for Caregiving Relationships, Joanne Ardolf Decker, Johns Hopkins University Press, Baltimore, 1997