

Prayer

S E R V I C E



DISCIPLESHIP FOR MISSION

*"A hand moves, and the fire's whirling takes different shapes...
all things change when we do."*

Kukei, an eighth-century Zen master

CALL TO PRAYER

- LEADER O God, your love ignites our hearts, captures our imaginations, shapes our dreams, and awakens possibilities.
- ALL Make us disciples on fire with your love that we may bring good news to the afflicted, liberty to captives, sight to the blind, and freedom to the oppressed. Help us, God, to enkindle in others a sense of hope that transformation is possible. Amen.

READING

Mission, in the sense of foundation or origin of the ministry, is a broad concept. It refers to the MISSION of the Church, which is realized in part through the healing ministry. The Church is called to be God's healing and reconciling presence in the world—to continue Christ's healing MISSION by serving the sick, the suffering, and the dying. The Church is also called to influence the social conditions that contribute to illness and suffering. This fact—that the mission for the organization comes ultimately from the MISSION of Jesus and the Church's ministry—provides meaning and a special energy to Catholic healthcare.

Mission-Driven Market Strategies: Lessons from the Field, The Catholic Health Association of the United States, St. Louis, 1998.

RESPONSE

(alternate sides)

When the heart is on fire, light comes from within. With the eyes of an enlightened heart we can see the hope to which we are called. By responding to the call to work in Catholic health ministry, we proclaim that the quest to be a radical healing presence for God is the fire of our lives.

The path to seeing with the eyes of the heart is discovered in the journey of discipleship. It is not an easy journey. It is an ongoing effort to live the gospel with integrity—trying, sometimes succeeding, often failing, recognizing the need for forgiveness and then trying again.

Discipleship is a way of being in the world that affects every relationship. Disciples shape one another according to the action of the Spirit in their lives. The energy of the disciples flows from faith in what is unseen yet believed. At its very core, discipleship is a call to a love so radical that it never gives up on God, one's neighbor, or one's self.

Disciples are called to love well, as Jesus did, with hope, truth, fidelity and compassion. This leads inevitably to taking a stand with the Christ of the paschal mystery who willingly laid down his life in love so that all may have life in abundance.

- ALL O God, one of the best things we can do for ourselves, our organizations, and your people is to become fire. Kindle our hearts as we prepare to step into the next century. May each of us and all of us together carry with us the healing, transforming, and liberating gift of an inflamed heart.

Sr. Anne Munley, IHM, 1997 LCWR Presidential Address, Rochester, NY

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CONTINUED



QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

What things in the organization help to kindle my fire for mission?

What nurtures my call to discipleship?

BLESSING PRAYER

May God the Father who made us bless us.
May God the Son send his healing among us.
May God the Holy Spirit move within us and give us
eyes to see with, ears to hear with and
hands that your work might be done.
May we walk and preach the word of God to all.
May the angel of peace watch over us and lead us at last
by God's grace to the Kingdom.

St. Dominic

SUGGESTED MUSIC

"I Am for You" and "Mission Song," by Rory Cooney, GIA Publications, Chicago, 1993.

"Be Light for Our Eyes," by David Haas, GIA Publications, Chicago, 1985.

"We Are Called," by David Haas, GIA Publications, Chicago, 1988.

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This prayer service focuses on discipleship for mission. You may use this service at meetings or on any occasion when you wish to take a moment to reflect on the mission of Jesus. Feel free to adapt the service to suit your own needs.



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"SPIRIT CARE"

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comes being shown either through the simple accomplishment of measurable objectives or, in a more sophisticated manner, through development-specific indicators, control groups, or other methods. A consultant is currently working with local teams to produce tools to measure outcomes.

Caregivers The most important role in Spirit Care is that of the hands-on caregiver. All caregivers are encouraged to develop a profound respect for other people, their cultures, and their life experiences. DCNHS employees are learning to listen to both patients and coworkers for such spiritual symptoms as fears, yearnings for connectedness, and requests for help in managing their lives. Awareness of such needs is the key to delivering spiritual healthcare.

Managers DCNHS advises its managers to focus on meaning, values, and purpose in their dealings with those they supervise. The Spirit Care process encourages managers to respect employees and their experiences, listen for their sense of purpose and mission, share with them the institution's vision, positively reinforce their efforts, build trust, and engender a sense of hope and creativity.

GROWTH AND MATURITY

Spirit Care is still in its infancy. Different DCNHS facilities are at different stages in implementing the entire process. System leaders expect full implementation to take from three to five years. One obstacle is the lack of time leaders have to mobilize and energize all those involved in the process. In addition, DCNHS is itself reorganizing, and its leaders are studying Spirit Care to ascertain how it can best be packaged to meet needs within the system's new structure.

Despite this, Spirit Care has already received strong backing from the management and staff of the system's member facilities, and other Catholic health-care systems and institutions have expressed interest in the process. □

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