SPIRITUALITY AND HEALTH CARE: A RESPONSE TO CHALLENGES IN HEALTH CARE TODAY

MARGARET MCCAHILL, M.D., MTS, OFS

Even before the coronavirus pandemic, health care in the United States has been changing at an ever-accelerating rate, and the demands on health care providers have greatly increased. The toll exacted may include symptoms of anxiety, exhaustion, concerns about exposing our family members to a serious viral infection, symptoms of “burnout,” and lower professional and life satisfaction, among other symptoms. With rapid changes in health care systems, and the strain on all health care providers in the pandemic era, there is risk that the humanity, the spirituality, and the very essence of the vocation of health care may be getting lost in the emphasis on data, outcomes, and productivity. Everyone who serves in health care is now challenged to nurture and maintain the resilience and courage required to continue in their vocation in this time.

This course will meet on three Saturdays in October, exploring where and how attention to spirituality fits into our health care systems, and how we can appropriately nurture this essential human element for our patients, and for ourselves. Health care providers of all disciplines are invited to attend, as well as health care professions’ students, those who provide spiritual care and ministry in health care settings and those who serve in administration and mission leadership in health care settings.

OCT. 17  Spirituality in the health care setting and its place in the care of patients

OCT. 24 Present and discuss examples of the responses of several spiritual traditions to our challenges in health care today

OCT. 31 Spiritual care and well being of the health care provider

Sessions will be held online via Zoom from 8:30 AM to 12:00 PM Pacific Time.

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Dr. McCahill is Board Certified in both Family Medicine and Psychiatry; she practiced both specialties simultaneously for over 20 years as a full-time faculty member at UCSD School of Medicine, where she taught health care trainees in multiple disciplines in both classroom and clinical settings. Her clinical practice has emphasized health care for those with limited access to care; those who are homeless and/or living in poverty, and for this work she was awarded the Medical Board of California’s “Physician Humanitarian Award” in 2008. She has taught classes on the importance of spirituality in health care for students at the University of San Diego as well as at UCSD School of Medicine. Dr. McCahill is a member of the Secular Franciscan Order, and she is a 2016 graduate of the Franciscan School of Theology.