A few months ago my wife Theresa and I had the wonderful experience of being present at the death of a good friend, a friend whose family we had become close to over the years. Joe and Jackie had moved into an in-law apartment with their daughter Joyce and her family when Joe’s health started to decline. Joe passed away 2 ½ years ago and Jackie was suffering with severe arthritis and was in extreme pain. Joyce and her family were wonderful at taking care of her parents. Joe and Jackie raised Joyce to be strong in her faith and she in turn is raising her children the same way. As it got closer to her death, a decision was made to let Jackie die at home and Hospice was called in. Terri and I had been visiting the family on a regular basis and we told Joyce to call us at anytime if she needed anything. During the last week of Jackie’s earthly life there were many times that everyone thought it was the end, but she stayed here with us. Jackie had a devotion to Mary and always put roses at her feet (pink was her favorite color). Terri went out and bought her some pink roses and brought them to the house for Jackie to take to Mary. We sat with the family for a while and prayed. Terri gently stroked Jackie and her breathing started to slow. As Jackie’s breathing slowed we knew we were near the end, so we called all of the family together. As Jackie was taking her last breath, two of her daughters, Joyce and Janice, and Terri started to pray the Hail Mary because of Jackie’s strong devotion to Mary. They prayed the Hail Mary three times. As I sat at the back of the room, I saw three women praying the Hail Mary three times. As I cleared the tears from my eyes, I saw the Holy Trinity come alive in front of

my eyes in those three women as they prayed. It was truly a gift for me to be present in this most intimate time of their life. I am sure you have all had the same type of experience. The family was so thankful for our presence but the gift that we received was priceless. That gift is the Love of Christ, a gift that is given to all of us. Thank you for helping those who are suffering to see the Love of Christ.

Annual Gathering for Chaplains

September 24, 2009

3:00—7:00 PM

Caritas St. Elizabeth’s Medical Center

“The Healing Ministry of Jesus”

Speaker: Nina Pension, Scripture teacher

(A letter of invitation will be mailed in the near future.)
Transitions

Katharine “Kate” Gerne has accepted the new position at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center. Kate is in the process of certification with NACC. She has worked as a Hospice Chaplain and per diem for Massachusetts General Hospital. Join us in welcoming Kate on board.

Sister Carlotta Gilarde, CSJ is leaving Children's Hospital after many years of dedicated ministry. Join us in thanking her for her devoted service to our young sisters and brothers, their families and hospital staff and wishing her well on her retirement.

Sr. Mary Reardon, SND has left her part-time position at Milton Hospital and is working full time as Assistant Director of the Office of the Permanent Diaconate. Join us in thanking Sister Mary for her wonderful assistance to Ginny Allen, Coordinator of Catholic Pastoral Services at Milton Hospital.

Save the Dates

Fall Retreat for Chaplains
October 21, 2009
9:00 AM—3:00 PM
Eastern Point Retreat House
Gloucester, MA
Presenter: Sr. Clare Walsh, MHSH

(People are able to stay overnight on the evening of the retreat for $110. This includes meals but people must leave by 9:30 AM on Thursday to accommodate another retreat coming in. If a person desires to sleep overnight, we must have that information no later than Sept. 7.)

NACC Regional Meeting
October 17, 2009
Pastoral Center, Braintree
Speaker: Rev. Peter Fink, SJ

Mass of Hope and Healing-North Region
October 18, 2009
2:00 PM
Blessed Sacrament, Saugus

Collaborative Chaplains Meeting
Nov. 5, 2009
12:00 noon to 3:00 PM
Archdiocesan Pastoral Center

The 2009 Annual Gathering
September 24, 2009

Excellence in Pastoral Care Awards

It is never too early to be thinking of a person to nominate for an Excellence in Pastoral Care award for the September 24 Annual Gathering.

Please send your nomination for this award along with a paragraph or two explaining the reason for your nomination to Deacon Jim Greer by e-mail at: Deacon-James_Greer@rcab.org or mail it to Jim at Health Care Ministry, 66 Brooks Drive, Braintree, MA 02184
Available Positions

Chaplain
Children’s Hospital, Boston
40 hours - Rotating Sundays
(2 positions: one English-speaking, one Spanish-speaking)

Position Summary

- The Chaplain provides direct pastoral care to patients, families and staff of diverse religious affiliations and traditions and serves as primary chaplain for designated patient population(s).
- Conducts spiritual assessments and develops pastoral care plans for assigned patients.
- Provides pastoral counseling, spiritual direction, crisis intervention and other related services; performs religious rites, sacraments and celebrations and conducts worship services within the hospital.
- Works with multidisciplinary health care team and other chaplains within the hospital and the community to plan and provide pastoral services for patients and families.

Requirements:

- Current certification (or eligibility) as a chaplain by the Association of Professional Chaplains, National Association of Jewish Chaplains or National Association of Catholic Chaplains.
- In the case of clergy, evidence of current standing, endorsement or faculties for ministry by the appropriate denominational authority.
- Oral and written fluency in English and Spanish preferred.

Applicants will be expected to submit two current verbatims along with resume.

Contact: Rev. Mary Robinson: 617-355-4635
mary.robinson@children.harvard.edu

Retreats

October 16, 2009 - 9:00 AM to 3:30 PM. There is a Bridge - A special morning of prayer for people directly relating with anyone who is living with Alzheimer’s and other forms of dementia. Scott Ciosek, Bereavement Coordinator.

October 3, 2009 - 9:00 AM to 3:30 PM Boundaries in Ministry Maureen Casey, SND, Joan McCarthy, CSJ

October 21, 2009 - 10:00 AM to 2 P.M. Spiritual Companioning: Holy Listening - Nan Bouché, Judy LoGerfo, Joan M. McCarthy, CSJ, Judith Talvacchia

January 21, 2010 - 9:00 AM to 3:30 PM My Healing Presence for Others - Rev. Lenny Tighe

All of the above retreats will be held at the St. Joseph Retreat Center in Cohasset. Information: 781-383-6024/6029. www.csjretreatcenter.org

Educational Opportunities for Eucharistic Ministers and Pastoral Visitors

Pastoral Care to the Sick and Homebound Workshop

St. Mary Parish, Hull
Wednesdays, Sept. 23 to Oct. 28, 2009
7:00 -9:00 PM
Co-Instructors: Ginny Allen, Sr. Paula Tinlin

Sacred Heart, Lexington
Tuesdays, Oct. 6 to Nov. 10, 2009
10:00 AM to Noon
Instructor: Kelly Dunn

Saint Bridget, Lexington
Wednesdays, March 3rd to April 14th, 2010
(No class on Mar 31st)
7:00-9:00 PM
Instructor: Kelly Dunn
Mt. Auburn Hospital celebrates the 50th Ordination Anniversary of Fr. Harold Lawson, Priest Chaplain. Congratulations Fr. Harry!

(Pictured from left to right: Mt. Auburn Hospital Director of Pastoral Care, Rev. Beth Loomis, Mary Harrison, Coordinator of Catholic Pastoral Services, Rev. Nancy Reed, Fr. Harold Lawson, and *Mrs. Dorothy Williams, Supervisor of Telecommunications at MAH and a lifetime member of the advisory board at First Church Baptist on Commonwealth Ave. in Boston. (*Mrs. Williams is the person who first agreed to give office space to a Catholic Chaplain on the telecommunications floor and continues to support our ministry!)

After a beautiful Mass there was a reception including delicious food and a champagne toast, and best of all, Fr. Harry treated us to some of his "famous jazz piano." Needless to say, Fr. Harry is much beloved by patients and staff at Mount Auburn. The photo was published in the Mount Auburn Hospital weekly Newsletter.

- Mary Harrison

Pastoral Care Week for 2009
October 25-31, 2009

"PASTORAL CARE: Supportive Presence"

Pastoral Care Week gives opportunities for organizations and institutions of all kinds and types to recognize the spiritual caregivers in their midst and the ministry which the caregivers provide.

For more information e-mail the Pastoral Care Week Chair person, Chaplain Calvin Runnels, at: crunnels@wfubmc.edu.

Peer Consultation Groups

Peer consultation groups are a semi-structured form of professional peer support. They offer chaplains an opportunity to meet once a month with a group of colleagues to give and receive support; to discuss patient cases and other topics of particular concern of interest.

Caritas Holy Family Medical Center, Methuen
Facilitator: Sr. Claudia Blanchette, SND, PhD, Certified ACPE and NACC CPE Supervisor

Beginning Monday, September 14—4:00—6:00 PM.
The participants will schedule the following meetings at their first meeting.

Caritas St. Elizabeth Medical Center, Brighton
Facilitator: Edna Lezotte, LICSW, D. Min. in Pastoral Psychology, certified Chaplain, Pastoral Counselor

Beginning Tuesday, September 29—4:30—6:30 PM.
Day of the week to be determined by group.

Edna is willing to facilitate a support group in other locations within the diocese. Interested persons may call 617-746-5843.
Bishop Francis X. Irwin
&
The Office of Health Care Ministry
Cordially Invite You to a

Mass of Hope and Healing
For those Who Are Sick and Infirm,
Their Loved Ones, Caregivers,
And All Who Seek Healing

Sunday, October 18, 2009
2:00 PM
Blessed Sacrament Parish, Saugus

All Are Welcome—Please Join Us!
Service will include the Sacrament of the Sick

For information, call:
Health Care Ministry—617-746-5843