**Pastoral Care Ministry to Hospitals**

* Bringing the Eucharistic Meal, from the faith community to patients at hospitals and join them in prayer.
* Nurturing the spirit and keeping it healthy during this time together.
* Sharing with and relating how the faith community has them in their thoughts with discussion.
* Pastoral Care is the ministry of spiritual care. The main focus is on the nurturing of each person’s spirit.

The pastoral care hospital minister will be assigned one day during the week to bring Holy Communion to the patients.

The minister will retrieve the consecrated hosts from the tabernacle after the 9 am Mass during the week. The Pyx which is used to transport the hosts can be placed on the altar before the 9 am Mass. Leave a note with the pyx on the altar with the amount of hosts required. The pyx should be in the burse and put around the neck to transport it to the hospital. Jesus is being brought from your heart to the people who you serve.

Ministers are provided with a blue book labeled Catholic Patients. It is located behind the receptionist’s computer at CMC Mercy Hospital.

Pastoral Care Ministers should dress properly such that your appearance is not a distraction. It simply means that clothing is neat, clean and modest.

A weekly report should be sent to the Pastoral Care Hospital Coordinator. If you cannot serve on your assigned day, you need to keep the coordinator advised in a timely fashion.

Before visiting patients in the hospital, the minister should pray the following:

*“God of compassion, fill me with the power of your word and the love of your Holy Spirit as I visit your sons and daughters. Help me so that I may worthily and gracefully share your sacred presence with those who await your coming to them.”*