

Name: Blessing for Nurses – Nurses Week

Purpose: To provide a special blessing for nurses to celebrate them for nurses week.

Intended Participants: Nurses

Description: Chaplains went to the nursing units several years to share a short blessing service with nurses. Even though it was hard to gather the nurses together, the effort was greatly appreciated. It is too difficult to get nurses to come to chapel, so we went to them. We have also read blessings over the speaker system on the units at their request.

We have done similar services and blessings of staff during Pastoral Care Week.

We also make cards with blessings up to give to employees.

Models of Rituals

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Name of Ritual: Anointing of Hands within each nursing unit/department
Anointing of Hands in a paraliturgical service

Purpose (Celebration, etc.) To strengthen and encourage staff in the midst of their work

Intended Participants: Chaplains and all staff who want to take part in this

Description (Please Attach Copy) two copies attached- one for within each dept/unit
other for a communal paraliturgical service

Please use a separate sheet for each ritual and e-mail
(ajones@che.org) or fax to Addie Jones at 610-355-2050 by
Friday, April 2.

If done within each nursing unit or within each department-

For World Day of Prayer for the Sick- 2003- we went around to each nursing unit and each department and with oil, we bless the hands of all staff who wanted to take part in this ritual- We said the following prayer (or something similar)-

" _____(name of each staff person), just as this oil can be a reminder to you of healing and strengthening, we ask God to heal you and strengthen you as you care for your patients (or perform your job for the good of our patients and family members present here), this day (evening or night). May you be an instrument of God's healing power and strength and may God bless you for your efforts this day (evening or night). Amen. "

If done as a communal paraliturgical service for World Day of Prayer for the Sick or for Mercy Day, the following may be used:

Opening Song- "Lay your hands" by Carey Landry

Opening Prayer-(said by one of the chaplains) " As we gather together this morning, let us pray not only for all of our patients who are present in this facility this day, but for each of our staff who care for our patients or contribute to the care of our patients through the work they do. And for those who cannot be with us this day, we offer our prayers."

First Reading: (Matthew 8: 5-8, 10, 13)

When he entered Capernaum, a centurion approached him and appealed to him, saying, "Lord, my servant is lying at home paralyzed, suffering dreadfully." He said to him, "I will come and cure him." The centurion said in reply, "Lord, I am not worthy to have you enter under my roof; only say the word and my servant will be healed. When Jesus heard this, he was amazed and said to those following him, "Amen, I say to you, in no one in Israel have I found such faith." And Jesus said to the centurion, " You may go; as you have believed, let it be done for you". And at that very hour his servant was healed.

All respond:

Blessed be the Lord, who has heard the sound of my pleading; the Lord is my strength and my shield, in whom my heart trusted and found help. So my heart rejoices; with my song, I praise my God. (Psalm 28: 6-7)

Second Reading:

If anyone among you is suffering? He should pray. Is anyone in good spirits? He should sing praise. Is anyone among you sick? He should summon the presbyters of the church, and they should pray over him and anoint him with oil in the name of the Lord, and the prayer of faith will save (and strengthen) that person, and the Lord will raise him up. If he has committed any sins, he will be forgiven. (letter of James- ch. 5, vs: 13-16)

Music playing -"He has anointed me"- (from the Dameans- Balhoff, Daigle, and Ducote)

One of the chaplains says: At this time, we would like to invite anyone who would like to have their hands anointed to come up to one of the chaplains and that chaplain will say a prayer and bless your hands.

During the music, the chaplains are stationed at various locations, and say the following prayer (or something similar) : " _____ (say person's name) Just as this oil can be a reminder to you of healing and strengthening, we ask God to heal you and strengthen you as you care for your patients this day/evening/night. May you be an instrument of God's healing power and strength and may God bless you for your efforts this day/evening/night. Amen."

Prayers of the Faithful-

Leader: Let us ask God to hear our petitions not only for our sick, but for all of our staff and for all of us gathered here this day. Please respond,'Lord hear our prayer'.

For comfort, love and mercy for all those in pain, for this we pray_____

For strength for our bodies and our minds, for this we pray_____

For the power of God's presence and love to be made known to all of our sick and to all of our staff, for this we pray_____

For strength for all those who care for the sick, for this we pray_____

For the courage to carry out our individual responsibilities to the sick, for this we pray_____

If anyone else who would like to add their own intentions, please feel free to do so at this time:

Leader- So let us take a moment and pray together in the words that Jesus gave us- (everyone prays the Lord's Prayer together)

Leader- Let us go forth now and remember that God will be with us and strengthen us in our care of the sick. Amen.

Play closing hymn- "Be Not Afraid" from the St. Louis Jesuits, from 'Earthen Vessels'

The above service is based on the book 'Let's Celebrate Together'.