



"The journey to where?"
by Michele Angelo Petrone

To feel compassion is to
"suffer with another person".
Empathy is the heart of our care.

What is Spiritual Care?

Spiritual Care is a service offered by Chaplains at Hamilton Health Sciences.

Chaplains are part of the health care team. They serve those of any faith and those of no particular faith. Chaplains are respectful of different cultural traditions and religious backgrounds.

Chaplains help people with the spiritual, emotional and social aspects of a hospital admission. These may include:

- despair
- fear
- grief
- life changing events
- loneliness
- loss of meaning, purpose or worth
- stress and anxiety

A Chaplain listens to you while you are in hospital and helps you to cope with your situation.

When should I seek out a Chaplain?

Call to see a Chaplain when you need someone to listen to the struggles you and/or a loved one may be going through.

You may be feeling significant physical pain. You may also feel lost and confused and asking yourself:

Why has this happened?

What did I do to deserve this?

Will I ever function the same way again?

These are all good reasons to call a Chaplain.

Ask for a Chaplain when you need a listening ear, an open heart, some gentle counsel.

A Chaplain can help you explore some of these issues in a non-judgmental and open manner.

Family members may need support when a loved one is in the hospital. A Chaplain can provide this.

What other ways can a Chaplain help you?

A Chaplain can also:

- listen to your concerns in confidence
- offer support during a crisis
- bless, baptize and provide end of life rituals
- link with spiritual and religious leaders in the community
- offer counsel following the loss of a loved one
- ensure multi-faith and multi-cultural support
- pray or meditate with you
- help you reflect on your life's journey

You do not have to consider yourself spiritual or religious to receive the support of a Chaplain.

Chaplains will not force themselves or their beliefs upon you.

What training does a Chaplain need to work at Hamilton Health Sciences?

Chaplains at Hamilton Health Sciences have earned a Masters in Theology. Our Chaplains are professionals with supervised training from the Canadian Association of Pastoral Practice and Education.

Chaplains are trained to listen to the needs of the human heart.

Connections to the community

Chaplains can link you to spiritual and religious leaders within the community should they be needed.

How do I reach a Chaplain?

Chaplains provide care at each hospital site of Hamilton Health Sciences, Monday to Friday, 9:00 to 5:00 pm.

After hours support is available to patients and families who are in crisis. A Chaplain is on call evenings and weekends throughout Hamilton Health Sciences.

Chaplains can be reached through the HHS Paging Office.

From outside the hospital call 905-521-2100.

From inside the hospital call ext. 76443.

For more information, please visit our website at:
<http://www.hamiltonhealthsciences.ca/spiritualcare/>

About the artist ...

Michele Angelo Petrone



"The journey to where?"

Michele was a professional artist from London, England. Following Michele's diagnosis of Hodgkin's Disease in 1994, he painted and wrote "The Emotional Cancer Journey." The journey to where? is one piece of that collection. His work is widely used by health organizations and medical institutions in education, and continues to tour hospitals and public Centres.

In 2000 Michele co-founded the MAP Foundation (www.mapfoundation.org) to promote expression, education and understanding of the complex issues of serious illness.

Hamilton Health Sciences appreciates Michele's willingness to share this profound piece of art with us.