



SaskEthics

An Ethics Newsletter for Catholic Healthcare Organizations in Saskatchewan

Unconditional love is modeled in healthcare

Dear *SaskEthics* Readers,



This month, I will be presenting at the SHA's Ethics

Exchange, and I decided to indulge myself by picking a theory-based topic

(see below). In preparation, I gave a brief version of my presentation to my colleagues at the Joint Ethics Committee, where I gleefully focused on the Health Ethics Guide's description of the value of Justice: "Not only is justice not extraneous to charity, ... justice is inseparable from charity and intrinsic to it." I soon remembered that I was not presenting to a group of theologians when someone asked, "What do they mean by charity?"

Charity is at the heart of everything we are in Catholic healthcare, and yet when pressed for a definition, my mind faltered.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church defines "charity" as "the theological virtue by which we love God above all things for His own sake, and our neighbor as ourselves for the love of God." True as it may be, this definition doesn't exactly roll off the tongue. How can we find meaning in it for

anyone who isn't already steeped in Church language?

It occurs to me that part of the lack of clarity around charity stems from the way we use this word in English. When we think of charity, we are likely to think of registered charities, or giving someone something not because they deserve it, but because we are being exceptionally nice.

However, when the Church uses the word charity (which is often translated as 'love') it means something very different. Charity is not what I give because I am exceptional; it is what I give because all people are exceptional. When we talk about Justice being inseparable from Charity, it is because both stem from a fundamental belief that all human beings are children of God who are worthy of respect.

For example, consider a care team that has been working with a patient who is consistently angry with them. It must be tempting to think that this person has forfeited his right to healthcare. And yet the care team remains engaged with the man, offering him support and looking for ways to help him deal with the root of his anger. This team is demonstrating Charity in action.



St. Paul's Hospital



Catholic Health
Association of Saskatchewan

How does your team show your love for your patients/residents? Have you told your colleagues how much you appreciate the care they provide?

I will be away on maternity leave beginning in March and returning on August 29th, 2022. Please do not hesitate to reach out to Ethics Services during this time. My out of

office reply will guide you to my incredibly gifted colleagues on the SHA's ethics team.

Have a wonderful Spring and Summer!

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ETHICS EXCHANGE
Monthly Discussions of complex issues for SHA staff and clinicians

February 16, 2022
11:00 am - 12:00 pm

SPEAKER	TOPIC	LEARNING OBJECTIVES
Dr. Mary Heilman Ethicist, SHA and Catholic Health Association of Saskatchewan.	Principles and Values: Two Sides of the Same Coin	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Identify Beauchamp and Childress' four principles and the seven fundamental moral values of the Catholic Health Ethics Guide.• Compare and contrast the methods and approaches of these two ethical systems through the use of case studies.• Explore opportunities for ongoing dialogue among people who use these systems to frame ethical challenges.

WebEx Presentation:
[CLICK HERE TO JOIN](#)
Meeting number (access code): 2631 426 8660
Meeting password: pqJ6HmhKp82

If you have any questions regarding this Ethics Presentation,
please contact ethics@saskhealthauthority.ca

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