



SaskEthics

An Ethics Newsletter for Catholic Healthcare Organizations in Saskatchewan

Hospitality is the Heart of Healthcare

Dear *SaskEthics* Readers,



This October, the Saskatchewan Catholic

Healthcare family gathered in person for the first time since the pandemic

for the CHAS Annual Convention. This year's theme was "Hospitality" which has prompted me to spend a lot of time thinking about the ethics of hospitality.

As it turns out, other people are thinking about hospitality too. In fact, the Catholic Health Association of the United States of America has launched an Advent program centered on the theme of hospitality (available at <https://www.chausa.org/prayers/advent>). Coincidence? I think not.

Hospitality is at the core of Catholic healthcare. The words "hospital" and "hospitality" have the same root precisely because the first hospitals were places that welcomed weary travelers and provided them with a hot meal and a bed to help them regain their strength. This practice of welcoming the stranger was embraced by monasteries, and later guided the work

of our founding sisters who set up hospitals and long term care homes across the province.

At the CHAS convention, I presented a workshop on "The Ethics of Hospitality" where I asked participants to brainstorm some of the ways that they prepare for guests. Whether they were putting clean sheets on the bed, pulling out a casserole or clearing their schedules for the weekend, all the preparations came down to 3 key needs that hosts hope to meet for their guests: shelter, food and relationships.

Hospitality remains foundational to healthcare because it is only when people feel secure and nourished that they can enter into the relationships necessary for healing. As the hosts of healthcare, it is our job to remove any barriers that might get in the way of that process.

For example, consider the barriers that are faced by someone who does not speak English when they first enter a hospital. What can we do to help them feel welcome? Perhaps we need to ensure our signs are in multiple languages and/or depict pictures of the places a person may try to access, or perhaps we need to place a greeter at our door. We may also want to



St. Paul's Hospital



Catholic Health
Association of Saskatchewan

offer them a quick tour to ensure they know where they can access washrooms and drinking water, or provide them with the information needed to ask for a translator.

Is your hospital or care home a welcoming place? How do care for your teammates to ensure they feel welcome at work? How do you as a team extend that same sense of welcome to those in your care?

If you would like to learn more about the ethics of hospitality, please visit this link to view my presentation for the SHA's November Ethics Exchange:
<https://www.stpaulshospital.org/news/nov-2022-ethics-exchange>

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The Catholic Health Association of Saskatchewan's

♥ Front Line Love Basket ♥



So far the Basket has been to St. Joseph's Hospital/Foyer d'Youville in Gravelbourg and Santa Maria in Regina.

The Basket offers a token of appreciation to front line workers for the care they provide every day. Funky socks are this season's must have item.

If you have anything you would like to add to the basket, let Mary know at mary@chassk.ca or 306-655-5197.

Next stop:
Villa Pascal in North Battleford!