



HOSPITAL MINISTRY

Most Thursday mornings, two representatives from Saint Rose of Lima meet at St. John's Hospital's Volunteer Office to prepare to offer Holy Communion to patients. One of us has picked up two pyxes and burses from our Adoration Chapel. We proceed to the Spiritual Care office where two identical lists have been prepared with the names of about 30 to 45 Catholic patients. The lists are divided, we pray with each other, and then attempt to visit each of persons whether they are in ICU, maternity or regular rooms. Sometimes we are not able to go into a room for medical reasons. Everyone we visit and the lists we see are strictly confidential.

It is such a privilege and blessing for us to perform this ministry. So many of the patients are so grateful to be able to receive the Eucharist and there are tears in their eyes. Sometimes, patients want to share a bit about themselves and for others it is a struggle just to receive because they truly don't feel good. We offer a Spiritual Communion prayer to those that are not able to have anything by mouth and offer patients the option of a prayer if they want neither. We have been blessed to see new babies, our own parishioners, people we have worked with, and even prayed with a family as the patient was actively dying. Sometimes we even hear fun stories about St. Rose or an affiliation a patient had with our parish or school years ago.

Though this is an outreach ministry, our own spiritual lives are enriched. We witness the love of the Eucharist by patients, the power of prayer and the absolute need sick people have for spiritual healing. Presently, there are 8 of us that participate in this Communion Ministry and we each go approximately once a month. We are all Virtus trained plus we receive training from M Heath Fairview – St. John's. If you are interested in this ministry, please contact Mary Cay Pepin at 651-246-2756 or Brian Hindt at 651-645-9389.