



Catholic Healthcare West

Ask the Expert

Arizona Republic

Q. I recently read an article about faith community nursing, and learned that Catholic Healthcare West extends this service to the community. Would you explain this concept?

A: According to the American Nurses Association, faith community nursing reflects current faith community nursing practice from a national perspective, the professional and ethical standards of the nursing profession, and the legal scope and standards of professional nursing practice. This practice transcends traditional care models and transforms ministry and service within faith communities and health care systems. Essentially, this model of care moves beyond the traditional practice to whole person modes of caring, affirming that individual and community well-being could only happen when the physical, mental and spiritual components are interrelated.

The faith community nurses are prepared to work with faith community leadership to redefine integrative concepts of faith, health and wholeness and assist in the reclaiming of the role of the faith center as a healing center within the broader community. Catholic Healthcare West (CHW)'s Chandler Regional and Mercy Gilbert Medical Centers have intentionally claimed their role as a collaborative partner with the faith community to assist in the promotion of health and well-being. In collaboration, both CHW and the local faith community lift the standards of health, hope and healing.

Registered Nurses entering the specialty of faith community nursing are prepared through a basic course which focuses on integrating faith and spiritual care within the scope of wholistic healing. They are bonded across the country with thousands of faith community nurses, whether serving in the urban, rural or desert communities encompassing the affluent, the poor, the disenfranchised and the uninsured. We also prepare the lay health ministers through CHW's Congregational Health Ministry Training program, which will be offered September 18th -19th, and October 9th - 10th at the Mercy Gilbert Medical Plaza.

CHW will also host a retreat – Our Mission of Caring Compassionately – for registered nurses throughout the community with contact education hours available. The next two sessions are scheduled for September 16th and October 22nd, in the Mercy Gilbert Medical Plaza. Topics covered will include Spirituality, Essential for Compassionate Care; How Do I Integrate My Spirituality with Care-Giving; Together, Are We Compassionate Caregivers; and Embracing the Vision and Mission of Radical Loving Care.

For more information about these sessions, please call 480.728.7492.



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