

Pre-Plenary Workshops for 2011

Sunday, March 27

9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. **“A Health Profession Identity for Chaplains in Health Care?”
by Fr. Henry Heffernan**

Reviewing the literature, defining the problems and issues, identifying the options and opportunities, and operationalizing the rationales. For several decades the chaplains associations in North America and abroad have sought for health care chaplains to be recognized as “health professionals.” This goal has not been achieved in any pragmatic or official way that would make a difference with respect to employment and job security. This workshop session will address this problem as fully as the attendees want to explore it

10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. **“Homosexuality in the Bible” by Jim Beaseley**

Because of conflicting theological viewpoints on homosexuality, it may be hard to hear gay women and men talk about their needs in a clinical setting. As difficult as it often is for gay folk to “come out” to straight family and friends or to themselves, it may be as difficult for straight people to hear that statement of reality.

Most chaplains, through their CPE training have developed the skills to attend to the gay person even if their own theology disapproves. But is that enough? The presenter says, “I hope to offer information to help the chaplain understand the very complex social and theological history of this subject.”

Workshop Objectives:

- To expand understanding of the scriptural history
- To help the individual get beyond “conversion”
- To understand a broader social context

11:00 a.m. – Noon **“A Health Profession Identity for Chaplains in Health Care?”
by Fr. Henry Heffernan**

(See 9:00 a.m. workshop description, above.)

Noon – 1:00 p.m. ***Lunch on your own***

1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. **“Chapter Life Workshop” by Perry Miller**

2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. **“Consultations on Building New Pastoral Care Paradigms”
by Al Henager**

New venues for delivering pastoral care exist all around us. Yet, chaplains are doing little to address pastoral care needs in non-traditional venues. I am in the process of building a pastoral care program to offer chaplain services in an unusual venue, a network of nursing homes and rehab facilities. This challenge has forced me to consider different paradigms for delivery of pastoral care. In this workshop, I will present my overview, including innovations and creative approaches. Then, I will open the floor for consultation. I invite others to also bring their work on new projects and programs to share ideas. This is similar to the small group process, but we will focus on building new programs and implementing new paradigms for delivery of pastoral care in unique settings.

Workshop Objectives:

- To explore new venues for the delivery of pastoral care
- To engage new methods of pastoral care delivery
- To consider new resources for building new paradigms