



The Christ Chaplain: The Way to a Deeper, More Effective Hospital Ministry

Andrew J Weaver

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Use centering prayer to deal with the demands of hospital ministry

The Christ Chaplain: The Way to a Deeper, More Effective Hospital Ministry is an instructive guidebook for health care chaplains who struggle with the high levels of stress that have become commonplace in modern medicine as they work longer hours for lower wages yet get to spend less time with patients. The final book from Father M. Basil (Robert) Pennington, who passed away in 2005, cuts to the real heart of the matter—job burnout—by emphasizing not what a chaplain does, but what a chaplain is. This unique book teaches chaplains how to achieve better spiritual health by practicing spiritual self-care through centering prayer.

The Christ Chaplain was written for hospital chaplains who find themselves at the limits of what they can do and what they can endure in living out their calling. Father Pennington ministers to the ministers, helping them to deepen their spiritual lives so they can better provide comfort to the sick and the dying. The book guides hospital chaplains through the Christian mystical tradition via lectio and centering prayer, a method of contemplative prayer rooted in silence that encourages a person to pay attention to God dwelling in the center of his or her being.

Topics discussed in The Christ Chaplain include:

- the sacred text
- lectio divina
- the third step
- life as a school of love
- the ministry of presence
- the power of sacrament
- sharing the word
- resting in the presence
- and much more

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