



Spirituality and Healthcare Practices: Integrating the “Forgotten Dimension.”

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“Orthodox’ view of nurturing spirituality”

[Abstract] Defining the content of health care chaplaincy may first appear simple. It is the spiritual care offered to the sick within an institutional framework. At second glance, one will quickly recognize that this generalization hides many differences and discrepancies. The basis of these differences is not as much organizational as in the way *spiritual care* is conceived. The determining factor in defining the meaning of this care is the way one understands the meaning of what is termed today as “spirituality”. This paper views how the Orthodox Christian Faith understands “spirituality” and how it differs from its post-modern meaning. Caution is raised concerning a “spirituality” that is independent of theology and its ecclesiological perspective, stating that nurturing during illness cannot be seen as a “individualistic” experience but as a ontological way of life within the realm of the whole. It focuses on nurturing within the context of a pastoral relationship, healing within context of the sacramental life of the Church and the identity of the pastor.

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