

## **Some Do's and Don'ts of Pastoral Care Visiting**

### **Don't**

Break confidentiality

Push your own beliefs, practices, devotions, etc.

Give false hopes

Assume the role of chaplain, priest, spiritual director, etc.

Pry into patient's conscience or personal life

Tell others about the patient you are visiting

Proselytize

Draw attention to your own spiritual life

Pretend to have the answers

Come across, think, or act as if you are superior spiritually to the patient

Visit against the patient or caregiver's wishes

Force patient/caregiver to talk or participate in prayers against their will

Contact local clergy (you may suggest this or do at the family's request or permission)

### **Do**

Listen compassionately

Pray for the patient and with the patient and family

Invite the patient and caregiver to add their prayers/petitions

Be a friend to the patient – a companion on his/her journey

Share your faith life with patient when appropriate

Converse with patient about his hopes/fears/anxieties

Read appropriate texts from Sacred Scripture

Invite family members/caregivers to share in the prayer time

Encourage when appropriate patient and family members to request visits from their clergy

Refer spiritual needs/difficulties/questions to chaplain with permission of patient

Admit that you don't know the answers to their questions when this is the case

Offer approved materials to patient and family members for prayer and spiritual reading

Share your knowledge about the Sacraments when appropriate

Help prepare the patient for reception of the Sacraments when appropriate

Fr. Michael Champagne, CJC  
Community of Jesus Crucified  
103 Railroad Avenue  
St. Martinville, LA 70582  
[www.jesuscrucified.net](http://www.jesuscrucified.net)