



Spiritual Care Notes: May 2019

More than 35 years after ending its run on primetime network television, I still enjoy watching reruns of the sitcom “M*A*S*H”. In the television syndication industry, “M*A*S*H” is known as an “evergreen”, meaning it never grows old and it’s always going to do well in TV markets of all sizes and locations. The snappy dialog and jokes give me many of the ideas for the humor I try to bring to everyone I come across in my everyday life. The Korean War of the 1950s was the setting for the program, and the acronym M*A*S*H stood for Mobile Army Surgical Hospital, where casualties were treated not far from the battle lines by doctors and surgeons, assisted most ably by a staff of nurses.

During the show’s third season, one episode has the nurses being evacuated due to a potential enemy attack on the compound. After the nurses leave, the surgeons realize how much they miss them – not only for their friendship and camaraderie, but also for the skilled work they do for both doctors and patients. When the threat of attack has gone, the nurses return. The surgical staff is overjoyed to have them back – and they seem to have found a new level of respect for the nurses.

National Nurses Week is May 6 through 12, followed by National Skilled Nursing Care Week May 12 through 18. Among the patron saints of the nursing profession, perhaps none is more inspiring than Saint Camillus. In his late teens and early 20s, Camillus was in and out of the hospital as both patient and servant. His dedication to his work led to him being named hospital superintendent. Despite the lifelong leg disease that first plagued him as a teen, he spent much of the rest of his life in service to the afflicted and infirm. According to Franciscan Media, even as he battled the disease near the end of his life, Camillus would leave his own hospital bed to care for other patients there. Selfless giving at its finest!

Every hour of the day, every day of the year here at Maristhill, it is the nursing staff that monitors the health of our residents and patients, caring for the sick and consoling the afflicted. We at Maristhill are blessed to have the dedicated and skilled nursing staff who provide round-the-clock care with compassion and grace. May God’s blessing be upon them this month, and always.

David Hutchings

Spiritual Care Associate/Chapel Minister