

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9

Chaplain Phil Pockras

Annual Report to Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery, RPCNA

February 15, 2024

10

Overview

11 In addition to serving as pastor at the Belle Center, OH, RPC, I serve as a volunteer
12 chaplain as part of the chaplain staff at the Mary Rutan Hospital, a regional hospital in
13 Bellefontaine, Ohio. Currently there are five men so serving.
14

15

Duties

16 As part of the volunteer hospital chaplain staff, I provide religious and other support for
17 all the hospital, not merely patients and families. This has been my primary responsibility. As
18 the longest serving ordained chaplain, I have recruited one other chaplain and have been
19 seeking to encourage the other chaplains to seek further education in their chaplain work. I
20 normally spend one week per month as the on-call chaplain. I must be available around the
21 clock beginning at 0000 on Sabbath until 2400 on the following Saturday. As well, I do rounds
22 from Monday through Friday to see patients who request a visit. I frequently visit with nursing
23 and other staff to see if they need my service.
24

25

Ministry Update

26 This last year I have continued to study medical and bioethics. I remain endorsed by the
27 Presbyterian and Reformed Chaplain Commission, and I am seeking ways to be able to take
28 units of Clinical Pastoral Education in order, eventually, to become board certified as a hospital
29 chaplain. The PRCC wants its chaplains to keep their ministry oversight judicatories aware of
30 their work, which is why I am submitting this report.
31

32

Blessings

33 My trip to Mary Rutan Hospital from home normally takes about 15 minutes. During that
34 time I am often praying that I will be a blessing to all with whom I meet. I frequently receive
35 blessing. In January, I was asked by a patient how to be right with God. I shared the gospel, of
36 course. This was entirely new and overwhelming to him. As far as I know he came to Christ.
37 Just this week, as I'm writing, I received a call from the hospital to come down, if I could, to visit
38 with a patient who wanted to talk. This elderly man wanted to share with me the blessings God
39 had given him in his 90+ years. My grade and high school French was yet useful, as I could
40 converse a little with him in French, although his English was great. The man had lived in
41 Algeria, in France, and in the USA. What obvious providential care his Father in Heaven had
42 extended to him!

43 The upshot of these stories is that often, as I'm walking over to my car, I'm praying
44 gratefully for the blessing, unasked-for, that our Father gave to me.
45

46

Challenges

47 The only challenges, currently, are certain limitations on my visitation with patients. I am
48 only allowed to visit patients when asked for. I misunderstood this early in my work and began
49 visiting with family members in waiting rooms and in other places. I was gently instructed not to
50 do this further.
51

52

Prayer Requests

53 Please pray with me that I would be a blessing to patients, families, staff, and even
54 administration and board. Pray that, through me, the Light of the world would shine forth!
55

50
51 Phil Pockras
52 Chaplain staff, Mary Rutan Hospital
53 Pastor, Belle Center, OH, RPC
54 (937) 844-8012 (text/call)
55 covvie@columbus.rr.com