

THE FAITH COMMUNITY NURSE (THE PARISH NURSE)

Role of the Faith Community Nurse

- Personal Health Counselor – Discusses health issues and problems with individuals; makes home, hospital and nursing home visits as needed.
- Health Educator - Seeks to educate and support individuals of all ages through a variety of educational activities with an emphasis on prevention and wellness. Promotes an understanding of the relationship between values, attitudes, lifestyle, faith and well-being.
- Health Advocate – Assures necessary services are obtained by supporting and encouraging the parishioners to make good choices, and speaking for them when they cannot speak for themselves.
- Referral Source – Acts as a liaison to other congregational resources and to community services.
- Facilitator - Recruits and coordinates volunteers with the congregation. Develops support groups.
- Interpreter of the Relationship Between Faith and Health – In all activities, seeks to promote an understanding of the relationship between values, beliefs, behaviors and well-being.

Faith Community Nurse does NOT:

- Perform any procedure that requires a physician's order, such as: "hand on" or invasive procedures; administer medications
- Perform tasks outside the independent functions of licensure
- Practice without an active license and adequate liability insurance
- Compete with any community health agency

Questions for a potential Faith Community Nurse to ponder:

- What attracts you to this role?
- What experience have you had in health education? Organizing programs? Individual counseling?
- How do you see your personal gifts as an asset to this role?
- What leadership experiences have you had in a faith community?
- How do you care for yourself and maintain health in your life?
- What life experiences do you think have prepared you for this role?
- Are you willing to make a long-term commitment?
- Are you being called to this ministry?

“Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?” And I said, “Here am I; Send Me!” -Isaiah 6:8