

Soul Connections

As a chaplain, when I see you with my eyes, because of my imperfections . . . I may see your skin tone with shades of black, brown, pink, white, yellow, or red.

When I hear you with my ears, because of my limitations . . . I may hear excuses, complaints, pessimism, hopelessness, and despair.

When I touch you with my hands, because of my fear of intimacy . . . I may feel coldness, rigidity, frailty, discomfort, and hostility.

But when I am able to integrate my soul and connect with the person that I see, hear, and touch, skin color no longer matters; I hear hope, love, joy, and reconciliation' and I feel the gentleness, warmth, and tranquility of a precious human being.

The work that I do as a chaplain touches my soul because it connects with the soul of the person that I am caring for. I believe that our soul is love, creative energy, and the essence of God. When I can maneuver around and through the grief, despair, and trepidation that patients, families, students, and staff are feeling and connect with their soul, that is when I most feel and experience God. My interactions and encounters with patients no longer are tasks; they transition and transform into spiritual bonds. Even when it is difficult to find words or an intervention to utilize because of the complexity of the event(s), my intentions as a loving, compassionate, and empathetic person resonate with those persons in my care.

Moreover, because of my work of a pastoral/spiritual care provider and the deep inter- and intrapersonal connection that I make with myself and patients, the divine-human connection causes me to learn, grow, and develop into a competent and loving spiritual care provider. Furthermore, the encounter provides me the opportunity for deeper reflection and conversation with God. Ironically, these encounters make me aware of who I am as a representative of God. I can proudly say that because of my relationship with God and my understanding that God is using me, I am a worthy representative of God's love. Connecting with God, my Soul, and the patient's Soul is the ultimate experience of humility.

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