Nursing and health care - using the Catholic mission to guide and inform practice

A/Prof Karen-leigh Edward 2013
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The team

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Catholic health care

Ministry of care

Employs over 35,000 people

Includes a philosophy, a presence of pastoral care, a public announcement of commitment to the Mission, a reflection of Mission throughout the organisation

Not for profit

Represents around 10% of Australian Healthcare sector
The healthcare workforce

80% of global health care workforce are nurses

The expanding role of nursing increases nursing contact with patients Iglehart, J. K. (2013).

Nurses are located in all health care including hospitals, aged care, community care, primary care, end of life care etc

Health care delivery promotes a concept of health as the interrelation of the mind, body and spirit

Our question - How do people from different and diverse (or non-existent) faith backgrounds working in Catholic Healthcare integrate the Catholic vision, mission and values espoused by the organisations?
The evidence gap

In recent nursing literature, there is a paucity related to providing care while affirming the Catholic Identity of a Catholic healthcare organisation regardless of the faith background of the nurse

There is no single articulated concept of nursing in this theme as a practice direction
Why a concept analysis?

- Concepts are the building blocks of theory
- Valid precursor to research
- Used to determine the existing evidence environment
Aim

To undertake a concept analysis to identify the characteristics, preconditions, outcomes and boundaries of providing care while affirming the Catholic Identity of a Catholic healthcare organisation regardless of the faith background of the nurse.
Objectives

Build on the knowledge of the integration of the Catholic Mission in nursing practice by;

(a) developing a concept definition,
(b) identifying characteristics, preconditions and outcomes (part of the thick description of the context of the concept) and boundaries (what is and what is not part of the concept) of the concept and
(c) evaluating the concept on indices of maturity as either ‘emerging’ or ‘mature’.
Method

Qualitative

Concept analysis

Comprehensive and systematic literature review

Expected outcomes

• provide a greater understanding of the conceptual basis of providing care while affirming the Catholic Identity of a Catholic healthcare organisation

• help to gain clarity, internal cohesion, external legitimacy, and integration of the Mission in Catholic health care
PRISMA Flowchart

Comparisons

Nursing
• Care of the sick and vulnerable
• Person centred
• Holistic and authentic
• Respect for the person and their family
• Use of research for practice
• Non faith based

Catholic Mission
• Care of the sick and vulnerable
• Person centred
• Holistic and authentic
• Respect for the person and their family
• Focuses on excellence and emphasis on research for practice
• Faith based
Delivery of nursing care and the affirmation of Catholic Identity

- authentic care
- quality care provision
- integrating knowledge from personal, ethical and empirical domains
- brings to life care of individuals, families and communities
- genuine care influenced by a commitment to the continuance of the Catholic faith heritage
Concept of using the Catholic Mission to guide nursing practice

In the act and art of nursing in the context of the delivery of nursing care and the affirmation of Catholic Identity, a confluence of action and thought can take place involving compassion, accountability, respect and excellence in evidenced based care to those who are of all ages, families, groups, and communities, sick or well, disabled and dying, and in all settings.
Example of care affirming Catholic Identity

- Mrs X is a new mother of 26 years
- Unplanned caesarean section
- From a small country town
- Was agitated, rude and arrogant, especially when receiving assistance with breast feeding
- Midwife took time to sit with Mrs X and was able to identify concerns

Looking past the symptoms
What knowledge this analysis adds

Motivation shapes practice

Explicit demonstrations of identity can contribute to the care experienced by patients and their families

Catholic healthcare leadership responsible for the conceptualisation and translation of Mission where staff can enact care
Next steps – New research

Case study (Mixed methods)

Aims

(a) to provide detailed information about effective Catholic identity formation for nurses in Catholic private healthcare; and

(b) to provide detailed information for future research for a cohort study with control.

Team

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