

## Chaplain's Corner, August 2018 Update

Today I visited a young woman who is the sole caregiver for her mother. Its just the two of them. Her mother's health is fragile and her prognosis is complex. Her mother slept while we softly spoke – even though her breath was steady, her pale skin and thinning hair revealed how cruel her disease has been.

I asked the young woman to tell me about her mom, before she was sick. Her face lit up as she told me “ My mom is a generous and kind person! She enjoys exercising and eating healthy. She loves her work. She is a seamstress and she would work long days.” She paused, and as if a cloud passed over her face, tears filled her eyes – she is all that I have, all that I want...I beg God for a miracle, to heal her, I pray that she won't suffer. I don't know why this had to happen. I have nothing left to say to God.

We sat together, her tearful confessions hanging between us and the bed where her mother slept. Then I asked her if I could give her a gift. “A friend from my church is also a seamstress – she created a quilt and sewed a prayer and blessing into it. She told me to give it to a patient who needs it. I think your mom is the one who should have it.” She agreed and I went and got the quilt. She helped me tuck it in over her mother's thin frame – “She gets so cold now, she is so delicate – she will love it!” The doctors came in and our visited ended, but I know that quilt will be a reminder to both of them that God is with them, even in the midst of this difficult hospitalization.

My friend Sherri has been inspiring several of the quilters, knitters and crocheters at Culver Presbyterian to create blankets and quilts for patients at LAC+USC. She only passes them along to me after the church has blessed them and prayed for those who will receive them.

Throughout the year, chaplains share handmade blankets with those who are struggling with their hospitalization or nearing the end of their life. In the week before Christmas chaplains and a crew of volunteers come and give a handmade quilt to each patient in the hospital. This means that we need handmade blankets (about 600!) and volunteers to share them with the patients. If this sounds like good news to you, please reach out to me to find out more. My email is [Elizabeth.GibbsZehnder@gmail.com](mailto:Elizabeth.GibbsZehnder@gmail.com).

Thanks!

Rev. Elizabeth Gibbs Zehnder  
Chaplain, LAC+USC Medical Center

Presbyterian Chaplaincy at LAC+USC Medical Center is a witness to God's love for all people made possible by your support through the Presbyteries of the Pacific, San Gabriel, San Fernando and Los Ranchos and the Synod of Southern California. Your prayers and financial donations are always welcome. To find out how you can be involved, please contact Chaplain Elizabeth Gibbs Zehnder at [Elizabeth.GibbsZehnder@gmail.com](mailto:Elizabeth.GibbsZehnder@gmail.com).