

Health Care in the Christian Tradition: Advancing the Mission of Catholic Health Care

Scholars increasingly point out evidence that early Christians were distinctive in the way they cared for the sick. They faced epidemics with courage, solidarity and substantial assistance to the poor. Their concern for one another during times of infirmity led to a new sense of community and egalitarianism in a society otherwise noted for its social stratification. Gospel values infused health care within Christianity and eventually led to the erection of hospitals and associations that continue today.

The Roman Catholic Church has a long history of sponsoring health care institutions and elaborating ethical principles that safeguard the dignity and care of patients. Illume hosts educational seminars in Rome and other venues for health care professionals, health care administrators and students in nursing programs and medical school. These seminars provide an invaluable orientation to the history of health care in the Christian tradition through formal seminar sessions, on-site visits to historical sites, and opportunities to meet with local professionals for dialogue and exchange.

Program Objectives

Christian Health Care in its Historical Context

Rome is unparalleled in its preservation of early Christian sites. These sites are adjacent some of the most important ancient Roman monuments still in existence. Rome affords a window into how early Christians developed a unique response to the infirm and how this evolved over the centuries into more sophisticated institutions of care. Visit medieval hospitals, museums of medicine, monasteries that specialized in microsurgery, and other institutions that showcase an evolving Catholic response to the infirm.

Blend business and educational meetings with historical and religious sightseeing in order to create a natural and more enjoyable way to learn. These on-site seminars foster new relationships of collaboration and collegiality amongst leaders and health care providers.

Catholic Health Care Ethics in Perspective

The Roman Catholic Church has a long history of integrating Gospel values with reason and natural law to elaborate comprehensive ethical principles. Rome provides a natural and inspiring setting for seminars and meetings where these issues can be discussed and presented by scholars-on-tour.

Contemporary Ethical Issues in Pluralistic Societies

Contemporary biomedical issues are at the forefront of discussions in Europe about the relationship between Roman Catholic ethics and pluralistic societies (end-of-life decisions, reproductive technologies, informed consent, and biomedical research).

Meetings with European-based professionals and ethics committees fosters intercultural dialogue and exchanges around these issues and identification of how people in other settings navigate complex ethical dilemmas and delivery of care.

Institutional Heritage

Religious sponsorship of health care draws on the life and ministry of visionary men and women of faith. Travel to the places where these men and women first responded to the Gospel is an inspiring way to underscore the values and perspectives that ground Catholic health care. Illume collaborates with institutional leaders to create thoughtful meetings, educational seminars and pilgrimages in a variety of venues – such as Italy, France, and Germany.

The way we travel the world is always changing but the reasons remain constant - to become citizens of the world, *leading and inspiring respectful and compassionate ways of life*. People who travel the globe begin a lifelong journey of worldly citizenship to gain valuable insight about themselves and the world around them through the discovery and exploration of cultures outside their own.

Illume works with group leaders to create customized and unique programs with activities, visits and resources that support your vision and objectives. Call us to begin planning a program tailored to your constituency.