



A Sacred Encounter: A Very Special Connection

I visited a patient who had been transferred to the hospital from a Nursing Home. He was feeling very tired and ill. He expressed strong faith in God and hope to get better and to go home soon to see his wife. He said his wife has cancer and that he had not seen her for a long time because she couldn't come to visit him in the nursing home. He said he was very concerned about her as he hasn't been able to reach her by phone lately, and she had not called him. We visited for a while as he likes to talk about the Bible and to get engaged in theological discussions.

When we finished our visit, I noticed on the patient census that there was another patient on another floor in the hospital with the same last name. I went to visit her and as we talked, I asked if she knew someone that I had met, that had the same last name as she. She said yes, that is her husband. I told her that I had spoken to him and that he was trying to call her. She said she had been in the hospital for a few days and as he was in the nursing home she didn't want to upset him. Neither one of them realized that the other was in the hospital. I told her that I had visited him and asked her if she wanted to go see him. She said she did want to. I went to talk to the charge nurse on the unit on the third floor to ask if it would be ok if I got a wheel chair and took the patient to another unit on the fourth floor to visit her husband who is a patient there. The charge nurse said it would be ok but that she had to be back by a certain time so she could be taken for scheduled tests. I talked to the husband's nurse to make sure it was ok to bring the patient's wife up to see him. The nurse said it was ok, and that we would keep it a secret from the husband.

I went to get a wheelchair and had the nurse aide help me to get her seated in the wheelchair and brought her up to her husband's room. When he saw her, he let out a loud cry because he was so happy to see his wife. I left the room to allow them to talk and came back to take the wife back to her room. They both were very happy and expressed gratitude for arranging things for them to see each other.

Written by Rev. Geoff Hord, Chaplain, Sisters of Charity Hospital