



## **A Sacred Encounter: An Open Door**

Just recently at the beginning of my workday, a young man knocked on my open door and asked if I was the chaplain. I responded and invited him in to sit down. He proceeded to share that his father was going through a medical procedure and that his girlfriend was recently diagnosed with cancer. He was emotion-filled and on the verge of tears. He shared about his emotional and spiritual struggles related to these personal challenges.

Throughout this encounter, I provided a listening presence. We took inventory of what supports he had in his life and who he could process his thoughts and feelings with going forward. Concluding our time together, I offered prayer for the young man, his father, and his girlfriend. Before we parted, the young man conveyed appreciation for taking the time to listen and help him think through his thoughts and feelings.

I believe in an open door, openhearted approach to people in need. I like to think God often puts people in our path to engage with and embrace. It requires the eyes to see, ears to hear, and the heart to receive people as they are. This is not always easy in today's busy world. However, it is following encounters like this one that I am reminded how important it is to take a moment and remain open to those we encounter.

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