


2-1-1972

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### Recommended Citation

Holoubek, Joe E. and Black, Charles L. (1972) "Community Clinical Pastoral Training -- A Success for Ecumenism in Shreveport," *The Linacre Quarterly*: Vol. 39 : No. 1 , Article 12.

Available at: <https://epublications.marquette.edu/lnq/vol39/iss1/12>

*A review of the seven years' activity of the Shreveport Medical Society's Committee of Medicine & Religion which lead to the formation of the Clinical Pastoral Training Program, is presented by the co-chairmen of the committee.*

## COMMUNITY CLINICAL PASTORAL TRAINING — A SUCCESS FOR ECUMENISM IN SHREVEPORT

by Joe E. Holoubek, M.D. and Charles L. Black, M.D.

Throughout the years, The Catholic Physicians' Guild has attempted to sponsor communications between physicians and priests and thereby develop a better understanding of the patient and his problems. With the establishment of the Department of Medicine and Religion of the American Medical Association, similar attempts have been made by local and state medical societies. The Committee of Medicine and Religion of the Shreveport Medical Society was established in 1964 with seven members, representing various faiths, and two co-chairmen.

Programs were originally planned on an annual basis. Speakers included ministers, physicians, psychologists and social workers. Titles of the programs included "The Physician and the Minister, a Team for the Chronically Ill", "The Physician and Clergyman as a Team in Catastrophic Illness", "Alcoholism",

and "Religion in the Post Modern World".

Originally only physicians and ministers were invited to the programs, but in the fall of 1967, it was decided to ex-



pand the programs and invite the general public. The subject of "Marriage" became the general topic. Ministers, physicians and married couples of various faiths were invited to speak on the subjects: "The Problems of Youth", "The Get Acquainted Years" (the first two years of marriage), "The Maturing Years" (two to twenty-five years of marriage), "The Middle Years" (twenty-five to fifty years of marriage), "The Retired Years", "The Lonely Years" (Widowhood and Widowerhood), "Divorce and It's Effect on the Children".

Programs were held at the Convention Hall. Publicity was provided by the newspapers, television, radio, personal letters to physicians and clergymen. Many church bulletins carried the announcements. The interest of the community deepened with each successive program.

Other programs co-sponsored with the Womens' Auxiliary of the Shreve-

port Medical Society, included "The Worry Clinic" which featured a psychiatrist, a cardiologist, a priest, a lawyer and a physician's wife trained in social work. This group spoke at innumerable churches of all faiths throughout the community.

The close relationship that developed between physicians and clergymen in these programs stimulated the development of the Clinical Pastoral Training Program. Meetings were held on a weekly basis at the Schumpert Memorial Hospital, operated by the Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word. The program consisted of a one hour lecture followed by a coffee break and case discussions of one or two hours. The text book "The Psychiatrist, the Clergy and the Pastoral Counselling" was used.

Sixty clergymen attended the first semester course and forty attended the second semester series. Subjects included: "Religion and Psychiatry",



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**Charles L. Black, M.D.**

*from the Shreveport Chapter, National Conference of Christians and Jews, 1971.*

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