

The Chaplaincy Report
LA County General Medical Center
Rev. Stephanie Kang MDiv BCC CT
April 30, 2026

Greetings to you all,

I hope you all had a life-affirming April during the Easter season. The month of April 2026 has been filled with prayer, hope, and some anxiety about what is to come for the chaplain team at St. Camillus.

The AIN Board of Leadership Meeting with Bishop Brian Nunez – April 1

The Board of Leadership of AIN met with Bishop Brian Nunez of the Los Angeles Archdiocese for the first time to introduce the ministry and share its vision and mission for the future. Throughout the meeting, Bishop Brian was attentive and delighted to get to know each member of the leadership board, while recognizing AIN's unwavering ministry to those on the margins. The meeting was meaningful, as it allowed AIN to connect with Bishop Brian in the hope that the Los Angeles Archdiocese will acknowledge the importance of this ministry for the most vulnerable in society and continue to support AIN's vision and mission.

Participating in the Ethics Committee Monthly Meeting – April 8

This was my second time attending the Ethics Committee meeting as a guest. This month's educational topic focused on finding more effective ways to care for patients with mental health conditions through article reviews. It was intriguing to observe how each member contributed their distinct perspectives and experiences while remaining united in the shared mission of advocating for the most vulnerable in ethical ways, especially in complex situations.

Guest Preaching at Covenant Presbyterian Church (Pacific Presbytery) – April 12

This was my first time guest preaching at a congregation in the Pacific Presbytery. The flow of the service felt like a beautiful tapestry, in which diverse expressions of human hearts and worship came together in harmony. I was particularly impressed by how the congregation gathered and handled prayer requests. They keep a prayer request journal in the narthex for congregants to write in, and those requests are brought to the pulpit during the communal prayer. That Sunday, as I read each request, the liturgist standing next to me rang a small bell. It created a vivid image in my mind: each prayer request sounding like a doorbell at the door of God's presence - God who is already interceding for us with unspeakable sighs. I deeply appreciated the opportunity to participate in the service, not only as a preacher but also as a worshipper, reflecting on how we express our hearts, minds, and strength in serve to God both individually and collectively.

Supporting Healers in Deep Grief – April 10 & 28

It is tragic to face the sudden deaths of colleagues. In April, two unexpected deaths among hospital staff required the chaplain team's attention and extensive spiritual and emotional support. Both individuals were in their early 40s and had outstanding reputations among

colleagues, interdisciplinary teams, and patients. One death was by suicide, and the other resulted from aggressive cancer. Those who serve as healers can also become deeply vulnerable, facing tragic ends to their lives. Many staff members shared their heartbreak in the wake of these losses and affirmed that open, generous presence with one another is essential for resilience. I was deeply moved by the shared memories of these beloved colleagues, who seemed to remain vividly alive in the hearts of those who remember them.

Meeting with the LA County Jail Chaplains – April 23

One of our current CPE students, assigned to the jail unit, connected our chaplain team with chaplains from the LA County Sheriff's Department across various settings, including the County Jail, Twin Towers, and Men's Central Jail. According to the chaplains, all county jail chaplain positions are funded by nonprofit organizations, and they work closely with local rescue ministries such as Union Rescue Mission in Los Angeles. They shared their conviction in the power of the Gospel and their desire to support those walking in darkness, hoping they may discover the Light through genuine accompaniment. It was a meaningful opportunity to meet chaplains from different ministry settings and learn from one another.



St. Camillus' Annual Fundraising Event – April 26

Many members of the chaplain team and the planning committee felt anxious about the absence of Fr. Chris this year, who has been central to events at St. Camillus for the past thirty years. Graciously, this year's event welcomed the largest number of guests in its history, and the final financial outcome will be announced soon. Thank you all for your prayers and support. Special thanks to Areta Crowell, chair of the Presbyterian Consortium, who purchased a table for ten guests and included an advertisement for PCUSA, reflecting Presbyterian Church's deep care and support for ministry to the marginalized.

Day of Protecting God's Children – April 28



In observance of National Child Abuse Prevention Month, St. Camillus held its third annual Mass, themed "Protecting God's Children," with a focus on clergy sexual abuse involving minors. It is powerful to see St. Camillus take a leading role in raising awareness about the responsibility to protect the vulnerable and in educating ministry leaders and church members to prevent such devastating harm. According to a church leader, St. Camillus was among the first to respond to the Healing Garden project within the Los Angeles Archdiocese, even when some churches hesitated to address these issues. The Mass was led by Bishop Brian Nunez, followed by the Blessing of the Healing Garden outside the church, which was broadcast by a local news channel.

Healing of Our Wounded Inner Child

One of the patients I visited this past month had been suffering from severe alcohol use disorder (AUD). While awaiting medical intervention to stop drinking, he sought support from a chaplain. He identified as Christian and shared that he had participated in various rehabilitation programs but had relapsed repeatedly.

I facilitated a life review and exploration of triggers. His most recent relapse occurred after eight months of sobriety, following the sudden death of his father from a heart attack. His distress was not only grief, but also a deep sense of permanent loss – the loss of the opportunity to find peace for his wounded inner child, shaped by years of physical abuse. His father had frequently been violent toward him and other family members, eventually leading his mother to leave in order to protect herself and her children.

As an adult, the patient had reconnected with his father in hopes of reconciliation. Although his father was no longer physically imposing or violent, the patient held onto the hope of receiving a sincere apology. Sadly, his father died without offering one. The patient struggled with unresolved anger and a sense of failure, turning to alcohol as a form of escape. Now facing serious medical complications, he expressed a desire to become a better husband and father to his teenage son.

I guided him in revisiting his wounded inner child - who still felt afraid and alone. For the first time, he was able to speak to his five-year-old self, acknowledging deep pain, fear, anger, and shame without trying to suppress or fix those feelings. He began to approach his own suffering with compassion and a commitment to offer healthier care to himself, inspired by the way Jesus offers freedom and healing. The visit consisted largely of listening and silence, accompanied by a brief but meaningful message of hope, that he is a beloved child of God, worthy of joy and freedom from the chains that have already been broken. He highly appreciated this visit and appeared to have an enhanced sense of peace, self, and connection with God.

Thank you again for your continued prayers and support.

May we all allow ourselves to be found by the deep grace of our Shepherd, who sets us free from all harm – especially the harm we may unwittingly inflict upon ourselves.

In Christ,
Stephanie