



Catholic Health Initiatives

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Sacred Stories

Am I Doing the Right Thing?

spirituality

Suggested Sacred Text

Have no anxiety at all, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God. Then the peace of God that surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4:6-7

When I first began working as an oncology nurse, from time to time I thought, "Am I doing the right thing?" However, that thought soon dissipated as I came to love my work and the ways I am able to serve my patients.

As time went on, both my mother and my mother-in-law were diagnosed with cancer. It's news that no one ever wants to hear, but I knew God's hand was at work when I was able to use my professional experience to help prepare them and my family for what lay ahead.

Throughout my nursing career, I've been touched by the opportunities I've had to make a difference in the lives of patients and to bring hope to those who are facing the toughest battle of their lives. This includes an experience I never saw coming.

At our hospital's health fair, I had signed up to be on a bone marrow donor registry. Afterwards, I didn't think about it very often. So, you can imagine my surprise when, four years later, I got a call that I was a possible match for an oncology patient. Without a bone marrow donation, the patient would die.

After a few weeks of testing and waiting, I learned that I was a match. I knew how important this donation would be for the patient. But, I was hesitant to say "yes" right away because I knew the donation would involve weeks of preparation, plus missing my husband and kids while I traveled to Washington, D.C., for the donation procedure.

imagine
your **Best Self**

I thought, "Am I doing the right thing?" Just as when I started my oncology career, God reassured me. I knew what I needed to do, and my family supported me every step of the way.

The experience was filled with emotion. I remember the relief I felt when the procedure was over, and I was brought to tears when I saw the bag of blood cells that were hopefully going to save the life of a patient I would probably never see or talk to.

It's hard to describe the sense of joy and peace I felt when I learned of the patient's success.

When I think about him and all the patients I am blessed to serve at our cancer center, I'm filled with gratitude. God has certainly blessed me in my nursing career. To think that God used me and my vocation to be a blessing to others allows me to confidently say, "Yes, I am doing the right thing."

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Questions for Reflection

When determining if you are doing the right thing, where do you find inspiration?