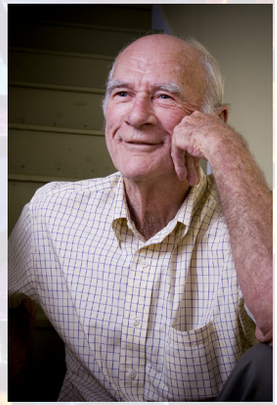
VA Butler Healthcare's Pastoral Care Department provides emotional and spiritual support to our Veterans and their families, and as needed, to our staff. Veterans in need of physical, emotional, or spiritual support are treated with **compassionate, non-judgmental, and non-coercive care**. We are here to help Veterans discover or strengthen their spiritual identity on their journey through a medical, physical, or mental crisis.



Contact Us

VA Butler Healthcare's Chaplains are dedicated to serving our Veterans. **To learn more, contact:**

- Catholic Chaplain, 724.287.4781, ext. 4473 or william.ritzert@va.gov
- Protestant Chaplain, 724.287.4781, ext. 4475, cell 724.841.9296, or gary.clise@va.gov
- Chief Chaplain, 724.477.5009, cell 724.496.2338, or robert.smith241010@va.gov

You can also visit www.va.gov/chaplain or check out the Spirituality Center in My Health*e*Vet www.myhealth.va.gov

VA Butler Healthcare

…providing quality health care to our nation's Veterans

ARMSTRONG COUNTY VA OUTPATIENT CLINIC
Klingensmith Building
313 Ford Street, Suite 2B
Ford City, PA 16226
724.763.4090

CLARION COUNTY VA OUTPATIENT CLINIC
AC Valley Medical Center
855 Route 58, Suite One
Parker, PA 16049
724.659.5601

CRANBERRY TOWNSHIP VA OUTPATIENT CLINIC
Freedom Square
1183 Freedom Road, Suite A101
Cranberry Township, PA 16066
724.741.3131

LAWRENCE COUNTY VA OUTPATIENT CLINIC
Ridgewood Professional Centre
1750 New Butler Road
New Castle, PA 16101
724.598.6080

MICHAEL A. MARZANO VA OUTPATIENT CLINIC
295 North Kerrwood Drive, Suite 110
Hermitage, PA 16148
724.346.1569

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Pastoral Care

Comfort and Support for Veterans

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Comfort and Support for Veterans

What do VA Chaplains do?

VA Chaplains bring **emotional and spiritual support and comfort** to all areas of the facility. They understand the spiritual and moral dilemmas, which often arise from the anxieties, problems and fears that can accompany illness and disabilities. VA Chaplains provide the kind of religious ministry, pastoral care, or emotional support to meet the needs of the whole person during a struggle for health and peace of mind. VA Chaplains are sensitive to the variety of religious and cultural backgrounds of Veterans to whom ministry is provided.

VA Chaplains' primary responsibilities are to:

- ★ Ensure Veteran patients (both inpatient and outpatient) receive appropriate clinical pastoral care (as desired)
- ★ Conduct a full spiritual assessment
- ★ Offer bedside visitation
- ★ Give individual counseling (as needed)
- ★ Provide 24/7 on-call visits (including evenings, weekends, and holidays)
- ★ Add spiritual support in the midst of a crisis
- ★ Support Veterans and their families diagnosed with acute or chronic illness
- ★ Arrange visits with a Veteran's local clergy (if desired)
- ★ Supply religious or spiritual literature (if requested)
- ★ Serve as members on a Veteran's care team
- ★ Design and lead religious ceremonies of worship and ritual (i.e., holiday observances)

Spiritual Services for Returning Service Members

Many Veterans find the transition from active duty to civilian status to be very stressful. It often requires physical, mental and spiritual readjustments. These adjustments often involve family, work, health and potentially, all of life.

During this time, it is not unusual for Veterans to question the meaning or purpose of their lives; and find themselves struggling to make sense of what they've seen, been involved in, and survived. They may also be concerned about the ways they may have "changed." Sometimes it helps to find someone **safe and trustworthy** to talk with, someone who will be non-judgmental and keep conversations confidential. A VA Chaplain or member of the clergy might be a good choice for returning Veterans.

Veterans can talk with a VA Chaplain about their condition, illness or traumatic event, and how it affects their life and relationships with others. VA Chaplains are available **to care for Veterans' spiritual needs,** and sometimes those of the immediate family. VA Chaplains can help assess resources for hope and spiritual strength as well. **There is no need to go through this time alone. We are here for you.**

VA Butler Healthcare's Chaplains (left to right) Protestant Chaplain Reverend Gary Clise, MDiv, BCC; Catholic Chaplain Father Bill Ritzert; Chief Chaplain Reverend Bob Smith, MDiv, BCC

Chaplains at VA Butler

VA Butler Healthcare has three Chaplains in the Pastoral Care Department.

1. VA Butler's Catholic Chaplain provides services to Catholic Veterans and others as needed. He provides sacramental and confessional opportunities, and leads Chapel services on Sundays, special Holy Days, and holidays.
2. VA Butler's Protestant Chaplain teaches a Spirituality Class to Veterans in VA Butler's Domiciliary, and helps lead Grief Support Groups for Domiciliary and outpatient behavioral health care. He provides added spiritual support to our hospice Veterans and their families, and support to staff members in crisis. He leads Chapel services on Sundays, special days, and holidays
3. VA Butler's Chief Chaplain provides Administrative, Supervisory and Strategic Planning support to the Pastoral Care Department. He serves as Hospice and Palliative Care (HPC) Program Manager and as the Ethics Consultation Coordinator for the facility. He also co-leads a Bereavement Support Group for family members whose loved ones have passed away at the facility or in the community.