



# Spiritual Care for Persons with Dementia: Fundamentals for Pastoral Practice

*Larry Van De Creek*

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**Spiritual Care for Persons with Dementia: Fundamentals for Pastoral Practice** Larry Van De Creek  
Spiritual Care for Persons with Dementia explores spirituality in those with dementia to enrich our understanding of the neurological and psychological aspects of hope, prayer, and the power of belief. You will discover how your ministry is vitally relevant to the clinical well-being and quality of life of people with Alzheimer's disease. Spiritual Care for Persons with Dementia provides you with a model spiritual care program for long-term facilities that supplies you with ideas you can implement in your own ministry. You will learn to avoid cognitive pastoral care method that can be hurtful to those suffering with dementia by using new approaches found in Spiritual Care for Persons with Dementia. This book provides you with suggestions about how to spiritually care for people with dementia. These important recommendations include:

- understanding the value of pastoral contact when ministering to people with a loss of cognitive functions and memory
  - discovering the Progressively Lowered Stress Threshold psychosocial model (PLST) that can make important contributions by enhancing the quality of life for people with dementia
  - providing pastoral care using nonverbal methods to overcome the barriers of cognitive dysfunction
  - exploring a client's cognitive and emotional reality on a daily basis to determine how to best interact with him or her
  - gaining insight into how a thorough analysis of the illness and personal religious history can assist in planning religious activities that provide comfort and solace for people with dementia and their families
- Spiritual Care for Persons with Dementia describes religious, theological, and psychodynamic perspectives that will help you to offer better spiritual care for people with dementia. Using your newly acquired skills from Spiritual Care for Persons with Dementia, you will be more effective when ministering to people with Alzheimer's Disease and to their families.

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