



Chaplains' Corner

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Greet Everyone; See Everyone

Once, while I was living in New York City, I decided to say hello to people I would walk by on the street. As rough and gruff as New Yorkers can be, I thought it could be a simple way to brighten someone's day. Maybe, just maybe, someone needed that quick hello. In all honesty, my experiment didn't last too long. It was New York after all. It's just not how you roll in the city. And, if I really said hello to every single person I walked past, I probably would have ended up looking a little out of sorts.

Earlier this semester, I thought I should try something similar here on campus. I'm an extrovert, so it doesn't take much for me to say hello to a stranger. It might not seem like much, but what if a simple hello can make a difference in one's day? What if a hello assures a student they are noticed and they matter?

I have found, though, that I catch a lot of people off guard. Or, I must look odd saying 'hi' over and over no matter the response I get in return. Some students are listening to music. So, with headphones blocking their hearing, perhaps they can read my lips as I greet them. Others are texting and walking, which, let's be real, is a dangerous combination. Other times I think I catch people by surprise and they either say hello once they're ten feet past me or they don't hear me at all.

I don't know if it has made much of a difference, but it has reminded me of a phrase that I recently heard the Catholic priest and author Richard Rohr quote. He mentions that it is hung up in his office and attributes it to a Greek poet. It reads, "Every human being is carrying a secret and heavy burden."

If this sentence is true, I don't know of another sentence that will lead you to have greater compassion and empathy for every human being. Perhaps, too, it will encourage each of us to take a socially awkward risk to say hello to every person we see. And, perhaps, such a greeting just might make someone's day.

See you on the Dell with a hello waiting for you.

By Rev. Nathan Albert
Associate Chaplain

Ramadan

(the most important month of the year in the Muslim calendar)

This year began on the evening of Sunday, May 5 and ends on the evening of Tuesday, June 4



Dates to Remember

| Date/Time/Location | Event | Description |
|--|--|--|
| Wednesday, May 8 5-7 p.m. Townhomes Pavilion | Israeli Independence Celebration | Join Hillel in this celebration with food, music, and fun |
| Thursday, May 16 4:30 p.m. Snidow Chapel | Baccalaureate Service Guest Speaker: Rev. Coretha Loughridge '80 | Rev. Loughridge is the Transitional Regional Minister for the Christian Church in Virginia (Disciples of Christ) |
| Friday, May 17 9 p.m. Snidow Chapel | Candlelight Ceremony and Senior Class Toast | Celebrate your years at the University and what it means to be a Hornet |

Campus Worship Opportunities

- **Quaker Meeting** - 10:30 a.m. Sundays at the Spiritual Life Center.
- **Roman Catholic Mass** - weekly at 4:30 p.m., Sundays in Snidow Chapel.

Regularly Scheduled Meetings

For a list of our regularly scheduled meetings during the academic year, go to the [Spiritual Life webpage](#) and click on "Spiritual Organizations on Campus."

The Chaplains' Corner is a newsletter published by the Spiritual Life Center (SLC) at the University of Lynchburg to share campus concerns and updates, spiritual life events and activities, and words for the journey written by the Spiritual Life Center staff. If you have a joy or concern you'd like to share with the campus community, please [e-mail](#) the SLC office or call 434.544.8348. We only share concerns or joys, via newsletter or e-mail, with permission. Current and previous issues of the Chaplain's Corner (in PDF format) are on the SLC [page](#) of the University of Lynchburg website.

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