13 October 1989

Hector P. Garcia, M.D., P.A.
1315 Bright
Corpus Christi, TX 78405

Dear Dr. Garcia:

I have been concerned about the spiritual care of the patients at Memorial Hospital and, judging from the comments and observations I have heard, I am not the only one. I have always supported the holistic approach with regard to healing. Down through the ages, both man's spirit and body have been considered in seeking a cure from any illness.

I am told that a substantial majority of the patients at Memorial Hospital are of the Catholic faith. However, rather than seek a unilateral solution, I would rather attempt an initiative that would have a broader base and a longer lasting result.

I am inviting representatives from the government, the hospital board, the medical community, the nursing community, and the Catholic, Protestant and Jewish religious communities of the city to come together with the hope of selecting a practical pastoral plan that could be presented to the hospital for approval. Throughout the country there are many excellent pastoral care programs that have been in operation in governmental and secular hospitals for years. So the task of developing a pastoral care plan would not have to start from the beginning. Once a satisfactory plan has been chosen, I believe that it will receive substantial support from the community.

I have asked Monsignor Robert Freeman, V.G., V.E., Episcopal Vicar for Social Communications and Services, to be my representative in this program. If you feel that you could participate in this program please contact me as soon as possible.

Looking forward to hearing from you soon, and assuring you of a remembrance in my prayers, I remain

Yours in Christ,

+ Rene H. Gracida

Rene H. Gracida
Bishop of Corpus Christi

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