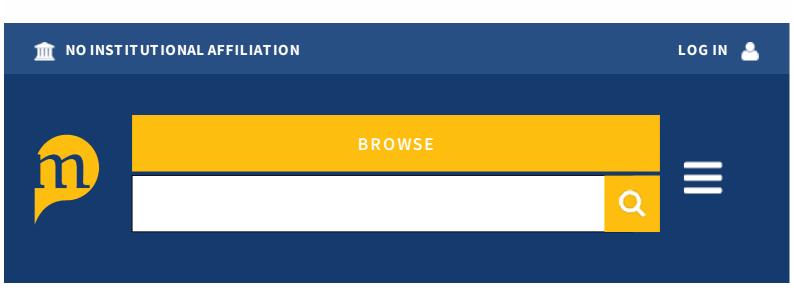
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The hospital prayer book: A partner for healing.



# The Hospital Prayer Book: A Partner for Healing

JoAnn O'Reilly

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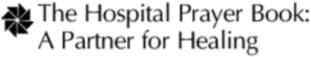
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#### **Abstract**

O'Reilly examines the prayers people write in the books available in the chapel of her hospital. She reminds us that he aling is complex and variable, delicate and enduring. She invites us to see with believers' eyes.



JoAnn O'Reilly

In the spent of one night he wrote three propositions: That nothing lasts. That hell is the denial of the ordinary. That clean white paper waiting under pen is the gift beyond history and hurt and heaven.

John Gardi, "The Gift"

Dear God

Thank you for all your blessings. You have watched over Mel these past 2 1/2 months since his liver & kidney transplant and we're going home with your continuing blessings tomorrow. Thanks God. Please be with all whom are sick and please put Tammy into your care and make her well and Esther too please God. Thanks for everything my dear God.

Sally2

According to Ann and Barry Ulanov, all prayer begins with a confession of whom the pray-er is.<sup>3</sup> And so I tell you. I write this paper from the phenomenological perspective of one who stands within the religious world. I write as the oldest daughter of a father who spent nine months hospitalized in Zace TB Sanitarium in 1938, before my parents were married, and again for ten months in 1955, from complications due to the original treatment he received. During those months my sisters and I began attending daily Mass with my mom to intercede with God on my father's behalf—and to seek the strength necessary to cope with his long absence. I write as a middle-aged woman who remembers composing letters to God during her adolescence as I sought to figure out what God wanted me to do with my life. I write as a lay chaplain and a supervisor of clinical pastoral education who left a

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Shakespeare's comedy of love, an empty subset, despite external influences, weighs an asteroid magnet.

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