

## A Word About Deacons

*Each week we will have a submission from a deacon that will explore topics like what a deacon is, what they do, their history, and other stories.*

### Hospital Chaplaincy providing much needed comfort

*From the Episcopal Diocese of Georgia's newsletter 10/4/21*

The Venerable Yvette Owens, wears many hats, but one includes serving on a team of hospital chaplains in Valdosta at South Georgia Medical Center.

Rev. Owens was ordained on June 28, 2006 and serves at Christ the King, Valdosta. As Archdeacon for the Diocese of Georgia, she serves as leader and liaison for the body of Deacons. In addition she works as Administrative Assistant to the 823<sup>rd</sup> Base Squadron Defense Commander of the Air Force, in which she is an Equal Opportunity Counselor, Trained Mediator, Master Resilience Trainer and Sexual Assault and Suicide Prevention Implementer. Amid all those duties, she also serves as a Chaplain at South Georgia Medical Center, work made particularly more difficult by the Covid pandemic.



In an article in the *Valdosta Daily Times*, Archdeacon Owens speaks about her experience as a hospital chaplain in the midst of COVID, "It's sad and disheartening because you really want them to be in the room ... just for the family member to touch them, touch their hand, stroke their hair and kiss them on the cheek," she said. "As a chaplain, you really want that interaction and for them to be able to do that, and you have to stay steadfast on your knees even though you're standing up praying for the family, for some type of relief, even though it might not come. Sometimes, they might go home, and sometimes, they don't."

Owens started as a volunteer in 2006, and is now a part-time employee of the hospital. She added that her job as a chaplain isn't just for the patients, but also to minister to those who are the caregivers, the medical staff who are dealing with multiple patients a day. And the best way for Owens to take care of others is to also take care of herself, "That's my job is to make sure that they're doing good, and then to start praying for myself, start trying to heal myself, so that I can go to the next person. It's not easy all the time, but it's something that as a chaplain, we took up when we said yes, we want that call."

To read the full article in the *Valdosta Daily Times*, visit [www.valdostadailytimes.com/news/local\\_news/saints-service-sgmc-chaplains-offer-spiritual-care-during-pandemic/article\\_7add13ff-e42f-5393-a607-763b5610dde3.html](http://www.valdostadailytimes.com/news/local_news/saints-service-sgmc-chaplains-offer-spiritual-care-during-pandemic/article_7add13ff-e42f-5393-a607-763b5610dde3.html)