Crisis of Faith

A panel of distinguished religious leaders will discuss how, despite a crisis of faith, people often times can draw strength from their beliefs in coping with illness.

Sr. Mary Alice Aschenbach, Mercy Medical Center; Judith Pollack, LCSW; Social Work Care Manager, Partners in Dignity, MJHS; Rev. Mark Bigelow, Pastoral Care Coordinator, Visiting Nurse Service and Hospice of Suffolk; Rabbi Rachmiel Rothberger, Jewish Community Liaison and Jewish Chaplain, Calvary Hospital; Justin von Bujdossand, Chaplain, Calvary Hospice, and director of the Rangjung Prison Dharma Project and Dr. Faroque Khan, Director IMANA International Collaboration and member Islamic Center of Long Island BOT

Moderator: Sr. Katherine A. Murphy, RN-BC, MSN, CHPN, CCRN; Clinical Nurse Specialist, St. Francis Hospital

Learning Objectives
1. Define a crisis of faith.
2. Discuss how individuals can draw strength from their faith during crisis.
3. Identify (3) three spiritual traditions that can help comfort someone when facing a serious illness.

Speakers (short bios):

Judith Pollack Bio
For the first 25 years of Judith’s professional life as a Social Worker, she ran many different programs and services for individuals with developmental disabilities, including residences, day programs, clinics and case management services. She transitioned from primarily administrative work to clinical practice in end-of-life care 13 years ago. Preparation for that transition included training as a Chaplain at the Health Care Chaplaincy. She’s continued to develop her interest in the intersection between spirituality and Social Work, through many avenues including courses at NYU addressing spirituality and social work.

Recently she was employed as the Clinical Coordinator for FEGS, Partners in Dignity, a service for people facing life limiting illness and complicated grief. She is also employed by Calvary Hospice at Home and the Visiting Nurse Service of New York, Pediatric Palliative Care service.

Faroque Ahmad Khan M.B.,(Kmr) M.A.C.P. Bio
Dr Faroque Ahmad Khan graduated from Kashmir, he specializes in Internal medicine and pulmonary diseases. As Chairman of Medicine at NUMC in New York, he was responsible for training over three hundred fifty internists and pulmonologists who are now settled in USA and globally. Dr. Khan was appointed professor of medicine and received several teaching awards, he was the first Muslim awarded Mastership in American College of Physicians(ACP) which is a unique distinction bestowed on less
than one percent of all physicians. Dr. Khan has held leadership positions, as a Regent of the ACP, as President of Nargis Dutt Memorial Foundation, as President of Islamic Medical Association of North America (IMANA), as President of Islamic Center of New York in Westbury and has served on the Majlis Shura of the Islamic Society of North America.

Dr. Khan served as consultant to the King Fahd Medical City (KFMC) in Riyadh where he established its research program and was able to establish linkages of KFMC with several prominent educational and research institutions in USA ex Stanford university and National Institutes of Health.

Dr. Khan has published over 150 articles, made presentations globally. He has authored three books including: Mechanical Ventilation, International Medical Graduates and Story of a Mosque in America. Currently he serves on the board of trustees of Islamic Center of Long Island (ICLI) and directs all international activities of IMANA.

In Sept 2013 the Long Island Press elected Dr. Khan as one of the 50 Most Influential People of Long Island, NY.

**Repa Dorje Odzer** (Justin von Bujdoss) has been practicing Buddhism since 1995. He has studied with and received practice instructions from many great Rinpoches, Lamas, and teachers from the traditions of Theravada, Mahayana, and Vajrayana Buddhism. He is currently a staff chaplain with Calvary Hospice, the creator of the Buddhist oriented blog ganachakra.com, and director of the Rangjung Prison Dharma Project, a program dedicated to bringing the benefits of engaged meditation practice to the inmate and officer population at Rikers Island Correctional facility. His Eminence Goshir Gyaltsab Rinpoche has appointed Repa Dorje Odzer as one of the resident lamas of New York Tsurphu Goshir Dharma Center where he serves as primary teacher and Executive Director. As a Repa, or lay yogi, he is committed to bringing the insights born from meditation practice into the experience of an integrated life.

**Rabbi Rachmiel Rothberger** received his rabbinical ordination in 2003 From Yeshiva University. Upon receiving ordination, he served as a Jewish educator for nine years. During that time period, he enrolled in a clinical pastoral education program, and was granted board certification under the auspices of the Association of Professional Chaplains in November of 2015. Rabbi Rothberger currently serves as the Jewish community liaison and as a Jewish chaplain at Calvary Hospital and Calvary Hospice, where he has been charged to collaborate with rabbis and community leaders to develop a comfortable environment in which end of life care can be provided for members of the broader Jewish community.