

Languaging the Ethical Implications of Acting Faithfully

Constance L. Milton, RN; PhD

*Professor and Coordinator for Nursing Graduate and Adult Studies Programs,
Olivet Nazarene University, Bourbonnais, Illinois*

The term *acting faithfully* is a professional nursing ethical concept languaged from the perspective of the human becoming school of thought (Milton, 2002; Parse 1998). Acting faithfully is a concept that challenges professional nurses to explore what it means to have straight thinking in nurse-person relationships where there is an obligation of presence, devotion, and dependability. In acting faithfully, there is an inherent responsibility of living a commitment with others in a relationship, including professional nursing relationships. In choosing to be with others, persons choose actions which reflect personal integrity. Thus, living a commitment to uphold personal integrity is choosing value priorities while cocreating patterns of relating with others which provides direction and affirmation for the *who* one is in situation while all-at-once cotranscending with the possibles. The pattern of relating with others gives definition to the *who* one is in living professional relationships. In choosing and acting in one direction over another, professional nurses risk how they wish to be known with colleagues, students, other healthcare



*Constance L. Milton
Contributing Editor*

professionals, and those who receive professional nursing services.

In the following column, Dr. F. Beryl Pilkington begins an exploration of the ethical implications for acting faithfully in professional relationships. She provocatively examines the obligations of personal integrity in light of acting faithfully in professional nursing relationships through four scenarios. Readers are invited to contemplate these scenarios and continue the dialogue by submitting an ethical analysis of one of the scenarios whereby the author analyzes the scenario from a chosen nursing theoretical perspective. Manuscripts are welcome and may be sent to the addresses listed below. May the discussions continue!

References

- Milton, C. L. (2002). Ethical implications for acting faithfully in the nurse-person relationship. *Nursing Science Quarterly, 15D*, 21-24.
- Parse, R. R. (1998). *The human becoming school of thought: A perspective for nurses and other health professionals*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.

Editor's Note: Send ideas, columns, and responses to columns to Constance L. Milton, RN, PhD, Professor of Nursing, Olivet Nazarene University, Box 6046, Kankakee, IL 60901; phone: (815) 939-5304; E-mail: cmilton@olivet.edu