

Blessing of the Hands Ceremony



Over 20 health care providers joined together in the Illesheim Clinic for the "Blessing of the Hands" ceremony, which marked the conclusion of the Nurse's Week celebrations at USAG Ansbach – Storck Barracks.



CH (MAJ) Eric Dean pours water over the hands of a healthcare provider in the Illesheim Clinic as a symbol of anointing their hands for the sacred task of bringing life and healing to others. This sacred act also allowed healthcare providers the opportunity to renew their commitment to compassionate service.

Summary: On 8 May 2015, the Illesheim Health Clinic hosted the Blessing of the Hands ceremony as the concluding event of the Nurses' Week celebrations. The Blessing of the Hands ceremony is significant in the healthcare profession, as it recognizes and unites healthcare workers who have chosen the sacred profession of caring for patients, either directly or indirectly. CH (MAJ) Eric Dean, Chaplain Resource Manager, USAG Ansbach, officiated this ceremony. The ceremony included prayers, blessings, and pouring water over hands of the healthcare providers as a symbol of anointing their hands for the sacred task of bringing life and healing to others. Over 20 US and German nurses, nursing assistants, medics, physicians, and administrative specialists volunteered to participate in the ceremony. Upon conclusion of the ceremony, everyone was invited to join in on the potluck lunch.

The Blessing of the Hands ceremony provided meaningful ministry to healthcare professionals, while recognizing and honoring their sacred calling and caring and compassionate service. The Blessing of the Hands ceremony supports IMCOM's Lines of Effort 3.2 *Strengthen Community Partnerships* and 4.2 *Improve Individual and Unit Resiliency Programs*.

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