

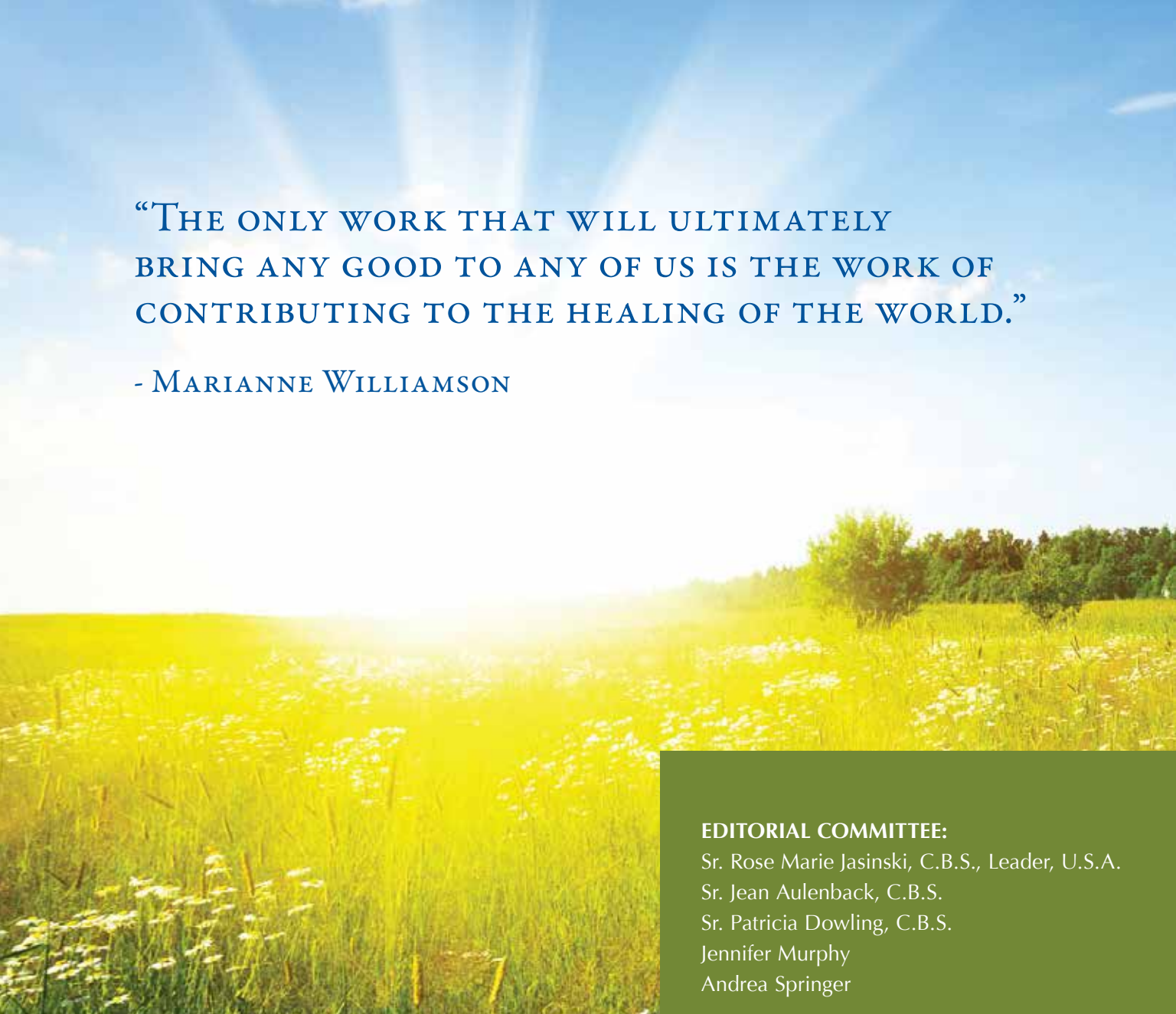
# *f*OCUS

a publication of the Sisters of Bon Secours, USA

SPRING 2015



SISTERS OF BON SECOURS, USA



“THE ONLY WORK THAT WILL ULTIMATELY  
BRING ANY GOOD TO ANY OF US IS THE WORK OF  
CONTRIBUTING TO THE HEALING OF THE WORLD.”

- MARIANNE WILLIAMSON

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SISTERS OF BON SECOURS

# Dear Friends

This is indeed a special year in the Catholic Church as Pope Francis has declared 2015 the Year of Consecrated Life, which is taking place in the context of the 50th Anniversary of the Second Vatican Council. There are three objectives for the year: to make a grateful remembrance of the recent past with the positive outlook of the past, to embrace the future with hope, and finally, to live in the present with passion. The year is designed to help people realize the beauty of following Christ in the various types of religious vocations. We were pleased in April to welcome Sr. Sandra Schneiders, IHM, to our Retreat and Conference Center, where she presented a program on “Consecrated Life Today: A Prophetic Call to Wake Up the World.” In September, as part of our programming for the Year of Consecrated Life, the past president of the Leadership Conference of Women Religious Sr. Carol Zinn, SSJ, will lead a retreat geared toward Catholic men and women religious.

I am very pleased to tell you about a new award that the Sisters of Bon Secours, USA, have established, the annual Josephine Potel Service Award. This award will be given each year to recognize an employee of the Sisters of Bon Secours, USA, or the Retreat and Conference Center, who has demonstrated excellent service and commitment to living the Sisters of Bon Secours Charism and Mission and has consistently been *Good Help to Those in Need*. The recipient is one who embodies the spirit of our charism of “compassion, healing and liberation” and guides their home and work life within the scope of the charism. The award is named after Josephine Potel, one of the founding Sisters of Bon Secours. On behalf of all the Sisters of Bon Secours, I want to congratulate Keith Owings of our facilities department for being this year’s award recipient.

This is a very special issue of *Focus* as we look back at our roots and see how they have taken hold today and are positioning us for the future. From the time the Congregation of Bon Secours was founded in Paris in 1824, the Congregation has embraced a health care ministry. The first three sisters that came to the



United States in 1881 cared for people in their homes in West Baltimore, where today Bon Secours Hospital continues to serve a medically underserved population. We also reflect on the fact that through the Bon Secours Health System, home health care services have grown in all communities, truly reminding us of how the sisters started delivering health care services so many years ago.

Due to the foresight in the 1970s of Srs. Rita Thomas, Justine Cyr and others to realize how health care in the United States was changing and the need to consolidate our health care facilities and bring them under one umbrella organization, Bon Secours Health System (BSHSI) was established in 1983. Today, BSHSI is one of the major Catholic health systems in the country sponsored by Bon Secours Ministries and serves people in 10 communities in six states, employing over 23,000 people. On the following pages, you will read how the Sisters of Bon Secours' health care ministry continues to give *Good Help to Those in Need*, and its employees live the mission and values of the Sisters of Bon Secours every day. We are grateful for the many dedicated health care professionals and employees over the years that have carried forth our health care ministry.

Today, the sisters themselves still serve in varying capacities from nurse practitioner to board members, to sister visitors or in a retired prayer ministry; yet the same spirit that inspired the first sisters in Paris and in Baltimore continues to influence our desire to bring people to health and wholeness.

We also share with you in this issue of *Focus* some information about the Bon Secours Health System in Ireland.

In May, we celebrate the Jubilees of six of our sisters, who have given so much to the Congregation over the years. Congratulations to Jubilarians Sr. Kathleen Moroney celebrating 65 years as a Sister of Bon Secours; Sr. Mary Rita Nangle and Sr. Frances McCabe, celebrating 60 years; and Sr. Anne Marie Mack and Sr. Ann Maureen Doherty celebrating 50 years. I am also honored to be celebrating my 50th Jubilee this year.

Finally, I want to extend a warm welcome to Maria Wenas, a new candidate who entered our Congregation in February. I also want to offer the congratulations and best wishes from all the Sisters of Bon Secours in the United States to Peruvian Srs. Margot Rodriguez Blas and Elvira Rosa Valle Muñoz, who have recently taken their final vows in Peru.

After this harsh winter, may I wish you all a beautiful spring and summer filled with a sense of well-being and renewal.

Sincerely,



Sr. Rose Marie Jasinski  
Country Leader



# The Sisters of Bon Secours Cross the Atlantic With a New Health Care Ministry



In 1824, after the devastation of the French Revolution, 12 Spirit-led women came together to form the Congregation of Bon Secours of Paris. They left behind the security of the cloister to nurse the sick and dying in their homes.

Most of us understand that hospice is a way of caring for those who are terminally ill or dying. Many of us cringe when we hear someone is in hospice; but the Sisters of Bon Secours have been providing hospice care since 1824 through their ministry of home nursing. The Congregation of Bon Secours was founded in Paris on this very concept.

The hospice movement did not begin in Great Britain until the mid-1800s and was not widely accepted in the United States until the early 1970s. The Sisters of Bon Secours, however, brought hospice home care with them to the United States in 1881. That predates by a century the formation of The International Association for Hospice and Palliative Care (1980), the Hospice Foundation, Inc. (USA 1982), and the later passage of the Medicare hospice benefit. The care for the dying provided by the Sisters of Bon Secours precedes the accepted medical timeline of hospice by over a century. That's innovation!

But, what events brought the Sisters of Bon Secours from their foundation in Paris, France, to the United States? Around 1880, Mrs. Whedbee, an American visiting Paris, fell ill and received the healing ministries of an English-speaking Sister of Bon Secours. Returning to Maryland, Mr. and Mrs. Whedbee, along with several physicians, impressed upon Archbishop Gibbons the "good help" that could be afforded Baltimore by the Sisters of Bon Secours in whom they "would find some intelligent help for their sick people."



In May 1881, three Sisters of Bon Secours crossed the Atlantic to establish their first ministry in the United States. Those chosen to begin the new mission were Srs. St. Ferdinand, Domitille, and Flavie. All spoke English, the language of the people they were going to aid.

Sr. St. Ferdinand, a Breton, had recently recovered from a personal illness and was serving in London when she received her new assignment. Srs. Domitille and Flavie were ministering in Cork, Ireland. Each wondered at being chosen for the task. Sr. Flavie wrote the Mother General, "I was astonished that your choice for such an important undertaking should fall upon me." Yet, all three accepted the assignment noting, "God is calling me elsewhere."

The Mother General, Mother St. Fulgence, prepared the sacred vessels, vestments, altar linens, and other articles to be used for the Sacrifice of the Mass when the sisters arrived in Baltimore. These were gifts from various convents of the Congregation as all the sisters were anxious to contribute to the new foundation in the United States.

The final preparations for departure were made in Cork, a short distance from the port our pioneer sisters would depart from on their journey to the United States. The superior of the Cork convent visited local shops to secure some items for the new foundation. Among the purchases were a brass crucifix and candlesticks. In addition, Mother St. Fulgence had instructed that a beautiful statue of Our Lady Help of Christians be purchased. This was to be placed in the chapel of the new convent so that Our Lady would inspire the United States ministry from its beginning. The life-sized statue of Our Lady Help of Christians, which accompanied the sisters across the ocean, was a tangible link with Bon Secours everywhere, and this was comforting to our three pioneer sisters. The statue has been reverently preserved through the years and graces the lobby of the Retreat and Conference Center at Bon Secours in Marriottsville, Maryland.

Three pioneer sisters embarked for New York from a port in Ireland at Queenstown, now known as Cobh. For their 11-day voyage, their berth was a little cabin on the Parthia. The sisters suffered greatly from seasickness, assisted with a funeral during the crossing, and "felt so little, so far down between heaven and the sea!" They arrived in dense fog in New York City "by Hells Gate... [a] terrible name... given to a very dangerous passageway... to the port." The Parthia docked at New York City on May 18, 1881 at five o'clock in the afternoon.

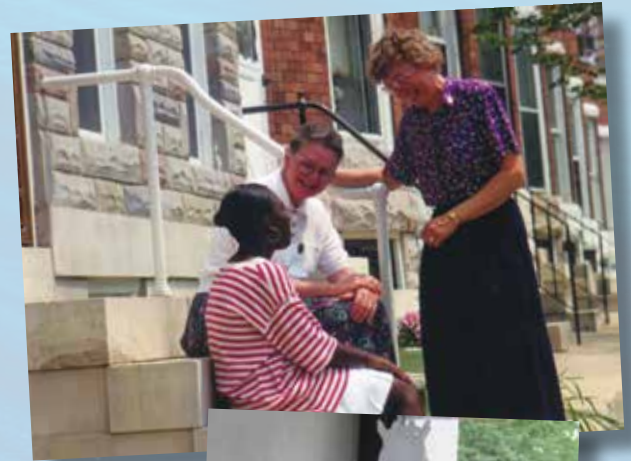




Sr. St. Flavie had carried the box containing the sacred vessels and vestments for Mass secured by Mother General. Sr. St. Flavie guarded the package devotedly, and as she passed through customs, one of the officers looked suspiciously at the ornate box. Years later, Sr. Flavie would recall: "I carried the box without fear, and the officer was such a gentleman he never asked what it contained." One of the items we believe she carried through U.S. Customs in May 1881 was a ciborium, a covered cup for holding hosts for Communion. The Sisters of Bon Secours, USA, has preserved the ciborium, whose base features wonderful enamel vignettes of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph. In 2004, an appraiser confirmed the ciborium is of European design and is consistent with the 19th century European style of cutting gemstones.

The statue of Our Lady and the precious ciborium are not only Bon Secours historical treasures; they are reminders of the sisters' heritage of providing Catholic health care and an inspiration to continuing the legacy of being *Good Help*.

In spite of their fatigue upon disembarking in New York City, our three pioneer sisters immediately took a train to Baltimore, Maryland, eager to begin their new work. They were whisked by carriage from Penn Station in Baltimore to Mrs. John Small's home at 70 McCulloh Street. A childless widow, Mrs. Small had experienced the care of the Sisters of Bon Secours in Cork. She, like the Whedbee couple, desired to have the sisters in Baltimore and arranged with Archbishop Gibbons to shelter the Sisters of Bon Secours until they could procure a convent. It was said that our "poor Europeans suffered a great deal from the heat and mosquito bites, but they never lost their courage or good humor."



Sr. Donat described the work of the Sisters of Bon Secours in her June 1928 article published in *The Trained Nurse and Hospital Review*:

Requests for the sisters' ministrations became so great in those pioneer days that besides caring for the sick, the sisters found there was an urgent necessity for visiting nursing and social work among the poorer classes, that much good could be accomplished thereby, and a vast field lay open before them .... these sisters set out alone to the districts assigned them, carrying a little "black bag" which was filled with all sorts of comfort for the sick—sometimes it was food, medicine or tonics; at other times—clothes, bed-linens, etc. In fact, you could almost find anything needed for the sick in that "black bag" as many visiting nurses have observed...their charitable work was admirable, as they passed from home to home ministering to the sick and poverty-stricken families, cheering and uplifting many types of people with whom they came into contact during their daily round of duties.



*Special thanks to Bon Secours' archivists Sr. Mary Shimo and Mary Herbert for contributing this article.*



## WHEDBEE GREAT-GRANDCHILDREN SHARE RECOLLECTIONS

*“Our family’s first contact with the Sisters of Bon Secours was in 1870 when our great-grandparents were honeymooning in Paris and our great-grandmother became seriously ill. She was attended by the English-speaking and Irish-born Sr. Matilda. Our great-grandmother was originally from North Carolina and was well-known to Bishop Gibbons when he was Vicar Apostolic in that state. The Whedbee’s and other doctors asked Archbishop Gibbons to bring the Bon Secours sisters over to Baltimore. He went to Paris on the way to Rome and made the request of Mother St. Fulgence, who then decided to reflect. It then happened that a Mrs. John Small, who, originally from Ireland and familiar with the Bon Secours sisters, had moved to Baltimore and became acquainted with Archbishop Gibbons. She lost her husband and was rambling around her much too large house and then decided to offer it as a temporary home to the sisters until they found a permanent convent. As she also happened to be very wealthy, Mother St. Fulgence ceased reflecting, accepted the accommodations, and the sisters arrived establishing a new foundation. Three sisters came over, of which two were French but had been working in Ireland. The Mother Superior of the convent in Dublin also came. They arrived in May of 1881.”*

— Jim Whedbee

*“I first became aware of my family’s connection to the Sisters of Bon Secours a number of years ago when my sister, Mary Giftos, introduced me to Sr. Dorothy Brogan. After talking with my uncle, Courtenay Whedbee, and doing a little research, I was pleasantly surprised by what I found. My great-grandfather, James Whedbee, married Elizabeth Manley from New Berne, North Carolina. This is probably where my great-grandfather knew the future Cardinal Gibbons. My great-grandparents had a son, James S. Whedbee, my grandfather. He married Eleanor Maria Jenkins. Her uncle was George Carrell Jenkins who helped fund the construction of Bon Secours Hospital. So I feel very blessed to have this double connection to the Sisters of Bon Secours.”*

— Joe Whedbee

*“For me, I can share the rich history in my original family, including grandparents James and Eleanor Jenkins Whedbee, of the value of family love and compassion. This way of life led to the greater Baltimore community and broader gifting of time and talent, a commitment to the greater wellness of others. This attitude has trickled down like water through all. So interesting, how the simple care of others from the heart is so powerful. Each family has their own stories, but the original story tells it all. Compassionate Caring. Bon Secours. Gift of the Heart. This is global, not limited to Baltimore. France and the United States are central to the story, but the world is connected now personally and professionally through the mission to heal and make whole. The Good Help of the Bon Secours sisters was valued and shared for generations. I am grateful for this legacy and experience of Bon Secours and find it so enriching in my life.”*

— Mary Whedbee Giftos

*“Bob O’Brien, one of the abbey’s financial advisors and a good friend, was vacationing in Ireland a number of years ago and became ill. He was treated there in a Bon Secours hospital, and during a conversation with one of the sisters, my family name (Whedbee) came up. The Irish sister told Bob that my great-grandparents (James S. Whedbee and Eleanor Jenkins Whedbee) were responsible for the Bon Secours sisters being invited to the United States (Baltimore). She explained that my grandparents were in Paris on their honeymoon when my grandmother became ill and was hospitalized at a Bon Secours hospital. My grandparents were so impressed with the care she received that they facilitated bringing the Sisters of Bon Secours to the attention of the Archdiocese of Baltimore. And the rest is a glorious history!”*

— Fr. Dominic Whedbee





BON SECOURS HEALTH SYSTEM  
IS A LEADER  
IN CATHOLIC  
HEALTH CARE

From those early beginnings, when three sisters arrived at the port of Baltimore from Paris to care for people in their homes, the Sisters of Bon Secours have spread their health care ministry throughout the United States. Today, under the sponsorship of Bon Secours Ministries, Bon Secours Health System (BSHSI) is a major Catholic health system with 23,000 caregivers carrying forth the mission of the Sisters of Bon Secours to *be Good Help to Those in Need* in 10 communities within six states. The health system owns and operates, both alone and in joint ventures, 19 acute care hospitals, one psychiatric hospital, five nursing care facilities, four assisted living facilities, six retirement communities for senior housing, and 14 home care and hospice providers.

The Sisters of Bon Secours' first hospital in Baltimore opened in 1919, operating today on the same site in West Baltimore and continuing to serve an indigent and medically underserved population. And, it was in West Baltimore that many of the Sisters of Bon Secours received their nursing education at the Bon Secours School of Nursing, which graduated its first class in 1925 and last class in 1970, educating many nurses to carry forth the sister's charism of "Compassion, Healing and Liberation."

From Baltimore, the sisters initially brought their health care ministry to Michigan, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, Virginia and Florida, where they opened acute care and long term care facilities. Today, the Bon Secours Health System, which was established in 1983, serves 10 communities in Maryland, New York, Virginia, Kentucky, South Carolina and Florida. Sisters still work in BSHSI facilities and others serve on BSHSI boards and continue to provide vision and leadership.

BSHSI is committed to faithfully responding to God’s gift of compassion, healing and liberation by ensuring its care is extraordinary and achieving the best outcomes possible; transforming health care delivery to meet the changing requirements and incentives of health care reform; bringing communities to wholeness; liberating people’s potential; and expressing its Catholic identity.

“In November 2013, Pope Francis told religious leaders to ‘Wake Up the World.’ BSHSI has been on the forefront of waking up the world for many years, carrying forth the original work of the Sisters of Bon Secours to wake up the world to the plight of those who are poor, vulnerable, and those living on the margins as the health system seeks to promote social justice, both nationally and internationally,” says Sr. Patricia A. Eck, chair of the board of Bon Secours Ministries, the sponsor of BSHSI and Congregation Leader of the Sisters of Bon Secours.



## MOVING BEYOND THE WALLS OF THE HOSPITAL

BSHSI has been changing the way it provides health care by focusing on health and wellness and growing services provided outside the walls of the hospital, adding more primary care and home health services. By working on disease prevention and treating health problems before they become acute, BSHSI is saving lives, improving quality of life and reducing health care costs.



BSHSI reaches beyond the boundaries of *Good Help* to integrate with the life of its communities to bring people to health and wholeness. Working with community leaders, neighbors and other resources within each local system, the health system reaches out to serve at-risk populations.

“We are especially pleased that our Good Help Affordable Care Organization (ACO) is fully operational and is responsible for managing Bon Secours’ thousands of Medicare fee-for-service enrollees across all segments of the continuum of care. Our ACO is focused on improving 33 different quality metrics for the Medicare enrollee population,” says Richard J. Statuto, president and CEO of BSHSI.

A major focus of BSHSI is its Community Benefit Services. These programs or activities provide treatment or promote health as a response to community needs and meet at least one of the following objectives: improving access to health care services, enhancing the health of the community, advancing medical or health care knowledge, and/or relieving a government burden.

Each local health system also has a Healthy Community Initiative and partners with local governments, churches and community groups to fund small businesses, address health, social services and community needs, fund after school programs and expand affordable housing.



## PROVIDING EXTRAORDINARY CARE

Bon Secours is responding to the changing landscape of health care through Clinical Transformation. Its vision is to create an integrated delivery of care that achieves extraordinary, individual outcomes at the best value possible thus ensuring sustainability and preserving our ministry of *Good Help to Those in Need*.

Clinical Transformation is a comprehensive, interdisciplinary approach to redesign care delivery to achieve excellence throughout the care continuum. It measurably improves quality, creates holistic, patient and resident-centered care experiences, and reduces health care costs by reducing waste, variation and duplication. The Center for Clinical Excellence is the framework that brings about this redesign through effective alignment of people, process and technology.

Clinical Transformation enables BSHSI to provide its patients and residents with evidenced-based, extraordinary care and world-class service. It enables them as providers to partner with its patients, residents, families and physicians in innovative ways through the use of technology and by creating leaders of care across the continuum.

A key tool in Clinical Transformation is Bon Secours ConnectCare, the electronic health record information system. All of BSHSI's Clinical Transformation work is supported and enhanced by the ConnectCare process to drive evidence-based practice and make it easier for clinicians to do the right things at the bedside. This improved access to shared information allows care to be more proactive. Patient safety is also an important focus of Clinical Transformation, and one of the keys to improving safety is the reliable use of evidence-based practices. There has been a dramatic decrease in hospital infection rates throughout the system. Also, by sharing strategies across the system through Learning Communities, quality of care has shown constant improvement.

“Our collaborative focus on Clinical Transformation ensures that we can deliver on our promise of *Good Help* by inspiring change and innovation for our future,” says Statuto. “Additionally, through *Good Help Connections* we are bringing the experience, talent and success of the Bon Secours ConnectCare Team, information experts, and other clinical transformation staff to our partners and affiliates.



## AN ADVOCATE FOR ACCESS TO CARE AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

Committed to increasing American's access to high-quality health care, BSHSI has actively participated in federal reform initiatives to expand health insurance coverage. A multidisciplinary approach across the continuum of care has integrated services and ensured that innovative technology, quality and compassionate care are in place to provide both treatment and patient, resident and family education across the system.

BSHSI also uses its influence to promote social justice both locally and nationally, advocating for sensible gun control legislation, immigration reform, Medicaid expansion, and freedom for victims of human trafficking. Bon Secours seeks to “Wake Up the World” to the plight of those who are poor, vulnerable and living on the margins.



## A GLOBAL RESPONSIBILITY

Global ministries focus on improving conditions in international communities and reducing the carbon footprint on the Earth to improve the quality of life for all.

Recognizing its responsibility to the world, not only the communities in which they have facilities, BSHSI has advanced the healing mission of Jesus around the world through vibrant partnerships that work on sustainable public health programs and emergency relief efforts as well as clinical and community-based health care delivery. In 2014



alone, BSHSI's outreach efforts have benefited over 20,000 people in Peru, Haiti, the Philippines, Liberia and the United States with contributions of over \$663,000.

Bon Secours also embraces its responsibility to nurture God's creation for all future generations and is committed to improving population health. Efforts are ongoing on water conservation, recycling, waste reduction and energy conservation, and BSHSI has received several environmental excellence awards for environmental performance improvements and dedication to environmental sustainability.

## LIBERATING OUR PEOPLE'S POTENTIAL

Liberating our people's potential has always been an important goal for BSHSI. "In all our interactions, we strive to create an environment that fosters the best in each of us and invites all those we touch to join our ministry to create a more humane world and build healthier communities." says Statuto. "In support of this, we work to positively engage all our employees in the services we provide, enabling them to be healthy, valued, and productive."

For the third year in a row, the Gallup Organization recognized BSHSI as one of its top performing organizations, honoring it with the Gallup Great Workplace Award. The Bon Secours Institute supports Bon Secours' leadership, career and development initiatives.

## EXPRESSING OUR CATHOLIC IDENTITY

"BSHSI's work expresses the healing Mission of Christ. A strong and vibrant Catholic identity ensures that everything we say and do is a reflection of faithfulness to the values that are unique to our tradition," says Sr. Pat Eck. The Center for Ministry Leadership provides programs for leaders to ensure competent and confident ministry leaders throughout the system. In 2014, The Center offered formation experiences to 1,979 health care leaders in programs such as "Foundations of Catholic Health Care Leadership" and "Ministry Leadership Formation."

"Since 1881, health care has indeed changed dramatically, but BSHSI has successfully combined all of the technology and best qualities of health care today with the mission of the Sisters of Bon Secours to be and to give *Good Help to Those in Need* in all of their facilities, communities, the nation and the world," says Sr. Rose Marie Jasinski, country leader for the United States.

# SISTERS PROVIDE VISION AND LEADERSHIP

*The following Sisters of Bon Secours serve on Bon Secours Ministries or Bon Secours Health System boards and committees:*

- Sr. Elaine Davia
- Sr. Pat Dowling
- Sr. Pat Eck
- Sr. Nancy Glynn
- Sr. Fran Gorsuch
- Sr. Rose Marie Jasinski
- Sr. Anne Lutz
- Sr. Anne Marie Mack
- Sr. Peggy Mathewson
- Sr. Vicky Segura
- Sr. Mary Shimo
- Sr. Alice Talone
- Sr. Rita Thomas

# SISTERS OF BON SECOURS ALSO REACH OUT TO SERVE ON COMMUNITY BOARDS

*Among the many community boards our sisters serve on are:*

- Catholic Charities of Rockland County, New York
- UNANIMA (Non-Government Organization at the United Nations)
- Mercy Housing, Inc.
- Sisters Academy
- Leadership Conference of Women Religious
- Asylee Women's Enterprise
- Resurrection St. Paul School
- Religious Formation Conference
- P. Francis Murphy Initiative

# *Glimpses into* BON SECOURS HEALTH SYSTEM IN IRELAND



*By Sr. Helena Daly*

My involvement began in the eighties and has continued to the present day in different roles. Since my experience has been Cork based, I will be describing some changes that have occurred over the years in Bon Secours Hospital Cork (BSHC).

Prior to the setting up of Bon Secours Health System, Ireland (BSHS), our hospital structure was: matron, hospital administrator, and hospital secretary. Looking to the future, many of our sisters were retiring and being replaced by lay staff, and this meant we had fewer sisters in active ministry. This led to a revitalization program that began by involving all staff in preparation for the setting up of BSHS. This program was rolled out to all our hospitals, and a five-year plan was prepared involving the introduction of new services and a change of structure.

Up until 1985, the General Hospital and Maternity Hospital in Cork functioned separately with a matron in each. The process of amalgamating both hospitals began with the appointment of one matron (myself, Sr. Helena Daly) and the streamlining of services such as catering, laundry, and administrative functions.



In 1993, Bon Secours Health System was formally established. This involved the appointment of a CEO, a CFO, a mission sister, and a non-executive board of directors consisting of sisters and lay people. The purpose of establishing BSHS was to continue our Bon Secours Mission into the future when sisters no longer worked in our hospitals.

In each of our hospitals, a lay manager was appointed as well as a mission sister. The title of matron was changed to director of nursing. New services were developed over time to include IT, Infection Control, Health and Safety, and Best Practice departments.

In the mid-nineties changes in nursing training occurred countrywide, and there were changes from certificate to diploma to degree programs. This meant we were no longer involved in the recruitment of our student nurses as this was now the responsibility of University College Cork. The students from then on attended the college for all their lectures and their practical training was carried out in our hospital. BSHC has been a training hospital for nurses since 1923 and continues to the present day. It is also recognized for the training of medical students.

All new staff appointed to the hospital, including our students, receive an induction program about our history, mission and values. The mission sister in each of our hospitals is responsible for the induction program. With very few sisters in active ministry, it is more challenging to ensure that our Bon Secours Mission is actively lived out in all our facilities. In 2004, the first Joint Commission International inspection was successfully carried out in BSHC and has continued every three years in all our hospitals.

In Cork in 2007, the maternity services in the three hospitals (including Bon Secours) amalgamated into one large new maternity hospital. Up until then, we cared for our patients from the cradle to the grave. From that time onwards, our maternity unit was utilized for surgical, medical, and cardiology patients. A breast care unit was also developed.

I retired from my post as director of nursing in 2010 and was replaced by the first lay director of nursing in BSHC, Bernadette Mulcahy. In the past year, the first lay mission leader was also appointed at BSHC.

For the past three years, I have been working in a pastoral role in a volunteer capacity in our facility for the elderly in Bon Secours Care Village, Mount Desert. I feel privileged to be back with the sick, the dying and their families, which is the core Mission of Bon Secours.



# *Sisters of Bon Secours Proud to Work in Health Care*

## *Sr. Chris Webb: Chaplain at Bon Secours DePaul Medical Center*

Sr. Chris Webb ministers to people with all degrees of illness as well as newborns at the Bon Secours DePaul Medical Center in Norfolk, Virginia. Her work encompasses everything from responding to codes in the ICU and codes on the floor to routine patient visits and rocking newborns. She credits her 23 years as a medical tech in the lab for allowing her to respond to her calling and the knowledge that she wanted to minister in health care. Sr. Chris' medical background helps her guide the patients to ask the right questions.



Often, a large portion of her day as chaplain is listening to patients' stories and showing them someone cares. Sr. Chris finds that not only is the patient benefiting from being able to talk to someone, but she is benefiting as well. "It makes me more aware of my listening skills," she reflects. "I have had people tell me what they feel like when they are talking to me; I am *truly* listening to them. Sometimes patients just need someone to listen and that is just so little to give to a person who is lonely. I believe I help them find peace in the moment."

One thing that still draws Sr. Chris to health care and has kept her in this field for so long is that she feels as though she is touching lives. "The patients and families are what keep me going," says Sr. Chris. "The moments with patients and their families and the stories they share are so powerful and moving, and these experiences have helped me grow as a person. To be honest, I was a shy introvert. For me, to be able to step into a place where I am speaking with these patients one-on-one makes me sure health care is the right ministry for me."

Sr. Chris has also spent seven years working in an assisted living facility in Norfolk, Virginia and several years in hospice in Charleston, South Carolina, where she ministered to those who were dying. In addition, she has worked with grieving children who lost parents or siblings.

Sr. Chris reflects on her work by simply saying, "If you have a gift with people, why wouldn't you use it? My gift is listening, being with, and being present. It gives me a lot of things to reflect on and has opened me up immensely."





## ***Sr. Fran Gorsuch: Director of Community Initiatives at Good Samaritan Regional Medical Center***

Sr. Fran Gorsuch feels that she has one of the best “jobs” in the world. In her daily ministry at Good Samaritan Regional Medical Center in Suffern, New York, she has the opportunity to interact with patients, staff and physicians; however, the best part of her ministry is being a “face of Catholic health care” in the local community. Through contact with others in Rockland County, New York, who also serve the needs of a diverse population, Sr. Fran is able to help form partnerships that provide access especially for those who don’t always have a voice or a place at the table of decision-making. She works very closely with Catholic Charities, the Immigration Coalition, local educators and the law enforcement community to assist victims of abuse, domestic violence, alcohol and drug addiction as well as newer arrivals to the United States who may not have legal status, but who certainly have health care as well as other needs. Working together, they try to provide opportunities for better housing, food stability, legal assistance and protection.

Sr. Fran serves on the Foundation Board at Good Samaritan Regional Medical Center. “I serve with wonderfully, committed peers, who work diligently and creatively to raise funds to support our ongoing ministry of care for the community, capital for new technology, new services, staff education, and necessary repairs to our facilities,” says Sr. Fran.

Also a board member of Bon Secours New York Health System and Bon Secours St. Petersburg Health System, Sr. Fran feels privileged to serve on the boards of two of the ministries for seniors, both of which have long-term care and assisted living facilities as well as home care programs. “In a society that is so often characterized as youth-oriented and sees those who are elderly as insignificant, our employees provide quality, compassionate care, and accompany those who have lived life fully. They become the senior’s family and their advocate. Our employees also learn much about life from those who have so much experience to share,” she reflects. “I am proud to be associated with these wonderful staff members and to have the opportunity, first-hand, to see the tenderness and care with which they minister. These are truly happy places, where there is prayer, laughter, rich conversation, good food and mostly lots of love.”

While the challenges facing formal health care are immense, the conscious movement to build healthy communities through support, education, good nutrition, care for the whole person (physical, emotional, psychological, and spiritual), access to health care, and community support are tremendous signs of hope. “A wonderful invitation and challenge to us, I believe, is finding the ‘wisdom figures’ in the local communities and multiple ethnic groups, who can truly influence a community’s understanding of, and access to, healthy community initiatives,” says Sr. Fran. “This involves local organizations and clergy persons among others. Above all, it involves ‘being among’ the communities we are privileged to serve.”

“A favorite poet of mine, Mary Oliver, asks, ‘And you, what is it you plan to do with your one wild and precious life?’ Some might consider us wild for choosing to spend our lives with and for those who are marginalized, but it is the highest privilege to see each life as so very precious and to see in each person the Face of God. I can think of no better, more wild and precious way to live than this.”



## ***Sr. Anne Lutz: Executive Vice President, Bon Secours Health System***

Sr. Anne Lutz, executive vice president of Bon Secours Health System (BSHSI), is responsible for the implementation and consistency of the health system's Mission and Values as well as Sponsorship, working with local system Senior Vice President's for Sponsorship. She is on the Executive Management Team of the health system and the Mission Department reports to her.



Sr. Anne was a nurse at Bon Secours Hospital in Grosse Pointe, Michigan, for 10 years and then spent another 10 years in long-term care administration. Since 1989, she has been a part of the Health System Office of BSHSI. "It has been a privilege to work alongside others in our ministry, living out our charism of healing, compassion, and liberation every day," she says.

"Like the original Sisters of Bon Secours, we are inspired to continue the healing ministry of Jesus Christ," Sr. Anne reflects. She is committed to seeing that "Bon Secours goes beyond medical care to meet the holistic needs of people, families, and communities, not just locally, but worldwide."

"What we have been doing through our Healthy Communities Initiatives we feel is the best way to make people healthier. For years, Bon Secours has been growing services provided outside of the hospital as part of our focus on population health and wellness. By helping to prevent disease before it occurs or treat it before it becomes acute, we are saving lives, improving quality of life, and reducing health care costs," explains Sr. Anne. "Through partnerships with others, we are also helping to build healthier communities through social services, job placement, safe and affordable housing, access to nutritious food, and education." She adds, "It is a joy to come to work every day, knowing that in so many ways we are making a difference in the lives of the people we touch."



## ASSOCIATES MINISTRY *in Health Care*

*by Amy Kulsea, Director of Associates*

From the establishment of the Associates in the early 1990s, many Associates have been and are actively engaged in a health care ministry in both Bon Secours Health System and other health care organizations around the country.

It was nurses, hospice ministers, chaplains, mission leaders, and administrative support, among others, who the sisters first approached and invited into the Associates over 20 years ago. The sisters sensed in these co-workers a committed heart for the Mission of Bon Secours and a desire to grow more deeply in faith and in community around the Mission. As the compassionate care of the poor, the sick, and the dying has always been the focus of Bon Secours' outreach, many health care ministers, who were and are "co-workers in the vineyard" with the sisters, have responded enthusiastically to the extended community of Associates established by the sisters. The Associates, from the beginning, have met in faith community with the sisters for prayer, mutual support and encouragement around the Mission, in order to grow in faith and strengthen their ability to respond to the needs of the people whom they serve.

As the years have gone on, there is today a greater diversity of vocations represented in the United States Associates, but the roots of Bon Secours are in health care and healing, and this is a continuing legacy among the Associates.





Associates in the United States have a presence in the local Bon Secours health systems and other area health care and social service institutions in the Baltimore, Maryland; Richmond and Hampton Roads, Virginia; Charleston and Greenville, South Carolina; and St. Petersburg, Florida areas. Dedicated now-retired nurses, chaplains and hospice care workers are among our Associates residing in the Philadelphia area, Michigan and Wisconsin. Many years of combined service and compassionate care to the sick and dying are represented by the United States Associates of Bon Secours, testifying to the ongoing vibrancy and urgency of the call to be *Good Help to Those in Need*.



## BON SECOURS VOLUNTEER MINISTRY PROGRAM WORK IN HEALTH CARE

During their year experience with the Bon Secours Volunteer Ministry Program, the volunteers feel fortunate and grateful to be able to play an active role in health care and make a difference in people's lives. Each volunteer is interested in pursuing a career in health care and view this volunteer opportunity as a valuable experience for the future. Their ministry in Baltimore has been rewarding, inspiring and eye-opening.

**MEGHAN**, a volunteer working with congestive heart failure patients, reflects, "This experience has been both humbling and empowering for me; I recognize that I have so much to learn – that this is an experience that will bring me knowledge. I am inspired continually by each opportunity that I have the privilege of pursuing through this program." Meghan has decided to enter the nursing field and says her volunteer year has directly impacted this decision and has meant a great deal to her.

**CO'DALE** has been exposed to health care for as long as he can remember. With his mom being a caretaker, he spent a lot of time witnessing people being cared for. Co'Dale reflects, "This volunteering experience has represented a spiritual transformation through listening and sharing the stories of others in hopes of helping individuals obtain good health."

**ANDY**, a volunteer patient liaison in the Emergency Department of Bon Secours Hospital, feels that his role has allowed him to interact with each patient in a unique and rewarding way. "I do my best to provide ministry of presence for patients. This ministry usually takes the form of conversation, or simply listening to patients." Andy listens to both the joys and struggles of his patients, "however, it is hearing people's struggles which allow me to see the importance of my ministry," he reflects. "This experience has already been an invaluable one. This opportunity and the patients I see on a daily basis inspire me as I look forward to my career as a physician, who can minister to patients through medicine and presence alike."

**ALEXIS**, a volunteer in the Child Development Room, a part of the Family Support Center of Community Works, notes that through this program, her view of health care has expanded beyond the traditional sense. "My experience with the Bon Secours Volunteer Ministry Program has been incredible and eye-opening thus far. I have already learned so much about the education and health disparities between different socioeconomic classes," Alexis reflects. She credits her volunteer experience in helping her continue to grow as an individual. "The people I have formed relationships with have positively impacted my experience and have allowed me to become a member of this compassionate community."

**AUGUST** has been volunteering in the Vascular Center at Bon Secours Hospital. He describes his experience as a volunteer as meaning a great deal to him, not only for his future career as a doctor, but also as a human being. "We often take for granted the things we have in life and working with the patients has made me appreciate the things I have. We go through life unconsciously evaluating people and taking things for granted, and this experience has reminded me that we should treat every human being with love and care because everyone is deserving."

# MINISTRY GRANTS AWARDED

## ■ \$25,000 – Health Education and Literacy – Hampton Roads

Mary Immaculate Hospital Foundation of Newport News, Virginia, sought funding for their Health Education and Literacy Program (HEAL). This program is under the guidance of Mary Immaculate Hospital's Family Focus. This program focuses on adults who have limited ability to read and, consequently, find reading health-related information challenging. Partnering with the "Literacy for Life" program, patients will be identified who would benefit from this program and invited to participate. Learners with low health literacy would meet twice a week over eight weeks and take classes featuring different medical professional guest speakers to discuss topics such as: accessing different types of health care facilities, reading prescriptions, communicating with doctors, completing medical forms, and nutritious eating and exercise. The funds will be used to purchase educational materials and supplement instructors' salaries.

## ■ \$29,590 – Passport to Health: Bon Secours Baltimore Health System Foundation

The Passport to Health initiative builds on Bon Secours Baltimore's award winning State of Maryland Health Enterprise Zone (HEZ) grant funded project, West Baltimore Care. It is a healthy living activities program launched in late 2013 and designed to help reduce the impact of chronic disease in residents already diagnosed and reduce the incidence of chronic diseases in West Baltimore over time through a robust program of easily accessible, community-based fitness and health education activities.

Working with local health care providers, leaders of the program will identify at-risk individuals and track their progress through the use of their "Passport to Health" card. The funding received will provide for incentive costs that would be awarded to participants for successfully completing various stages of the program. Examples of these incentives would be: a gift card, workout t-shirt, yoga mat, and farmer's market gift card. Incentives offered will be in keeping with healthy practices and not compromise the value of the program by providing incentives that would be superfluous or contradict the purpose of the program.

# JUBILEES

## CELEBRATING 65 YEARS



*Sr. Kathleen Moroney* was born in County Limerick, Ireland, the second of four children. The Sisters of Bon Secours were part of her childhood as they came to her home weekly. In 1950, Sr. Kathleen entered the Sisters of Bon Secours in Cork and in 1958 professed final vows in Paris. Following her graduation from nursing school, she was assigned to Bon Secours Dublin Hospital. She also spent time in Cobh, Tralee and Mount Desert. Sr. Kathleen went to Charleston, South Carolina, in 1993 to study Clinical Pastoral Education. She returned to Ireland in 1994.

With a great desire to return to the United States, she began the process of becoming a member of the United States province in 1995. “I did not have any hesitation about signing the papers and joining the American province, and I felt a strong sense of belonging,” Sr. Kathleen says.

First missioned to Port Charlotte, Florida, Sr. Kathleen became certified as a chaplain at Bon Secours St. Joseph Hospital in 1996 and also served as chaplain at Bon Secours St. Joseph Nursing and Rehabilitation Center and Bon Secours Place Assisted Living Facility. In her ministry, Sr. Kathleen used her musical talent while playing her guitar for Alzheimer’s patients.

In 2007, Sr. Kathleen was missioned to Greenville, South Carolina, and continued her chaplaincy for one year at Bon Secours St. Francis East Side. Since retiring, she has volunteered at St. Francis East Side.



## CELEBRATING 60 YEARS



*Sr. Mary Rita Nangle* grew up in Cambridge, Massachusetts, and entered the Congregation of Bon Secours on November 21, 1955. She graduated from the Bon Secours School of Nursing in 1960 and then received additional education as an X-ray technician.

Life as a Sister of Bon Secours has been a journey filled with caring for sick, dying and needy people of all ages as well as being with God's people. Beginning in Baltimore, Maryland, Sr. Mary Rita went on to Wildwood, New Jersey; Grosse Pointe, Michigan; Rosemont, Pennsylvania; Darby, Pennsylvania; Methuen, Massachusetts; Marriottsville, Maryland; and finally returned to where it all began in Baltimore. In addition to her travels around the United States, there also were years spent out of the country. Sr. Mary Rita went to Orleans, France, in the mid-

1960s to prepare to go to a mission in Lere, Chad, Africa. There she cared for children who came from miles around to receive treatment at the government hospital where she worked.

In the mid-1990s, she felt called to Riobamba, Ecuador, where she spent a little more than a year as a companion to Sr. Pat Dowling, who was on a mission in the Riobamba Diocese. She currently lives in Baltimore.

“Ministry in health care has been a gift from God, which enriches and blesses my life daily just by being in contact with the health care teams that carry on our mission at Bon Secours Hospital in Baltimore and throughout the Bon Secours Baltimore ministry,” says Sr. Mary Rita. “We are alive in Baltimore serving the people of God.”



*Sr. Frances McCabe* entered the Sisters of Bon Secours in July 1955 from Philadelphia. She received what was then known as the “holy habit” in January 1956 and given the name Sr. James Michael. She made her final vows in Paris, France in September, 1963.

“Ministry in health care has meant, for me, taking care of undeserved people. This was especially true when I was working with children, especially disabled children,” Sr. Frances says. “I also worked with our sisters on Marian Hall. They have done so much for the community and continue to contribute through their prayer ministry.” Sr. Frances now resides in Marriottsville, where she is inspired by her sisters to serve wherever she is able.

Before moving to Marriottsville, Sr. Frances managed Bon Secours Project Good Help, an outreach program serving the elderly in Miami, Florida.

A graduate of the Bon Secours School of Nursing in 1960, Sr. Frances obtained a bachelor's degree in health services administration from Florida International University as well as a nursing home administrator's license. In 1980, the community asked Sr. Frances to serve at the Generalate in Rome, Italy. While there, she studied theology at Pontifical Gregorian University and Pontifical University of St. Thomas.

## CELEBRATING 50 YEARS



*Sr. Anne Maureen Doherty* was born in County Donegal, Ireland, and attended Ursuline Convent Boarding School. She graduated from Camillus School in Darby, Pennsylvania, in 1957 as a nurse, and she served in that role for many years. She entered the Sisters of Bon Secours in 1965. In the 1980s, Sr. Anne Maureen studied clinical pastoral education and became a certified chaplain.

“Being a nurse already when I entered the Sisters of Bon Secours both sustained and deepened my ministry in health care,” Sr. Anne Maureen says. “Later on, I became certified as a Catholic chaplain and eventually my ministry was working with students in a clinical pastoral education program. This I enjoyed very much, relating and sharing my gifts and experience with others.”

Through some of the 1980s and 1990s, Sr. Anne Maureen served as a nurse and then in pastoral care with the Sisters of Bon Secours in Methuen, Massachusetts. In 1994, she moved to Marriottsville, Maryland.

“I treasure my community and my life as a sister of Bon Secours. After returning from Methuen to Marriottsville, I was coordinator for the sisters on Marian Hall for a number of years. Since retiring, I continue to visit the sisters and helps coordinate the financial needs,” she says.



*Sr. Rose Marie Jasinski* was born in Baltimore, Maryland, and attended Shrine of the Little Flower and Catholic High School of Baltimore. After graduating from the Bon Secours School of Nursing in 1963, Sr. Rose Marie entered the community in 1965. She received her bachelor’s degree in nursing from the Medical College of Virginia at Virginia Commonwealth University and her master’s degree in Christian spirituality from Creighton University in Omaha, Nebraska.

“I knew I wanted to be a nurse growing up,” Sr. Rose Marie says. “I attended the Bon Secours Hospital School of Nursing in Baltimore and then worked at the hospital for two years after graduation. That’s when I met the Sisters of Bon Secours and grew to love how they cared for the sick and their overall mission and ministry; it was a perfect match for me! I was impressed with how human and caring they were. It has been such a gift in my life to be part of this community and to have shared in the dramatic shifts and changes over these 50 years.”

Sr. Rose Marie is a member of the Sisters of Bon Secours Congregation Team and serves as Country Leader for the United States and liaison for the Sisters of Bon Secours in South Africa. Over the years, she has held various positions in the Congregation, including vice president of the U.S. Leadership Team, candidacy program director, formation director and director of the Associates.

In addition, Sr. Rose Marie was senior vice president of sponsorship for Bon Secours Health System serving local systems including Bon Secours Kentucky Health System and Bon Secours St. Francis Health System in South Carolina. Sr. Rose Marie’s professional career has included ministries in nursing in Bon Secours hospitals as both a staff nurse and head nurse in medical/surgical units in Richmond, Virginia, as well as in

hospice home care in Baltimore. She was instrumental in establishing home care at St. Mary's Hospital in Richmond, Virginia, and currently, Sr. Rose Marie serves on the Boards of Bon Secours Ministries, Mercy Housing and the Leadership Conference of Women Religious (LCWR).

“For me, it's been a gradual shift from direct patient care into leadership, it has meant not losing that sense of our overall mission of bringing people to wholeness. I love that part of our mission and have been blessed to be able to share my gifts of caring and helping to bring people to wholeness,” she says.



*Sr. Anne Marie Mack* was born in Philadelphia and attended Holy Cross Catholic School and Archbishop Prendergast High School in Pennsylvania. She earned her bachelor's degree in nursing from the University of Delaware in Newark and master's degree in nursing from Wayne State University in Detroit. Sr. Anne Marie entered the community in 1965 and served as a nurse in Michigan.

“My health care ministry experiences have been an important expression of the gifts and skills that I have been blessed with throughout my life. They have enabled me to use them in service to others,” says Sr. Anne Marie. “My commitment and life within Bon Secours have enabled me to share our common values of service, prayer and community with other sisters of Bon Secours as well as with our dedicated committed lay colleagues. During these years, I was drawn ever more to our charism and mission.”

Sr. Anne Marie served as president of the Sisters of Bon Secours USA for seven years prior to joining Bon Secours Health System in 2005. At that time, she was appointed vice president of Mission for two hospitals in Richmond, Virginia, and currently serves as senior vice president of Sponsorship for Bon Secours Richmond Health System.

From 2008 to 2011, Sr. Anne Marie served as president of the board of UNANIMA International, a non-governmental organization of women religious serving at the United Nations and advocating on behalf of women and children, particularly those living in poverty as well as immigrants, refugees and the environment.

“The Congregation of Bon Secours has offered me challenges and stretched me in ways I never imagined! Being supported and affirmed by a loving community of women has strengthened my resolve even further to continue my commitment,” she says.



## CANDIDATE ENTERS CONGREGATION

We extend a warm welcome to Candidate Maria Wenas, who entered our Congregation on February 1. Maria, originally from Indonesia, comes to us from Texas and is a nurse with skilled nursing facility experience.

Maria explains why she felt called to religious life and the Sisters of Bon Secours. “Before I entered, what touched me most about the Sisters of Bon Secours was their quality of life, which I observed through social media and a couple of short meetings in person during my visits, calls and texts. Each of them carry the same great emotion I call compassion. After I officially entered, and at present, as I am on the journey with them, I feel even stronger that they are women with compassion. They are very attentive to people physically, mentally and spiritually,” says Maria.

Maria began her Candidacy, the first phase of Formation when one enters the Congregation, in orientation at Marriottsville where she will be until mid-May when she will then be missioned to live with a local community of Sisters of Bon Secours. During her time of Candidacy, she will learn more about community life, serve in a ministry, and participate in Formation programs.

## LIFEASASISTER.ORG

Check out our new website, [LifeAsASister.org](http://LifeAsASister.org), to help women imagine what life is like as a sister, from the experience of hearing God’s call to their life in community, prayer and ministry. This site provides helpful information and many resources for women considering religious life. The life of a sister is an exciting and fulfilling journey. We also have a new app that features life as a sister called Imagine A Sister’s Life.

## PROJECT GOOD HELP: JULY 2-7, 2015

Project Good Help will be held Thursday, July 2, through Tuesday morning, July 7. Project Good Help (Good Help is the meaning of Bon Secours) is a short-term service opportunity for single Catholic women ages 19 – 38 to volunteer in ministry in Baltimore City with the Sisters of Bon Secours. We share ministry, prayer, meals, faith and fun together. For information, please contact Sr. Fran Gorsuch at 201-791-3593. Space is limited, so call early!

# 2015 PRAYERBOOK: WAKE UP THE WORLD

We are pleased to introduce our 2015 prayer book, *Wake Up the World*, which is available in print or online. This year's theme includes aspects from the Sisters of Bon Secours 2014 General Chapter call in which we are challenged to "Wake Up the World" as Pope Francis says. The Chapter theme "Women of Healing, Be Protectors of God's Gifts" is also featured prominently in this booklet. Each day in the prayer book focuses on a different aspect of the General Chapter Call Statement that the Sisters of Bon Secours will be focusing on during the next five years. For a hard copy, please email [CBSvocations@bshsi.org](mailto:CBSvocations@bshsi.org) or call 410-442-3172. You can also view an online version at <http://lifeasasister.org/becoming-a-sister/prayerbook/>.



## Come *See* the Sisters of *Bon Secours*

Come & See Vocation weekends are for single, Catholic women ages 18-48 who wonder about religious life as a Catholic sister and are searching to understand their vocation in life. Spend time with sisters and listen, share, pray and reflect on God's voice within the quiet of your heart. Come with your questions and desires for a place to share and to discover God's call in your life. For more information, contact Sr. Pat Dowling at 410-442-3172 or email us at [CBSvocations@bshsi.org](mailto:CBSvocations@bshsi.org).

Visit our websites at [BonSecoursVocations.org](http://BonSecoursVocations.org) and [LifeAsASister.org](http://LifeAsASister.org).  
Facebook: [facebook.com/BonSecoursVocations](https://facebook.com/BonSecoursVocations)  
Twitter: [twitter.com/PatTheNun](https://twitter.com/PatTheNun) or [twitter.com/SrsBonSecours](https://twitter.com/SrsBonSecours)  
Youtube: [youtube.com/user/cbsvocations](https://youtube.com/user/cbsvocations)  
Pinterest: [pinterest.com/bonsecours](https://pinterest.com/bonsecours)

### 2015 Come & See Weekend Dates:

June 26-28

October 16-18

Also, check our website for dates and times of our Chat Room discussions.



# LIVING OUR MISSION



*Charlie Brown*

*Chair, Board of Directors of Bon Secours Health System*

Charlie Brown began his Bon Secours career in 1983 when he joined the board of the Bon Secours Hospital in Baltimore. He served on that board for nine years and was chair for his final three years. Soon thereafter, he joined the Bon Secours Health System Board (BSHSI), where he served for 10 years and chaired the Audit Committee for five of those years. Shortly after leaving the BSHSI Board, he became a member of Bon Secours Ministries (BSM), while continuing to serve on the Audit Committee of the BSHSI Board. On January 1, 2015, Charlie Brown rejoined the BSHSI Board as the chair of the board.

*“The hospital in Baltimore is located in a very poor section of West Baltimore and truly represents the mission of the Sisters of Bon Secours, Bon Secours Ministries and Bon Secours Health System — Good Help to Those in Need. My experiences in Baltimore opened my eyes and caused me to embrace our mission. My tenure on the BSHSI Board allowed me to experience the mission on a system-wide level. I can assure you that the BSHSI Board is very mission-focused and our Strategic Quality Plan is guided by, and supports, our mission. The BSM meetings in the Vatican have reinforced my commitment to our mission. The representatives with whom we have met in the Vatican have always seemed impressed with our commitment to our mission and our commitment to Catholic health care. In addition, over the years I have visited most of the local systems as part of BSM’s visitations, and I have always been energized with the people we meet and their leadership, enthusiasm, commitment to their communities and commitment to our mission.”*

*Maranda Clement*

*Clinical Nurse Educator*

Maranda Clement is the clinical nurse educator for the Bon Secours Kentucky Health System, where she provides education to staff members throughout the organization, including teaching basic, advanced and pediatric life-support classes. She joined Bon Secours Kentucky in 2010 as a staff nurse in the post-anesthesia care unit. Maranda received the Dedicated Service Award in 2014 for her commitment to mentoring nurses and serving the community.



*“I feel blessed to be part of Bon Secours Kentucky and the great things that happen here every day. I am privileged to have contact with employees as they begin their journey here with us. I always love to hear how amazing employees have been treated during the hiring process and how highly they think of our organization. As a part of Bon Secours, I feel that I am valued as an employee, a person and an individual. The mission and vision of Bon Secours changes everyone who joins the organization; it makes you want to*



*be a better person to help those less fortunate. I love working here and being able to live out the mission each day. I can't imagine working and serving anywhere else."*



***Ryan David***  
***Lead Groundskeeper***

Ryan David has been the lead groundskeeper for the Retreat and Conference Center at Bon Secours for three years and has worked for the Center for a total of six years. As lead groundskeeper, Ryan is responsible for landscaping the Marriottsville campus, including the Retreat Center, Health System Offices, Stone House and sisters' townhomes. He recently earned a certificate in landscape technology at Montgomery College in Maryland.

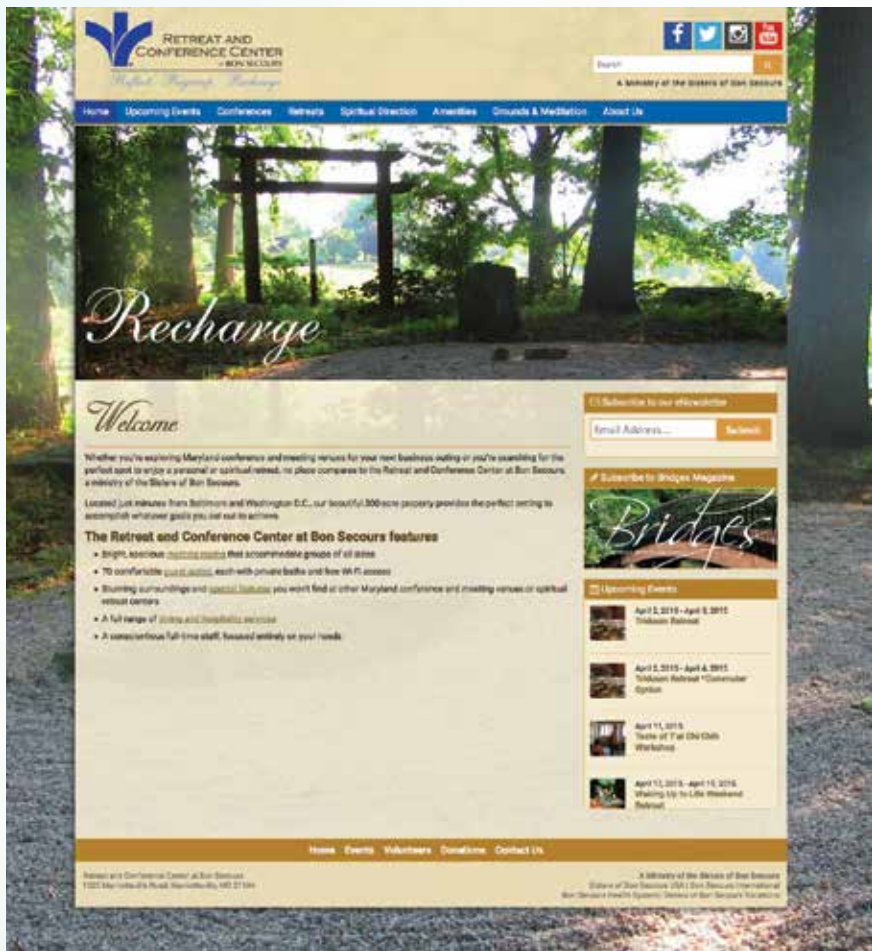
*"I have found it a pleasure to work here and help our many guests and sisters. I live the mission of Bon Secours through my work by making the already naturally beautiful campus even better so that guests will be able to treasure their experience. It is a blessing to be a part of the continuing mission of the Sisters of Bon Secours."*

***Cherie Waring***  
***Rehabilitation Coordinator***

Cherie Waring has served as rehabilitation coordinator for a year and as a physical therapist for six years with the Bon Secours St. Petersburg Health System in Florida. She primarily treats patients at Bon Secours Place at St. Petersburg and conducts orientation training, computer training, community education and staff in-services. Cherie received the Dedicated Service Award in 2014.

*"Home.' It's where everyone wants to be. When I was lucky enough to follow a colleague to Bon Secours Home Health, I realized rather quickly that I was 'home.' The philosophy of the Sisters of Bon Secours is directly in line with my personal ethical and moral compass – give good care to those in need. I am able to provide true care in the healing atmosphere of a person's home. I am honored to wear the fleur-de-lis, traditionally symbolizing the lotus flower and life. I use this symbol as a reminder that my mission in this life is to care, to help heal and to do all this without question. Like the original sisters who founded Bon Secours, I am dedicated to integrating the eight core values of quality, integrity, justice, stewardship, compassion, respect, innovation and growth into each treatment I provide in a person's home or when I am challenged with a new project. The foundation that the sisters built is truly what separates Bon Secours from the others. It is my honor to be a part of this family and carry on our history in assisting all people with all challenges in all environments. 'Home' is where everyone wants to stay, and it is a privilege when 'home' also becomes the place where one works."*





# NEW RETREAT AND CONFERENCE CENTER WEBSITE

If you have visited [www.RCCBonSecours.com](http://www.RCCBonSecours.com) recently, you will find that it includes a comprehensive list of our retreats and now offers online registration. Frequent retreat participants to our Center and many new visitors are already enjoying the online registration tools, and the Center is welcoming more guests to every retreat. The retreat schedule features a variety of retreats, including week-long, weekend and day retreats and even free events. Early bird discounts for many of the retreats are highlighted on the website. The website has many new photos of our facilities, so that friends who haven't been to our Center can have a better idea of what to expect when they arrive. Please visit our site soon and feel free to provide your feedback.



# THE YEAR OF CONSECRATED LIFE

Prayer for the  
**YEAR OF  
CONSECRATED  
LIFE**



The Retreat and Conference Center is honoring the Year of Consecrated Life with various events and retreats. We were honored to host Sr. Sandra Schneiders, IHM, on April 20, when she presented a day retreat titled “Consecrated Life Today: A Prophetic Call to Wake Up the World.” We also look forward to a retreat about consecrated life this fall from Sr. Carol Zinn, SSJ, who is the past president of Leadership Conference of Women Religious. This retreat will be held on Saturday, September 12 and is geared toward Catholic men and women religious. Please register online at [www.RCCBonSecours.com](http://www.RCCBonSecours.com) or by calling 410-442-3120.



## SUMMER AT THE RETREAT AND CONFERENCE CENTER

We have a busy summer of retreats planned. We will be hosting two week-long directed retreats, one in June and another in August. These silent retreats enable the retreatant to meet with a spiritual director daily to reflect on God’s presence and movement as revealed in prayer, the events and relationships in their life, and the response to God that is being made. The spiritual director may make suggestions for prayer, Scripture, and other readings for their personal reflection during the week at our Center. It’s a wonderful time of year to enjoy the paths, Labyrinth, Peace Garden and even our pool. Spiritual directors for the June 21-27 retreat include Sr. Martha Starrett, OP, Ginny Novak and Fr. John Haughey, SJ. The August 2-8 retreat will include Sr. Bernadette Claps, CBS, Sr. Pamela Jablon, SSND and Rev. Stephen Wade.



We are also pleased to have Fr. Robert Albright back this summer. He will be presenting *The Jewishness of Jesus* as he delves into Jesus' history in Galilee. The Jewishness of Jesus has been hidden behind layers of contempt, prejudice and misunderstanding for two thousand years. Retreatants will learn how to correctly read the New Testament and to authenticate Jesus' role in history.

Sr. Mary Ellen O'Dea, OP, is a new presenter to our Center. She will lead a week-long retreat on "Women of the Passion" which will reflect on the lives of women who have often been excluded or whose whole lives have often been hidden, yet whose spirits speak to us today on our own spiritual journey. She will share the lives of Claudia, wife of Pontius Pilate; Mary, wife of Clopas; Joanna, wife of Chuza; Salome, wife of Zebedee and mother of James and John; Unnamed maidservant of High Priest Caiaphas; Unnamed daughters of Jerusalem; Unnamed woman who anointed Jesus' head; and Veronica, who wiped the Face of Jesus. This retreat will be held July 26-August 1.

We are also happy to have Fr. Nicholas Amato returning this summer. Fr. Amato will be presenting "Tapping the Wellspring of Joy Within." Fr. Amato will focus on how retreatants can have the fullness of joy that Jesus prayed for at the Last Supper. He will teach about how to move from states of stress to a state of inner joy, where the need for the 'fixes' of food, drink, or work-a-holism will seem to melt away. This retreat will be held August 16-22.

The Retreat and Conference Center also offers a full schedule of day and weekend retreats this summer, including Friends Day of Prayer overnight retreat; *Making All Things New* weekend retreat with Paul Gallagher; T'ai Chi Chih workshops; and *Praying with Henri Nouwen: A Voice that Brings Us Home* weekend retreat with Gordon Creamer. Please visit our website at [www.RCCBonSecours.com](http://www.RCCBonSecours.com) for complete details and registration for our retreats.

## ANNUAL WOMEN'S WELLNESS WEEKEND IN SEPTEMBER

Our popular Women's Wellness Weekend returns this fall on September 25-27. "Living a Legacy...Leaving a Legacy" will begin with a presentation by the dramatic group Women of the Bible, Alive. Our featured speaker, Andrea Springer, will lead the retreat on Saturday as she presents "Communion of Women: Our Heritage and Our Hope." Andrea's inspiring and humorous stories of biblical and modern day women will inspire retreatants as they uncover their own legacies. Guests will also enjoy Saturday's workshops that include a variety of spiritual, physical and artistic activities. Free time throughout the weekend can be spent working on a scrapbooking activity with a few cherished photos, reflecting on their personal legacy. Women return for this popular retreat year after year to enjoy this fun time of community with others and also enjoy the peace-filled time of personal reflection that the weekend allows. Please sign up soon for this popular retreat.



# KEITH OWINGS RECEIVES FIRST JOSEPHINE POTEL SERVICE AWARD

The first annual Josephine Potel Service Award was given to Keith Owings, a maintenance technician in the Facilities Department for the Sisters of Bon Secours, USA, and the Bon Secours Retreat and Conference Center. This award recognizes Keith's excellent service and commitment to living the Sisters of Bon Secours, USA, Charism and Mission, and being *Good Help to Those in Need*.

The annual Josephine Potel Service Award recipient must be an employee of the Sisters of Bon Secours, USA, or the Bon Secours Retreat and Conference Center, who embodies the spirit of the Sisters of Bon Secours charism of "compassion, healing and liberation;" Mission: "To help people to wholeness...to alleviate human suffering...to help others to an awareness of their relationship with God by...reproducing in ourselves Christ healing...Christ consoling...Christ loving... Christ always aware of the needs of others;" and Mission Focus: To be "committed to defending and caring for all of creation and to crying out with others against injustice and all that diminishes life on Earth." The recipient is also one who guides their home and work life within the scope of the charism of the Sisters of Bon Secours.

Keith's nomination spoke of him as a compassionate, caring person with a deep concern for others. His respect for all employees, the sisters and guests of the Retreat and Conference Center comes through every day in all he does. Everyone spoke of his dedication to his job, always volunteering to help, staying overnight when it snows, and always going above the call of duty. There is a personal touch to everything Keith does, and his follow up is noteworthy. It means a lot to him to be a part of people's pleasant experience on the Marriottsville campus. In his personal life, Keith is devoted to his family, helps his neighbors, and volunteers in the community.

The Employee Activity Committee reviewed all nominations and selected Keith, who was recognized during the 2015 Recognition Luncheon in January where he received, as well as recognition, a \$1,000 award.

# Around the Congregation



Congratulations to *Sr. Dorothy Brogan* on being selected as a 2015 Women Making History Honoree in Greenville, South Carolina. She was honored at a special dinner in March and participated in a press conference in February at the Greenville Cultural Exchange Center where the 2015 Women Making History honorees were introduced to members of the press.



Best wishes to *Sr. Nancy Glynn* who has moved to Paris and is serving as Delegated Leader for the Sisters of Bon Secours in France.



Our congratulations to *Srs. Margot Rodriguez Blas* and *Elvia Rosa Valle Munoz* who made final vows on January 24, 2015 in Peru. Our Peruvian sisters also recently celebrated two sisters making first vows and five sisters renewing vows.





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# IN MEMORIAM LYNNE BRUENING 1938-2014

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Lynne Bruening was a friend of the Sisters of Bon Secours for many years. Her life was celebrated with her Bon Secours family at a Mass of Resurrection held on March 11, 2015 at the Sisters of Bon Secours Chapel in Marriottsville. Sisters, co-workers from over the years at Bon Secours Hospital in Baltimore, family and friends were present.

In the eulogy, Vic Broccolino, former CEO of Bon Secours Hospital in Baltimore, shared thoughts from many of the people who knew and worked with Lynne.

He told those assembled that Sr. Mary Regina Flatley recalled that “Lynne began her connection with the Sisters of Bon Secours early in her life as a day resident at St. Martin’s Day Nursery, which the Sisters of Bon Secours managed. Her life connected to the Sisters of Bon Secours again in 1973 when she was hired to work at Bon Secours Hospital in Baltimore as Vice President of Human Resources. Her gift to all she encountered was a gift of ‘right relationships’ with others. Even when Lynne retired, she shared her gift here in this building at Marriottsville by consulting for us as our personnel needs grew. I am very grateful that Lynne has come full circle with us at Bon Secours with our celebration today of her life among friends and the Sisters of Bon Secours.”



Vic pointed out that eight years ago, when Lynne developed health issues, declining eyesight, and could no longer drive, she moved into Heartlands Senior Living. Since Bon Secours built and initially operated Heartlands, and being ever mindful of the Bon Secours connection, that is where Lynne wanted to live. Lynne always kept up with activities away from Heartlands too, including many gatherings with former Bon Secours colleagues, affectionately called “The Lunch Bunch.”

“It’s not often that we come in contact with someone who becomes a loyal and dear friend for life. In the course of this path that we all travel, it is a blessing to have met and shared this pathway with Lynne. She was a wonderful person, a loyal and loving friend and will be remembered with great fondness,” he concluded.

# focus

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