

The Torch

Volume 4 Number 47

WINTER 2017

ST. BERNARD HOSPITAL AND HEALTH CARE CENTER



The Leadership Team of Catholic Health International breezed into the “windy city” of Chicago in the Fall of 2016 hosted by the Board, Management and Staff of St. Bernard’s Hospital located on Chicago’s south side. In addition to the educational opportunities afforded the Leadership Team, a tour of the hospital complex including the brand new ambulatory care centre was held along with many sites and sounds of Chicago. Chuck Holland, President and CEO of St. Bernard’s welcomed the group with his team who were most gracious hosts. CHI thanks Chuck and the St Bernard’s group for their warm and excellent hospitality.

Dr. Robert Stewart, CHI President & CEO, presenting Jean-Marc Martin with a gift of appreciation.



RETIREMENT

Jean-Marc Martin of Saint Basile, New Brunswick, retired from the Board of Directors of Catholic Health International in the fall of 2016. Mr. Martin was appointed to the Board of Directors in 2005 representing the Catholic Health Association of New Brunswick.



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During his time on the Board of Directors, he was appointed a Member of a number Corporations under the Sponsorship of CHI. He was committed to the healing ministry of Jesus and worked diligently for the growth of the organization and the many corporations under its jurisdiction. He attained perfect attendance for all Board and committee meetings over the eleven years he served on the Board.

He retired from the education field some time ago and devoted his spare time to CHI. He now has time to enjoy his cottage in Saint Jacques with his wife Olivette. We thank Jean-Marc for his support and wish him health and happiness in his retirement.



Sr. Anita Holmes, & St. Celene Hurley, SCIC

CHARITIES AT WORK

On International Women's Day, the story of the Sisters of Charity is a unique one of empowerment, shaped by both past history and present good deeds often undertaken away from the limelight.

Their contributions are made through dedicated women such as Sisters Anita Holmes and Celene Hurley, who have been quietly and selflessly aiding other women in neighbourhoods as diverse as Vancouver's downtown east side and Saint John's Waterloo street.

"I really felt a call to be with the people in a really special way," said Sister Anita, who - along with Sister Celene, who has worked alongside her since 2003 - spent a few years assisting downtrodden women in Vancouver's most notorious neighbourhood. They volunteered at women's shelters in the downtown eastside neighbourhood, and saw up close the suffering caused by substance abuse and other challenges.

Returning to Saint John, the two members of the Sisters of Charity saw the potential to undertake similar outreach work here in the Port City. They soon partnered with Outflow, a ministry that has operated a men's shelter on Waterloo Street, to offer support and an sympathetic ear to women in need.

They established Oasis in March 2015, a clean and inviting women's drop-in centre in the basement of the old Baptist Church on Waterloo Street. Serene music plays in the background as trays of cookies and crackers are offered to whomever might be hungry, and the two Sisters and the volunteers who support their efforts are always ready to welcome world-weary visitors.

"Women started to come," said Sister Celene. "Not by the dozen, but they did come."

This support for women is ingrained in the work of the Sisters of Charity of Immaculate Conception, a religious order that was started in Saint John in 1854 in response to a cholera epidemic that wreaked havoc among many of the city's poor Irish Catholic families. From those humble beginnings, the religious order extended across the continent, eventually establishing missions in western and northern Canada and even as far away as Peru. And while its overall membership is smaller and greyer than in decades past, the women who are part of the Sisters of Charity still remain a force for societal good - and remain fiercely committed to improving the lives of women both at home and abroad.

"It makes me happy that it's International," said Sister Muriel, when asked why the women's day was so important to celebrate. It's key message?

"That we accept all women - that they all have their place in society," said Sister Muriel.

In a city and province where investments in human potential are all too often considered along budgetary lines, the core humanity of the Sisters of Charity shines through in the daily work of its members. It's more than a feminist influence that's been sending ripples outward since 1854 - it is a recognition of a core humanity that links everyone.

"People need to be listened to," said Sister Celene, who spends her afternoons with women who may be facing significant personal or mental challenges, and is clearly bothered by the amount of individuals who will physically walk away from both men and women visibly down on their luck, if only because they feel uncomfortable around someone simply because their clothes might be dirty.

"A lot of people just ignore them. People just kind of frown, and they notice it."

But it's not all just devotion and service, throughout the year. The Sisters will also teach line dancing on occasion, and their volunteering throughout the community has allowed them to develop a rich and rewarding social network.

"Sister Celene volunteers at Romero House, and has gotten to know the names" said Sister Anita with a smile, at the end of our conversation on Waterloo Street. "When I was first back in Saint John, I thought, 'she knows all the guys - I'm jealous!'"

This is an excerpt from an article by:

Kurt Peacock@kurtpeacockpeacock.kurt@telegraphjournal.com Telegraph-Journal columnist, photo by Kurk Peacock.

STRATEGIC PLANNING

Catholic Health International is currently reviewing and updating its current Strategic Plan developed in March of 2016. The plan was developed in harmony with the Catholic Health Alliance of Canada and other Sponsor groups through Canada and the United States. This three to five year plan is looking specifically at the action/implementation plan developed from the original plan. Some areas being discussed at the present time include: communications; restructuring of the operations; structural/organizational changes; further development of the Centre For Excellence in Leadership; Alumni development; Orientation; and services to Poor, Marginalized and Vulnerable. The CHI Board has scheduled an additional planning session for March 28th.

PLENARY SESSION PLANNED FOR MONTREAL

The bi-annual Plenary Leadership session for Catholic Health International is scheduled for the Delta President Kennedy in Montreal on April 21st and 22nd. This session, which brings together the CHI Board of Directors, all Executive Directors, Board /Advisory Chairs and Facility Manager/Representatives of all facilities within our system together with our staff is designed to introduce new Board /Advisory Chairs to the works of the CHI System and provide all an opportunity to network.

This year speakers will include, Sister Mary Haddad, Vice-President Mission Services, Catholic Health Association of the United States; Canon law; Representatives of the each of the four Religious Institutes, partners in CHI, Sister Anita Holmes, Sister Judith Fitzgerald, Dina Hache, Sister Marie Therese Laliberté ; Dr. David Pichora, newly appointed President and CEO of the Kingston Health Sciences Centre; Sheana Morha; Executive Director Rocmaura Nursing Home, Saint John, N. B. along with others.

The bilingual two day workshop is held in Montreal every second year .

VICE-PRESIDENT – OPERATIONS

We are very pleased to announce the appointment of David G. Levangie to the position of Vice-President of Operations. In this role he will directly assist the President of the Corporation in the day to day operations.



Catholic Health Care leaders face significant challenges as they seek to provide mission driven health care in a rapidly changing health care structure. Strong leadership for the future of Catholic Health Care is at the forefront of our minds as we consider those who lead in our facilities. Strength of character and unwavering support for the values we cherish epitomize

David's presence as a leader in Catholic Health Care.

David's education and training reflects his determination to maintain his knowledge and focus. David holds a certificate in theology from St Paul's University in Ottawa; a Bachelor of Science with Honors in Psychology from St. Francis Xavier University in Antigonish; a Master of Arts in Pastoral Studies in Health Care Services from St. Paul's University in Ottawa; completed four units of Clinical Pastoral Education and recently completed his Masters in Theology through the University of Alberta/St Stephen's College.

For nearly three decades David has touched the lives of many people and mentored numerous leaders in Catholic Health Care at the provincial and national levels. He has worked in Winnipeg, Manitoba; Kingston, Ontario; and more recently in Saint John, N. B.

David is husband to Margaret Anne and father to Kevin and Maureen.

We welcome David to the Catholic Health International family.



Hotel Dieu of St. Joseph Hospital, Perth Andover, NB

Staff, volunteers, community clergy, pastoral care representatives and guests gathered in the newly renovated chapel to celebrate the Blessing of the Chapel & Hospital, Missioning of the Facility Manager & Re-commitment of staff.

Special guests of the ceremony were Sr. Almyre Doucet, the last Sister present in the community of Perth-Andover and Bishop Claude Champagne, OMI.

The flood of March 2012 caused considerable damage to the hospital and the Chapel was repurposed at the time. Gathering on September 22 for this special ceremony was indeed an important event for the staff and patients at Hotel Dieu of St. Joseph Hospital in Perth Andover and for the communities we serve.

Photo L-R:

Father Gilbert Doddatto

Sr. Almyre Doucet

Bishop Claude Champagne

Facility Manager - Karen O'Regan

David-Adrien Robichaud - Director of Pastoral Care M/S - Fredericton Area and Upper River Valley

Father Stephen Harnish - Anglican Church

Rev. Ralph Weigold - Evangelical Lutheran Church

IMPORTANT DATES AND EVENTS!

CHI Board of Directors Meetings

March 28/29, 2017

May 17th, 2017

June 21, 22 & 23rd 2017– ANNUAL

CHAC Annual Conference, May 10–12 2017

CHANB Annual Conference—Sept 14/15, 2017

CHAO Annual Conference—Sept 28/29, 2017