



The Torch

Volume2 Number5
Special Edition
2nd Plenary Session
Montreal April 14 & 15, 2011

A publication of Catholic Health International

The 2nd CHI - Plenary Session recently held in Montreal, commenced with an opening prayer and reflection led by Sister Sarah Maillet, Board Chair of Catholic Health International.

An excerpt from the reading that was very appropriate to this gathering of CEOs, Facility Managers, Executive Directors and Board and Advisory Chairs; *"The spiritual leader shapes an achievable, clear and compelling vision that conveys where the organization is going, where the persons are heading, and why they should be proud of the direction. It's core is the organization's mission."*

Sister Nuala Kenny addressed the group on the topic of **"Catholic Health Ethics: Challenges and Opportunities"**. She shared an extensive number of thought provoking and inspirational viewpoints on a variety of current and controversial issues. One such topic, was about the enormous strides that have been made in the use of technology to promote a much longer life and the single minded focus on treatment to that end. She indicated that statistics show 90% of healthcare resources focus in this area, yet back in the 50's and 60's that same focus was on improving overall general health and preventative measures i.e. vaccines. Sister continues to question where the dignity of death has gone? Technology at what cost? We are a resurrection faith she reminded us! Apart from these questions, she challenged that each and everyone of us has the opportunity to help re-capture and integrate Catholic Social Teaching with Health Care Ethics, i.e. the common good, dignity for each person and respect for life.



Dr. Nuala Kenny is a Sister of Charity of Halifax. Professor Emeritus, Department of Bioethics Dalhousie University, Ethics and Health Policy Advisor for the Catholic Health Alliance of Canada. A native of New York, Dr. Kenny received her MD from Dalhousie University and her Fellowship in Paediatrics in 1975. In 1999 she was appointed an Officer in the Order of Canada for her contribution to child health and medical education.

The presentation from Sister Annelle Fitzpatrick entitled **"The Changing Face of America's Workforce: Many Traditions: One Call"**. Sister Annelle pointed out that not only do we have patients of many faiths seeking care and support within our institutions, but that our staff are most likely of a religion other than Catholic. We need to be conscious of these cultural differences in order to treat patients and relate in a respectful manner to our staff. Not only is diet and dress often different across the faiths, but physical contact, medical treatment and customs related to death and dying need to be considered. Many Catholic Hospitals have created multi faith centres to provide encouragement and support. It is important that we understand this cultural diversity but also to celebrate the similar beliefs across the various religions. Sister Annelle spoke specifically about teachings shared by all religions including the fact that all religions believe that there is one God and that God is everywhere including inside each of us. The ten commandments, the Ten Precepts of the Buddha and verse 16:1 of the Bhagavad-gita all clearly state the morals: Don't kill, lie, steal or covet. All religions believe that God has asked them to help people in need and that you go to God through your neighbour.

Sister further encouraged the group to learn to identify symbols relating to the various faiths and to be conscious of the customs and beliefs of all religions to ensure respectful treatment to patients, clients and staff. Sister Fitzpatrick CSJ, PhD is an Associate Professor of Sociology & Behavioural Medicine at Saint John's University in New York City.



Catholic Health International celebrates 10th Anniversary!

A special dinner was held to commemorate this occasion. CHI was established by four founding congregations, Religious Hospitallers of Saint Joseph, Sisters of Charity of the Immaculate Conception of Saint John, Les Religieuses Filles de Jésus and Les Religieuses de Notre-Dame-Du-Sacré-Coeur. The Sisters wanted to ensure that the mission, philosophy and values of their institutions was maintained long after they were no longer available to participate. Catholic Health International is a Public Juridic Person of Pontifical right and received its decree from the Holy See on March 21, 2001.

To further commemorate the occasion, Sister Maillet and Dr. Stewart led the group in a Missioning Ceremony. Each attendee renewed their commitment to catholic health care and to their leadership positions within CHI, and was presented with a pewter lapel pin. The pins are pictured here.



The guest of honour at the dinner was Sister Rosemarie Kugel, who had been President for many years, of the former RHSJ Health System and the institutions founded by the Religious Hospitallers of St. Joseph within the CHI family. Sister had served as President at the Membership level of each of these Corporations and has recently retired. She remains involved primarily at the Board level, in a few organizations. i.e. Partners In Mission Food Bank.



Sister Kugel was involved in the formation of the RHSJ Health System in 1984 to ensure compliance in the corporate affairs, governance and Canonical responsibilities of the various hospitals, nursing homes and works sponsored by the Religious Hospitallers of St. Joseph. In 2008

Catholic Health International assumed the responsibilities of the RHSJ Health System. In her honour we heard stories about past challenges as well as funny and heart felt toasts from a number of our meeting attendees who had worked with Sister over the years. Sister Kugel was presented with an original painting depicting a collage of the chapels located in a number of our institutions.

David Levangie, Director of Mission at St. Joseph Hospital and Rocmaura Nursing Home in St. John NB reviewed some lessons learned and the status of the **Values Integration Assessment Process (VIAP)** pilot that was recently conducted at their facility.



Robert Stewart, President and CEO addressed the group and reviewed CHI processes, Sponsorship and Canonical responsibilities.

Why do we need a Sponsor? In order to be a Catholic facility you must be sponsored by a body whom the Catholic Church recognizes, officially as qualified to do so. The Religious Institutes (congregations) were the sponsor until they transferred that responsibility to CHI.

The official definition of "Sponsorship": Sponsors of Catholic health care act publicly on behalf of the Roman Catholic Church. All those who sponsor have been entrusted by the proper ecclesiastical authority to serve the Church by guiding and overseeing a specific institutional ministry in a formal and public way. (CHA-US 2007)

What does CHI do? Ensures that each Corporation is giving institutional witness to Catholic values to the whole community in which it functions.

He also shared the new Mission Statement for Catholic Health International which was approved by the Board on April 6th, 2011. **"Our Mission at Catholic Health International is to ensure the presence of Catholic values in our Corporations"**.



Pictured here receiving their lapel pins, from Bob Stewart and Sister Maillet are Dr. Ron McTavish, Board Chair and Ms. Jane Rufrano, CEO/CFO of Hotel Dieu Shaver Health and Rehabilitation Centre in St. Catharines, ON and Ms. Heather Oakley, Facility Manager from St. Joseph's Hospital in Saint John NB.



Sister Anita Holmes presented a wonderful historical account of the founding of the Sisters of Charity of the Immaculate Conception in Canada.

They are one of the founding congregations of CHI. Each attendee was presented with a publication entitled "Whose Leaves Never Fade", the story of the Sister's history accompanied by pictures from when the first Sisters arrived in Saint John NB in 1854 from the congregation in New York City, to their outreach projects of today. Please see their new web site at www.sistersofcharityic.com

