



THE TORCH

The Newsletter of Catholic Health International

ADVENT 2021

The Catholic Health Association of the United States is pleased to offer a free reflection series to support us through our Advent journey. Each week we are invited to consider the hope, excitement, wonder and confusion of the story from a unique perspective. While perhaps not always given significant attention, these often overlooked characters of the Nativity story have much to contribute to the spiritual life. These reflections are built around five newly commissioned works of art, imaginative prayer and invitations to reflection.



[Link to Advent Resources](#)

ALSO IN THIS EDITION

SPOTLIGHT - 2
PALLIATIVE CARE TOOLKIT - 3
NB HEALTH PLAN - 4
HEALTH PROGRESS - 4
UPCOMING WEBINARS - 5
FNOL MINI BUS - 6
IMPORTANT EVENTS - 6



JANICE KAFFER SET TO RETIRE

President and CEO of Hôtel-Dieu Grace Healthcare to retire in the New Year

Following an over 30-year career in the healthcare field, including over seven years as President and CEO of Hôtel-Dieu Grace Healthcare, Janice Kaffer announced her plan to retire early in the New Year. Hospital Board Chair, Brian Payne expressed his sincere gratitude for Kaffer, "Janice is the epitome of a true leader. She has been an advocate, a voice for social justice, and she has never shied away from standing up for our community's most vulnerable."

Janice says this announcement is bittersweet for her. "I will be ever grateful to have had the opportunity to lead the team here at HDGH over the past seven years as CEO. I have grown as a person, as a leader and as a friend because of the relationships I've built and the work I've been blessed to be able to do."

Dr. Robert Stewart, President & CEO of Catholic Health International sends his thanks and appreciation to Janice for her years of dedication and commitment to Hôtel-Dieu Grace Healthcare. "HDGH would not be what it is today, a leading health care centre in the Winsor area, if it were not for Janice's vision and values," said Stewart. "We will miss her in her role as the Chief Executive Officer of HDGH but feel confident she will always be a member of the CHI family." We wish her much success and happiness in her retirement.

SPOTLIGHT

ANITA HOLMES, SCIC - BOARD CHAIRPERSON



Sr. Anita Holmes entered the Sisters of Charity of the Immaculate Conception in Saint John, New Brunswick in 1965. She studied Nursing in Antigonish, Edmonton and Halifax. Her nursing career brought her to Prince Albert, SK, and Saint John, NB. She was Administrator of Rocmaura Nursing Home and Ruth Ross Residence. From 2002 to 2010 she ministered to the homeless, street women and those addicted to drugs in the Downtown Eastside of Vancouver, BC. In 2015, she and Sister Celene Hurley began a drop-in ministry for women called Oasis, in Saint John. She was re-elected to the SCIC Leadership Circle in July 2018. Sr. Anita has been involved in many boards and committees during her career including the Atlantic Health Sciences Corporation and the Catholic Health Association of Canada and currently is a member of the Rocmaura Nursing Home Board of Directors, a member of the St. Joseph's Hospital Advisory Committee and chairperson of the Catholic Health International Board of Directors.

Introducing Spotlight

Each month, in this column, we will introduce you to one of the members of the Catholic Health International Board of Directors. Sr. Anita Holmes, the chairperson of our Board of Directors has graciously agreed to be our first person in the spotlight. We hope you will enjoy getting to know our Board of Directors a bit better.

SPOTLIGHT QUESTIONS

Where did you grow up and how large was your family?

I was born in Bath Hospital and grew up in Juniper, New Brunswick.

We were a family of 9: Mother (Lila), Father (William), 4 Sisters (Yvette, Leona, Debbie, Connie), 2 Brothers (Gilbert, Richard) and 1 Brother (Michel) who died at birth (premature).

What is your favourite food?

Surf and Turf (Salmon and Steak), Chinese, Habanero Crispy Chicken Burger.

What's your favourite travel destination?

Love to travel – especially to Vancouver to visit friends. Dream of visiting the Holy Land someday.

What kind of music do you listen to?

60s Golden oldies, classical instrumentals, anything by Elvis and Anne Murray.

How do you relax?

Jigsaw puzzles, reading, movies, iPad games, meditative walking.

What was your happiest moment?

Ministry in the Downtown Eastside of Vancouver with vulnerable street people.

What is the toughest job you've done?

Nursing Home Administrator – especially dealing with union/strike issues.

How did you become involved in Catholic healthcare?

Being a Sister nurse in a Catholic healthcare facility, I quickly became involved with CHANB, CHAC (Board Member), then CHI when it was established as the SCIC leadership representative and now on the Rocmaura Board and St. Joseph's Hospital Advisory Committee.

What do you enjoy most about being on the CHI Board of Directors?

Interacting with co-members whose prime focus is to facilitate/grow the mission of Jesus in our various healthcare facilities. Love being able to visit the facilities and meet the people who dedicate themselves to those in their care.

What is something that people would be surprised to know about you?

That I love to dance and teach line dancing. That I am basically shy yet love interacting with people.

Horizons of Hope: A Toolkit for Catholic Parishes on Palliative Care



[**Link to Palliative Resources**](#)

The Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCC) formed a Joint Ad hoc Committee on Palliative Care with a variety of partners and experts to address the increasing complexities regarding end-of-life issues in Canada. The Committee members included representatives from Pallium Canada, Dominican University College, Canadian Catholic Bioethics Institute, Catholic Health Alliance of Canada, Congregation of the Sisters of Saint Joseph in Canada.

The Toolkit seeks:

- Empower and educate parishioners by addressing questions surrounding palliative care, dying, death, suffering, accompaniment, and bereavement in a holistic fashion.
- Present high-quality content that explores how palliative care is understood from a perspective of Catholic moral and pastoral theology, medical expertise and the Compassionate Community model.
- Facilitate meaningful conversations together so that our parishes and families become Compassionate Communities, grounded in the mercy and tenderness of the living Christ.

The Toolkit is available to anyone interested in learning more about palliative care and is free of charge. Materials are provided on the CCCC website in both English and French.

Thank you to our partners



PROVINCE OF NEW BRUNSWICK RELEASES NEW PLAN FOR HEALTHCARE REFORM

Stabilizing Health Care: An Urgent Call to Action



On November 17th the New Brunswick Health Minister, Dorothy Shepherd, released *Stabilizing Health Care: An Urgent Call to Action*, the long awaited provincial health plan. Catholic Health International will work with our facilities in New Brunswick to monitor the proposed changes.

[Link to
Health Plan](#)

JOURNAL OF THE CATHOLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION OF THE UNITED STATES

HEALTH PROGRESS

The Fall edition of Health Progress is available online. This issue explores "the healing strength of nature; the importance of advocating from environmental justice and ways that health care systems are working to reverse actions that harm the planet to better protect patients and their environments."



Links to articles:

**HEALTH CARE SYSTEMS WORK TO REDUCE
ENVIRONMENTAL FOOTPRINTS**

**ADVANCING HEALTH EQUITY THROUGH CLIMATE-
SMART CHANGES: HEALTH CARE'S CALL TO ACTION**

**UNDERSTANDING AND ADDRESSING ENVIRONMENTAL
INJUSTICE AND HEALTH**

**WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE: VATICAN,
CATHOLIC HEALTH CARE TAKE LEADERSHIP ROLES
IN 'WASH' WORK**

**HOW CAN WE TURN TO THE HEALING POWER OF
NATURE?**

UPCOMING WEBINARS

WORLD AIDS DAY - A CONVERSATION ABOUT CATHOLIC HEALTH CARE'S ROLE IN CARING FOR HIV PATIENTS OVER THE PAST 40 YEARS



**DECEMBER 1ST
2 P.M. – 2:45 P.M. ET**

In this conversation, sponsored by the Catholic Health Association of the United States, Michael J. O'Loughlin, an award-winning journalist and national correspondent for America Media will share his reporting on Catholic healthcare's response to AIDS. Joining Michael in the conversation will be Sister Michele O' Brien, CCVI, Sister of Charity of the Incarnate Word, who will share her perspective on caring for AIDS patients. This is a free webinar, open to all.

[Register here](#)

CATHOLIC HEALTHCARE: CREATING AWARENESS IN SERVING OUR INDIGENOUS AND LGBTQ2 COMMUNITIES



The Catholic Health Association of Ontario is sponsoring a webinar entitled Catholic Healthcare: Creating Awareness in Serving Our Indigenous and LGBTQ2 Communities. Dr. James Owen, a family physician at Unity Health Toronto and an Assistant Professor in the Department of Family and Community Medicine at the Temerty Faculty of Medicine will present "Learnings from Serving our LGBTQ2 Community."

Bill Hill, Ro'nikonkatste (Standing Strong Spirit) is a Mohawk from Six Nations. He will present "Creating Awareness and Reflections on Serving our Indigenous Community."

We encourage all those involved in healthcare to participate in this free webinar.

**DECEMBER 2ND
9 A.M. – 11:30 A.M. ET**

[Register here](#)

FOYER NOTRE-DAME-DE-LOURDES UNVEILS NEW MINI-BUS



Hélène Roy - Executive Director Foyer Notre-Dame-de-Lourdes,
Chantale Gauvin - resident, Renaud Boudreau - FNDL Foundation
President, Gertrude Abernethy - resident, Annie Arseneau,
Director of Activities and Pastoral Services
Photo: Acadie Nouvelle - Sébastien Lachance

The Notre-Dame-de-Lourdes Nursing Home Foundation in Bathurst, NB recently purchased a brand new modified minibus for the nursing home. It can accommodate up to 13 residents or 7 residents in wheelchairs. "The previous bus was in a poor state, it was necessary to move on to something else," explained Annie Arseneau, the Director of Recreation and Pastoral Care at the home. The minibus will allow several residents of the home to go on outings to visit such places as the Village Historique Acadien, the Petit-Rocher wharf or even go to the beach or trips to local maple sugar shacks.

Adapted from an article in Acadie Nouvelle by Sébastien Lachance



YEAR OF ST. JOSEPH

Joseph found his life
in ordinary days -
no clutter of ifs and buts;
just simply in what we call
'now'.

Sister M Madeleva Williams csj

IMPORTANT DATES & EVENTS

CHI Board Meeting Dates

December 8, 2021 (Corporate)
January 26, 2022 (Corporate)
February 9, 2022 (Corporate)
February 23, 2022

CHI Virtual Leadership Session

November 30th, 10:00 a.m. AT

Leadership Formation Program

English Program

Module 2 of the 2019-2020 English Program has been postponed until Spring of 2022. Registrations are now closed.

French Program

Module 2 of the 2021-2022 French Program, will be held in the Spring of 2022. Registrations are now closed.

Fall 2022 - Spring 2023

We are now taking registrations for the upcoming Fall 2022 - Spring 2023 programs in both English and French. Specific dates to be announced.

REGISTRATION FORM



Catholic Health International
1710 Water Street
Miramichi, New Brunswick
E1N 1B4
catholichealth@chpci.com
(506) 778-5302
www.catholichealthpartners.com