President’s Message

Greetings Faithful NACN Colleagues,

I know many NACN members are gearing up for an active fall 2015 with a special emphasis on the historic visit of Pope Francis. The Pope’s visit will have far reaching sociopolitical and religious impact. This is a blessing for NACN in this time of far and near religious persecution. We can pay close attention to the Pope’s remarks so that we can be better equipped to be the “Salt of the earth” in health care matters, especially in the areas of family, marriage, care of the disabled, end of life care and other pro-life issues.

God has put us on the earth at this time to spread the Christian message which may include fighting the battles. Courage, dear fellow nurses. Our words and actions have an impact and we can lead many souls to an integrated humanity if we stay the course of Christian practice and teaching in healthcare matters. NACN wants to hear from you in terms of the issues you face while practicing nursing within the Judeo-Christian context.

NACN has responded to your concerns and we are working on updating our communication so that we can offer more electronically (blogs). We are also in the process of revising our bylaws and changing our dues structure which will allow us to hire a secretary and work more efficiently. We are also working on ways to solidify the relationship between Regional Councils and the National Association. These changes will involve a modest dues increase so that we can better serve our members. The dues have not been increased in more than ten years.

We will be conducting a membership drive later in the fall with the prize of one year free membership for the member who solicits the most new recruits. We are looking forward to our 2016 Conference Family Nursing through the life span: A Catholic Perspective to be held June 24-26 2016 at Loyola University Chicago. We are so pleased to be working with Loyola College of Nursing and the Chicago Council of Catholic Nurses. The Call for Abstracts is in this newsletter. Conference registration will be available on the website in the beginning of September 2015.

In Pax Christi

Diana Newman,
NACN President

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**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**Upcoming Events**

**2015-2016**

**Sep. 25-27, 2015.** World Meeting of Families in Philadelphia. For information: www.paconvention.com

**Sep. 27, 2015.** Papal Visit - The Holy Father is expected to participate in a Papal Mass Sunday, September 27. This event will be open to the public. More information: www.paconvention.com


**Oct. 4-25, 2015.** World Synod of Bishops, Vatican. Theme: “Jesus Christ reveals the mystery & vocation of the family.” Pray the Rosary Daily for this event: Participate in the worldwide 1st Thursday Eucharistic Adoration (see article).


**Dec. 1, 2015.** Those wishing to present at the Association of Catholic Nurses – USA national conference must have abstracts in by this date. Acceptance will receive notification by 1/15/16.

**May 12-18, 2016 – Annual Warriors to Lourdes, A Pilgrimage for military personnel for the 57th International Military Pilgrimage to Lourdes, France. For more information: Lourdes@KofC.org; Register by Jan 2015- www.warriorstolourdes.com


**June 24-26, 2016 –** Association of Catholic Nurses USA Conference in Chicago.

**July 26-31, 2016** - World Youth Day, Krakow, Poland

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**2016 Conference**

Come to network and grow with your Catholic nursing colleagues.

The NACN-USA conference will be Co-sponsored with Loyola College of Nursing and held at Loyola CON in Chicago, Illinois in the spring 2016.
U.N. Catholic Nurse Team Develop Global Outreach Programs

By: M. Nowak and Patricia Staley

Nurses delegates from the US in cooperation with an international Catholic nursing organization CICIAMS, is working on three projects this year, which will bring to the forefront information on a safe and effective ways to prevent and promote pregnancy. The projects bring to the world platform the effectiveness and safety of methods proven to help families in their journey of starting families.

The nurses were surprised when at a recent hearing many professionals seemed to be unaware of alternatives to OPC’s. According to Patty Staley, RN a UN delegate and long term activist involved in NFP education “people need to learn the truth about what works and what can hurt them when it comes to pregnancy promotion and prevention.” It seems even well educated health professionals do not know about the safety and effectiveness of these Catholic church endorsed methods.

It is important to have this information organized and placed on a world platform where all can have access to this information. With this in mind, the focus of the three projects developed by the nurse team include:

1) An evidence based PowerPoint ® presentation nurses can adapt to teach NFP
2) A sort media presentation (film) to give emphasizing the importance of population health on a global basis.
3) Development and posting of a resource for famines and health professionals on two global platforms.

The three projects are slated to be submitted in December 2015 and will be posted on the Un DPI web as well as CICIAMS web location.

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS: National Nursing Conference

Loyola University College of Nursing in Chicago is hosting our next conference on June 24-26 2016. The theme will be “Family Nursing Through the Life Span; a Catholic Perspective”

Conference Objectives:

1. Explore the challenges to family health across the life span from the perspective of the catholic faith.
2. Discuss the role of the nurse in promoting Catholic faith based coping strategies for family health challenges.
3. Analyze nursing interventions to address the health challenges of families across the life span that are consistent with the Catholic faith.

We invite abstract submissions for the June conference. The deadline for submissions is December 1, 2015. Notification of acceptance will be January 15, 2016.

Instructions for submission:

Abstracts must be submitted electronically. Abstracts must be 300 words. Author information and affiliation must be one page. Abstract presentation on a separate page for blind review, with title but no other identifying information. Abstracts may be completed works or works in progress. Paper or poster preference must be stated. Student submissions are encouraged. Abstracts should be submitted to dianadoc@comcast.net.

Abstract Content:

Abstracts are invited across the dimensions of nursing practice; that is, administration, education, practice and research. Abstracts should include the title, purpose, conceptual frame work (if applicable) methodology/ strategy appropriate to type of submissions, results and discussion.

A guide to seeing the Pope Francis in Philadelphia.
Lessons Learned: Ministry to Prisoners

Pope Francis has focused much attention on prison ministry, denouncing the death penalty as inhumane. He has met with inmates frequently. As nurses we view these as some of the most vulnerable among us.... “there but for the grace of God go I”...

By: Joanne Gardner

A well-spoken, 38-year-old Julio Briones grew up in Queens and Union City. As a teenager he stayed out of trouble, avoiding the gangs and street life in spite of a difficult home situation. At 17, he joined the army to get away. He served for four years in Korea and Kuwait during Operation Desert Shield. “I came back broken,” he said. At 25, he was arrested under accomplice liability — as an accomplice he may not have actually committed the crime, but he’s as guilty as those who did for failing to act on knowledge of the crime. He was sentenced to 65 years in prison.

The original 65-year sentence had been an error and was reduced to 39 years. He was able to lower the sentence to 20 years and kept working. Five years after his arrest, as he anxiously awaited the results of his final appeal, he learned that instead of further lowering his sentence, the original 39-year sentence had been reinstated. He was told there could be no more appeals. Distraught, he resolved to kill himself. But first, he decided to go to the Catholic prayer service being led that night by Sister Elizabeth Gnam. She spoke to the group about hope. “She said, ‘No matter what, no matter how dark it gets, don’t ever give up hope,’” he recalled. He looked in Sister Gnam’s direction: “You have no idea how much those words meant to me.”

Today, Briones is the director of business development for a home care company. He was recently married.

The unexpected reunion with Sister Gnam might not have occurred, had it not been for the wedding. Briones received the sacrament of confirmation in prison, and while trying to obtain his paperwork, he was put in touch with Sister Mary Lou Lafferty, prison ministry coordinator for Catholic Charities, Diocese of Camden. She invited him to speak at the gathering just days before the June 6 meeting at Catholic Charities’ Camden office.

I didn’t recognize her right away,” Briones said later of Sister Gnam. “It wasn’t until she got up and started speaking that I realized it really was her. I never thought I’d see her again. “Briones says he made the decision that night in prison to “ask God to take over.” A few months later, he received a letter informing him that his sentence had been reduced to 12 years plus parole. Shortly after, he would reconnect with an old friend destined to be his future wife. Her visits got him through the rest of his prison term.

“I know there’s something bigger than me out there,” he said. “The whole experience strengthened my faith in ways I can’t really begin to describe. Only time will tell.

+++ Catholic Nurse Ministry is to walk with God, along the path that our Master trod.
+++ Prayer for Justice
Father, you have given all people one common origin. It is your will that they gather together as one family in yourself.

Fill in the hearts of mankind with the fire of our love and with the desire to ensure justice for all.

By sharing the god things you give us, may we secure an equality for all our brothers and sisters throughout the world…we ask in Jesus name.

Sr. Carolyn serves as administrator at Sacred Heart Residence in Mobile, Alabama and as regional vocation coordinator for the Little Sisters of the Poor.

Holy Ground
By Sr. Carolyn Martin, lsp, RN, MSN

“The place on which you are standing is holy ground,” says the Book of Exodus (3:5). As Catholic nurses, we have the privilege of standing on holy ground each day as we reach out with a healing touch to those who are suffering in body or spirit. As a Sister nurse with the Little Sisters of the Poor, I am privileged to do that in a very profound way in serving God’s “least ones,” the elderly poor—whom our world often does not value, but in whose person I am called to love, comfort, and cherish Jesus Himself.

We believe as Catholic nurses that our knowledge and our skills are gifts from God for service. Our vision of faith, moreover, opens our eyes to the deeper dimension of healing that the hearts of those whom we serve so greatly long for. As we go about our duties each day, let us have that sacred realization that we are truly standing on holy ground.

As we approach the intersection of the 2015 Year of Consecrated Life which Pope Francis has proclaimed and the Holy Year of Mercy which he has set to begin later this year, what an amazing opportunity is ours! It is an invitation for us to deepen our awareness of our own call, and it beckons us also to be radiant witnesses of Jesus’ healing mercy in the various settings in which we practice.

As a Little Sister of the Poor, it is my awesome vocation to reach out each day and touch the elderly poor with Christ’s love and mercy as they journey to the Father’s house. These older persons, materially poor and often suffering a crushing poverty of spirit as well, look to me for that deeper healing that their hearts so long for. But isn’t it so for every nurse, whatever the setting?

setting? Those who look to us for healing in body or mind often have an even deeper longing in their soul and spirit—a longing for the healing mercy of God, for the oil of comfort for their woundedness, for a balm for the hidden brokenness which is beyond what we will ever see or know.

As the culmination of the Year of Consecrated Life and the opening of the Holy Year of Mercy both draw near, let us as Catholic nurses not fail to respond to the challenge of this two-fold invitation: Let us be keenly aware that God is counting on us to identify, invite, and encourage those among us whom He might be calling to participate in His healing mission through the consecrated life, and let us also live out our own baptismal consecration as true ministers of His mercy.

As I accompany young women who are discerning their vocation, I am always deeply moved by these vibrant young people of our Church who are stepping forward with such an open heart, willing and ready to respond to the Lord’s call with the gift of their lives. Let us empower them! As Catholic nurses, may we all live out our baptismal consecration—both as promoters of vocations to the consecrated life and as ambassadors of Jesus’ healing mercy in our families, among those whom we serve and work with, and in the larger human community. Called and chosen by God the Father to share in the mission of His Son, let us empower one another to be instruments of the Lord’s healing and mercy as we journey together on holy ground.

Sr. Carolyn serves as administrator at Sacred Heart Residence in Mobile, Alabama and as regional vocation coordinator for the Little Sisters of the Poor. She welcomes requests for vocation information and support, for notices of upcoming discernment events, and for referrals of young women who might desire personal accompaniment on their discernment journey. Sister can be reached at vocmobile@littlesistersofthepoor.org or (251) 591-3700.
**FREE CONSULTATION ON BIOETHICAL ISSUES**

**The National Catholic Bioethics Center (NCBC)** offers a free consultation service, by a credentialed bioethicist, who can share with you the Catholic principles for addressing an ethical dilemma involving health care or the life sciences. If you have a specific time-sensitive question concerning such a matter that cannot wait until regular business hours, please call: (215) 877-2660, 24 hours/day, 7days/week.

Follow the prompts to leave a message and an ethicist will be paged and respond to your call as soon as possible. If your question is not related to a time sensitive matter please call the same number during regular business hours 9am - 5pm Eastern Time or use the online Consultation at: http://www.ncbccenter.org/page.aspx?pid=1174

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**Catholic Nurses Resources**

Resources of interest to the Catholic Nurses can be found at the following web location: [https://www.chausa.org/nursing/nursing-overview/resources/parish-nursing-resources](https://www.chausa.org/nursing/nursing-overview/resources/parish-nursing-resources)

Here is an example of some of the information you may find of interest:

- Prayer for Parish Nurses
- Catholic Health Association Information
- Elder and Continuing Care — Contains links to webinars and resources concerning the spiritual care of the older adult
- Mother Angeline Ministries of Care
- Nurses Link Health, Spirituality in the Parish

**Parish Nurse: An evolving specialty**

It is now recommended that Catholic nurses who are parish nurses use the title of parish nurse rather than Faith Community Nurse unless you have satisfied the ANA portfolio process. Once a national organization develops a title, they are the “owners” of that title.

The title set forth by a collaborative effort of Health Ministries Association and American Nurses Association efforts have coined the terms and title of RN-BC Faith Community Nursing. If you choose to become a RN-BC you can access the information at ANCC web location: [http://www.nursecredentialing.org/FaithCommunityNursing-Eligibility](http://www.nursecredentialing.org/FaithCommunityNursing-Eligibility)

**Historical Overview**

- 1960’s and 1970’s: the Rev. Dr. Granger Westberg, a hospital chaplain and medical school professor, began wholistic care clinics.
- Founding members explored the establishment of a membership organization.
- 1997: American Nurses Association (ANA) approved HMA’s request and recognized Parish Nursing as a specialized practice.
- 1998: ANA acknowledged and published HMA’s Scope and Standards of Parish Nursing Practice for this emerging nursing specialty.
- 2014 ANA sets up a portfolio process for FCN. Title preferred title is RN-BC Faith Community Nursing.

**Current Courses**

- College-Affiliated Courses
- Undergraduate Credit Courses
- Graduate Credit Courses
- Community-based Courses
- Denominational/Faith-Based Courses
- Health Care System-based Courses
REGIONAL & LOCAL COUNCILS

**NORTHEAST REGION**
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Albany Council of Catholic Nurses
Joan Ribley-Borck, RN, BSN, President
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Council of Catholic Nurses of Lake County, IL
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**SOUTHWEST REGION**
(NV, UT, CO, AZ, NM, TX)
SW Regional Representative
Jennifer Cook, PhD, MBA, RN, CNS
San Antonio, TX, cook@uiwtx.edu

We have Councils throughout the U.S.A.
Resources for starting a local council are at www.nacn-usa.org under: “About Us” / Local Councils
Religious Freedom and Informed Consent
By: Marie Hilliard

The NACN-U.S.A. Supports Religious Freedom and True Informed Consent in Amicus Briefs Filed in Current Judicial Challenges. NACN-U.S.A. is a party to an amicus brief in the Arizona case, Planned Parenthood v. Brnovich case which is currently pending before the U.S. District Court for the State of Arizona (15-01022). Planned Parenthood et al are challenging the recent amendment to Arizona’s informed consent law that requires abortion providers to inform women that it may be possible to reverse the effects of a chemical abortion, and that time is of the essence. It also directs the Arizona Department of Health to update the state-prepared informed consent materials to provide information on how a woman can contact a physician to help her.

The provision is informational only—it does not regulate the chemical abortion procedure. It simply ensures that, should the woman regret her decision (after ingesting the first drug, mifepristone, but before the second drug, misoprostol), that she has a way to contact someone who may be able to assist her in reversing the process (through administration of progesterone)—and ensuring that she knows that time is of the essence.

As nurses, we respect the fact that informed consent is a standard of our profession. Health care providers need to ensure that women have all the information they need to make a truly informed decision. Evidence demonstrates that frequently women regret the decision to have an abortion. Timely information on how to reverse any such grave decision is a right of all patients and should not be obstructed.

NACN-U.S.A. also signed on to an amicus brief in support of the religious freedom of Priests for Life. A panel of the District of Columbia Circuit Court of Appeals allowed a lower court’s ruling to stand, which denied religious freedom to Priests for Life by forcing the organization to comply with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services’ employer Contraceptive Mandate.

This Mandate violates the religious freedom of this faith-based organization by forcing it to be complicit in providing to its employees contraception, including abortifacient drugs and devices. The Court also denied a request for a full court review of this case, compelling Priests for Life to face the choice of violating their faith or paying huge fines.

Priests for Life is now petitioning the U.S. Supreme Court to intervene. Religious freedom is the bedrock of this democracy, and the foundation for our very existence as a country. NACN-U.S.A. recognizes that when the religious freedom of one group is violated by the law, all groups, including health care workers of conscience, are vulnerable to similar violations. NACN-USA is happy to be standing with Priests for Life in support of their religious freedom.

One ethical standard, among many, is to have patients given informed consent to any medical intervention. Informed consent includes understanding the risks and benefits.
The purpose of this column is to ignite the passions of NACN-USA and affiliated Council members by exploring the history of Catholic Nurses in America. The Archives/History Committee is pleased to provide this next glimpse into the rich history of one of the organization’s original local councils and the nurse leader who helped to set course for the journey that continues for Catholic nursing today. This installment is written by Peg Olson, RN, BSN, CHTP/I, a member of the Archives/History Committee and a member of both the Council of Catholic Nurses for the Archdiocese of Chicago and the Council of Catholic Nurses of the Joliet Diocese in Illinois. Peg is joined in authoring this article by Mary Terese Pellizzari, RN, a founding member of Council of Catholic Nurses of the Joliet Diocese.

“History is the witness that testifies to the passing of time; it illuminates reality, vitalizes memory, provides guidance in daily life, and brings us tidings of antiquity.” (Cicero, n.d.).

Introducing Eula

I am anxious to introduce you to former Second Lieutenant Eula M. Awbrey Sforza, RN, ANC. On February 21, 2015, Eula celebrated her 95th birthday. I have had the honor of visiting with her to hear first-hand from her about her involvement as a Catholic nurse leader, and military nurse. I was especially impressed to learn that she had written a book about her earlier days that is titled, “A Nurse Remembers” (Sforza, 1991). I think it is worth sharing a brief reflection from her book before moving to how she helped to start the council in Joliet.

“I was born on a snowy morning, on February 21st, 1920, in Fordsville, Kentucky...” (Sforza, 1991). It unfolds treasures of the past from 1920 through the war years. One of the most impressive stories that captures Eula’s qualities of creativity and determination is that of her wedding in Belgium. Eula writes, “Like most prospective brides, I wanted to be married in a white gown, and as nearly as possible, have a traditional wedding. So the question was---what should I do about a wedding dress?” There was no white material available anywhere, Eula asked a Colonel for permission to use a military jeep, and I headed for the nearest airfield (Sforza, 1991); locating a parachute for wedding dress material. When Eula put her mind to something there was no stopping her – another quality of a motivated nurse leader! On the back cover of the book is a picture of Eula and her husband Art in their uniforms and the caption below it reads: “The Author is a retired Registered Nurse with a BA degree in Psychology and an MS degree in Community Mental Health. She is the author of fifty-two puppet plays promoting holistic health.” They reached out via radio station, TV station, elementary schools, girl scouts, and senior citizens.

Mrs. Sforza resides in Wheaton, Il, the joy of her life is her family of four daughters and her thirteen grandchildren. And to think she also had the time and energy to help start a local nursing council amidst her many other life happenings. In the 1980’s, Eula belonged to the Council of Catholic Nurses of the Archdiocese of Chicago. As God would have it, another nurse named Mary Pellizzari, who lived in Lisle, Illinois, felt guided to locate someone who could tell her more about the group of Catholic Nurses. You guessed it – that someone would turn out to be Eula.

Beginnings of the Council of Catholic Nurses: Diocese of Joliet

By early 1987, Mary Terese Pellizzari felt led by the Holy Spirit to find and speak to Marge Conway, the president of the Council of Catholic Nurses of the Archdiocese of Chicago. Eula had also been hoping to start a council closer to her home that just happened to be in the Joliet Diocese. Together
they set out to find other nurses who might be interested and held the first inquiry meeting at my parish, St. Joan of Arc, in Lisle, Illinois on March 20, 1987. Fr. Kenneth Zigmond, OSB, welcomed us and led us in an opening prayer. Those who attended were Claire Lareau, Mary Grisafe, Phyllis Schmit, Brenda Jaegle, Jean Kroupa, Cathy Vollmer, Eula, and me. On April 9th, 1987 the group met with Mary Grisafe, Marlene Rasmussen, Barb Murphy, and Ali Zanzig to plan our first educational program, with a focus on burnout. Monsignor Rotundi a pastor and medical doctor of St. Mary’s parish in Plainfield, Illinois served as a spiritual to the former Joliet Council. During our visit, we noticed his picture of “The Consultation,” and this became the basis for our first logo that was later created by Eula’s daughter, Catherine Nichols.

On May 7th, 1987 Inez Stratton and Dorothy Lescher who volunteered to write our bylaws. Dorothy’s husband, Henry, later helped us to become incorporated in the state of Illinois. On May 19th, 1987 a group met with Bishop Joseph L. Imesch, of the Joliet Diocese, and sought his permission to start a council. On September 18, 1987 we were approved the council. On September 27th, 1987 at Marianjoy Rehabilitation Hospital. Rod Accardi and Karen Pugliese presented on the topic of burnout. Our first Mass was celebrated in the chapel there by Fr. Eugene Parnisari (priest and attorney), was appointed by Bishop Imesch as our spiritual advisor.

Eula, Claire Lareau, and Mary Grisafe served on the first Executive Board of the newly formed Joliet Council. The first officers were Marlene Rasmussen (president), Catherine McGuire (first vice president), Joan O’Leary (second vice president 1987-88), Betty Tarsitano (second vice president 1988-89), Mary Pellizzari (secretary), and Rosemary Kaenel (treasurer). Also on the executive board were Linda Schaal, Elaine Meyer, and Mary Quinn. Our board meetings were usually held at Marlene’s home. About 10 years later, there was a re-establish the disbanded national association.

References

REQUEST FROM THE AD HOC ARCHIVES/HISTORY COMMITTEE

Please look into your personal archives for items pertaining local or national councils. The AD Hoc committee would greatly appreciate your help with this tremendous project.

Please email the information to:
Cheryl Hettman, at hettmanca@hotmail.com

Provide an initial brief description of the item(s), including specific events, locations, etc., and dates, if possible. Also note your name, email address, and phone number. One of the committee members will get back to you. We are interested in either obtaining the original item/document (if you are willing to part with it) or a copy or photograph of any documents or other artifacts. Even if you do not have specific items but you have information to share, or know other contacts we can get in touch with, these things will also be helpful. May God bless you for your assistance!

Live your faith... share your gifts... and change the world...

National Association of Catholic Nurses-USA
c/o Diocese of Joliet
Blanchette Catholic Center
1655 Weber Road
Crest Hill, IL 60403

Please share this newsletter with nurses in your diocese.

Our Mission: The National Association of Catholic Nurses, USA gives nurses of different backgrounds, but with the same Roman Catholic values, the opportunity to promote moral principles within the Catholic context in nursing and stimulate desire for professional development. This approach to Roman Catholic doctrine focuses on educational programs, spiritual nourishment, patient advocacy, and integration of faith and health. As we continue to share our faith and values with each other, and with other healthcare providers, we simultaneously reach outward to the larger Church and also our communities, as we offer support to those in need.

Objectives:
• To promote education in Catholic nursing ethics
• To nurture spiritual growth
• To provide guidance, support and networking for Catholic nurses and nursing students, as well as other healthcare workers who support the Catholic mission.
• To advocate for those in need through efforts which integrate faith and health
NACN Membership
Current dues are $35/yr and can be paid via the website http://www.nacn-usa.org/ or a check mailed to the treasurer: Sharon Sables-Baus, 9321 East Lake Ave., Greenwood Village, CO 80111. Thank you for renewing.

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Editor’s Note
We invite you to submit manuscripts, news briefs, prayer requests, poetry, photos, and/or articles that would be of interest to Catholic nurses across the United States.

Articles must be received by the following deadlines:
- Fall (Published in September): August 18
- Winter (published in January): December 18
- Summer (published in June): May 18