



National Association of Catholic Nurses U.S.A.

where NURSING, MINISTRY and CATHOLIC MISSION meet



SUMMER 2017

President's Letter

Blessing and Peace,

As we enter the 100th anniversary of the apparitions of the Blessed Virgin Mary to the three shepherd children in Fatima, Portugal, I pray that our organization and the Church will be blessed with many graces. Offering our suffering for the conversion of sinners and praying the Rosary always are among the messages of Fatima. See the atheist newspaper from Fatima which reported the miracle of the sun which occurred on October 13, 1917. This miracle, seen by over 70,000 people, was commonly referred to as "the day the sun danced at Fatima."

To the NACN-USA leadership, I would like to welcome **Christina Freeman**, RN, BSN, Facebook Editor and **Courtney Donahue**, MS, RN, FNP-BC, PCCN. Courtney is a DNP candidate and has volunteered to serve as our Newsletter Editor. I encourage you to submit articles of interest to her at CourtneyG-Donahue@yahoo.com. The deadline for the next newsletter is August 15, 2017.

In addition, we welcome to the Ethics & Spirituality Committee a new chair **Carolyn Laabs**, PhD, MA, APNP-BC, FNP-C and two new members, **Judy Murphy**, PhD, RN, CNE, CHSE and **Jill Zolfo**, RN, BSN. Thank you **Marie Kneusel**, MSHCE, MSN, RN for serving as chair for so many years. We also welcome **Judy Dusek**, DNP, M.Ed, MSN, APRN-CNS, CMSRN, ACNS-BC and **Shannon Simonovich**, PhD, RN to the Education, Practice and Research Committee. Shannon is also serving internationally on CICIAMS Committee on the Family Member. THANK YOU for volunteering to serve.

Six of our members serve at the international level with the International Catholic Committee of Nurses and Medico-Social Assistants (CICIAMS). In addition to Dr. Simonovich, four are CICIAMS Representatives to the United Nations (UN): **Patricia Sayers**, DNP, RN, **Patricia Staley**, RN, **Mimi Nowak**, DNP, MPH, RN and **Maria Arvonio**, RN, BSN, MA (HCE). See our website for their latest testimony from April 6, 2017. During Nurses' Week a registered nurse (Judy Studer) in collaboration with the Portuguese delegation to the UN brought the statue of Our Lady of Fatima and relics of the Fatima children to the United Nations. Several of our nurses were in attendance for this May 12th conference, "The Centenary of Fatima and the Enduring Relevance of Its Message of Peace." Also serving at the international level are **Mimi Nowak**, DNP, MPH, RN, the CICIAMS Pan American Representative and **Marie Hilliard**, MS, MA, JCL, PhD, RN our President Elect, as the CICIAMS Chair of the Ethics Committee.

Marylee Meehan, RN, MA recently completed her tenure on the Pontifical Council for Healthcare Workers (Pastoral Care). Appointed by Pope Benedict XVI she served from 2011-2017 at which time the council was consolidated into the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development. See the article in this newsletter that describes this new Dicastery created by His Holiness Pope Francis in January 2017. Meet Marylee Meehan at **The Summit that will be held in Cape Cod, Massachusetts October 6-8, 2017**. There is limited seating so register early. Volunteer to serve on a Blue Ribbon Panel or as a Roundtable Leader on our website.

Since assuming the leadership of our organization in February, I have worked with our Board and Committees to fill vacant positions with exceptional candidates and to network with key external organizations. **We need your helps in filling only one more of the new Regional Director positions** created by our most recent bylaws revision and a few committee positions:

7. MidWest (MW): North Dakota, South Dakota, Montana, Idaho, Wyoming and

Committee Chairs: 1) Membership & Elections and 2) Communications and two additions members for that committee: Website and MailChimp administrators. Encourage your colleagues to serve.

We welcome to the board several new regional directors: **Janet Munday**, BSN, RN, MidAtlantic Region, **Jill Zolfo**, BSN, RN, NorthCentral Region and **Ingrid Tegtman**, MSN, RN, SouthWest Region. **Alma Abuelouf**, RN, BSN, past president (2012-2014) is also welcomed back as the Southeast Regional Director. We thank **Judie Boyle**, MS, RN, **Peg Olson**, RN, BSN, CHTP and **Mary Lee Barron**, PhD, APRN, FNP-BC for serving as Regional Directors. We hope they will continue their active committee work. We are grateful that **Richard Zazycki**, LPN will continue as the Treasurer. Richard juggles his work as the Executive Director of the Circle of Mercy and managing our finances. We are truly blessed by his service. Welcome also **Dahlia (Dee) Rojas**, PhD, RN who served as the Chair of the Membership & Elections Committee and will now serve as the Recording Secretary.

Dr. **Marie Hilliard**, PhD, RN, JCL, MA, President-Elect and I will represent NACN-USA at the USCCB Convocation in Orlando, Florida in July. Please pray for us.

Thank you for being a nurse. Thank you for being a Catholic nurse. I hope to meet many of you in Cape Cod.

In His Holy Name,

Diana Ruzicka, RN, MSN, MA, MA, CNS-BC

(Nursing Administration & Oncology, Strategic Studies & Theology)

President, NACN-USA

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Reverend Michael G. Whyte

Blue Ribbon Panel Member Abstract

Please select the *Summit Topic* of your expertise and note the assigned panel date

Day 1 Drugs pre-birth to pre-death (Friday, 10/06/17)

Day 2 Veteran suicide (Saturday, 10/07/17)

Day 3 Pain/Stress Management Program consistent with
Catholic teaching, Catholic healing ministry
(Sunday, 10/08/17)

Please submit a **one-page, abstract** regarding your selected topic
Clearly and concisely define the problem/issue

Describe your expertise / experience / research in the problem/issue
domain

Summarize recommendations for a course of action with support-
tive evidence

Position statements submitted by selected Blue Ribbon Panel Mem-
bers will be published in the Summit Conference handouts and in
post - Summit / Conference proceedings for the NACN-USA
website.

Please submit 1-3 preparatory online readings for attendee prepara-
tion to be posted on the NACN-USA webpage Please reference
peer review journals.

Please submit a current CV

Write 3 objectives pertaining to your presentation

A title page including name, credentials of the author, affiliated organi-
zation, presentation title, and date of submission. Works cited maybe
completed or in process in areas of practice, education, administration,
research and/or policy in nursing. Email to dianadoc@comcast.net



The National Association of Catholic Nurses – USA
Where NURSING, MINISTRY and CATHOLIC MISSION
meet

Mailing Address: Richard Zazycki, NACN-USA Treasurer - c/o Circles of Mercy - 11 Washington St Rensselaer, NY 12144
Business Address: NACN-USA, c/o Diocese of Joliet - Blanchette Catholic Center - 16555 Weber Road - Crest Hill, IL 60403

catholicnurses@nacn-usa.org — “Unity in Charity” — www.nacn.usa.org



Our Lady of Fatima

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The May 13, 1917 Message
of Fatima

The first appearance of the
Blessed Virgin Mary to the
three Shepherd Children.

On Saturday, May 13, 2017,
on the 100th anniversary of

the first appearance of the Blessed Virgin Mary to the three shepherd children near Fatima, Portugal, Pope Francis celebrated the mass of the canonization of Francisco and Jacinta Marto. The following is the story of the first apparition.

World War I - Pope Benedict XV became pope just a month before the start of the worst war in history up to that time (WWI). He worked fervently for peace. On the 3rd year of the war, with the whole Church, Pope Benedict prayed a novena in honor of Our Lady, the Queen of Peace in petition for the end of the World War I. Mary, the Mother of God, appeared in Fatima on the 8th day of the novena.

May 13, 1917, on Sunday, Lucia (10), Francisco (9) and Jacinta (7) were grazing sheep in the parish of Fatima near Aljustrel in the field known as the Cova da Iria. As was their custom, the three children ate their lunch shortly after noon, and then prayed. Suddenly a flash of light, which they thought must be lightning frightened them. They began to urge on the flock in order to return home before they got caught in a storm. When they had gone a few steps down the slope they saw another flash of light, which they took to be a second flash of lightning and this made them hurry the flock even more. A few steps further on, about half way down the slope, they stopped in surprise when they saw a lovely Lady of light on a small holm oak. They were not afraid because the supernatural does not arouse fear; causing instead a pleasant surprise of absorbing fascination. The lovely Lady opened her lips as if about to speak and said to the children: **"Do not be afraid. I will do you no harm."**

(I think that these words of Our Lady --- Do not be afraid --- did not refer to any actual fear we might have had of Her, because She knew well we were not frightened of Her. The words must have referred to the fear that had caused us to hurry away from the supposed thunderstorm in which we

though we were going to get caught. [from *"Calls" from the Message of Fatima* by Sister Lucia, p126]).

Once the silence had been broken, and encouraged by the trust that the lovely Lady inspired in us, Lucia asked, "Where are you from?"

The Lady replied, **"I am from heaven."**

Lucia asked, "And what do you want of me?"

The Lady replied, **"I have come to ask you to come here on the 13th day of the month for six months in succession, at this same hour. Later on, I will tell you who I am and what I want. Afterwards, I will return here yet a seventh time."**

When I (Lucia) heard this reply, the thought that I was talking to someone who had come from Heaven gave me courage and I asked whether I, too, would have the good fortune to go to Heaven, whereupon the Lady replied, **"Yes you will."** And Jacinta? I asked, **"She will go too."** And Francisco? I persisted. She replied, **"He will go to, but he must say many Rosaries."**

(I think that this special injunction to Francisco is for all of us. It is not that saying many Rosaries, as such, is an indispensable condition for going to Heaven, but that we must pray much. Naturally, to say the Rosary every day was the most accessible form of prayer for those children, as it is today for the great majority of people, and there is no doubt that it will be difficult for someone to be saved if they never pray, p126).

Lucia asked about a girl Amelia who had recently died. Our Lady's reply was, **"She will be in purgatory until the end of the world."**

(Lucia writes in *"Calls" from the Message of Fatima*, "This may seem a lot to us, but the mercy of God is always great. By our sins we have gravely offended Him and have deserved Hell! In spite of this, He forgives us and grants us time to pay for them and, by means of reparation and purification, to be saved. Moreover, He accepts the prayers and sacrifices that others offer to Him for the benefit of those who are in this place of expiation, p129). Our Lady then asked the three children the following question, **"Are you willing to offer yourselves to God and bear the**

sufferings He wills to send you, as an act of reparation for the sins by which He is offended, and of supplication for the conversion of sinners?" To which Lucia replied in the name of all three, "Yes, we are willing."

(At that time, this reply was given spontaneously and in ignorance, because I had not the remotest idea what it really meant nor what its full implications were. But I never regretted it; on the contrary I renew it every day, asking God for the grace and strength that I need to keep it faithfully until the end, p129-130).

Our Lady responded to the children's humble little, "Yes" with a promise of the help of grace, "Then you are going to have much to suffer, but the grace of God will be your comfort."

(Putting up with any sacrifices that are asked of us in our day-to-day lives becomes a slow martyrdom which purifies us and raises us up to the level of the supernatural, through the encounter of our soul with God, in the atmosphere of the presence of the Most Holy Trinity within us. We have here an incomparable spiritual richness! Anyone who has understood this lives in Light; in the Light, which is not from the sun nor from the stars, but comes to us from the sources from which every other light springs and receives its being. It is a living Light, which both sees and penetrates as it enlightens, and causes us to see what it wishes to show to us. It is the living light of God, p131).

The Beautiful Lady from Heaven then opened her hands and great streams of light radiated upon the children. Lucia later spoke about that moment: "This light penetrated us to the very depth of our heart, and allowed us to see ourselves in God, Who was that Light, more clearly than we see ourselves in a mirror. Then we were moved by an inner impulse, also communicated to us, to fall on our knees, while repeating,

"Most Holy Trinity, I adore you. My God, My God, I love You in the Most Blessed Sacrament."

(This supernatural impulse led the children to believe in the real presence of God in the Eucharist. It is the gift of faith that God grants to our soul with the Sacrament of Baptism, p131).

And Our Lady ended her Message on that 13th May 1917 with the words, "Pray the Rosary every day, in order to obtain peace for the world, and the end of the war."

(Why should Our Lady have told us to say the Rosary every day rather than telling us to go to Mass every day?

This is a question that I have been asked many times, and it is one which I should like to reply to here. I cannot be absolutely certain of the answer, as Our Lady did not explain, and it never occurred to me to ask. Hence, I say only what I think, and what I have come to understand about it all. In fact, I willingly leave all interpretation of the meaning of the Message to Holy Church, because it pertains to the Church to do so; hence, I humbly and willingly submit myself to whatever It may wish to say or to correct, amend or declare.

As regards the question referred to above, I think that God is Father; and as Father He adapts Himself to the needs and possibilities of His children. Now, if God through Our Lady had asked us to go to Mass and receive Holy Communion every day, there would undoubtedly have been a great many people who would have said, quite rightly, that this was not possible. Some, on account of the distance separating them from the nearest church where Mass was celebrated; others on account of the circumstances of their lives, their state of life, their job, the state of their health, etc. On the other hand, to pray the Rosary is something everybody can do, rich and poor, wise and ignorant, great and small.

All people of good will can, and must, say the Rosary every day. Why? In order to put ourselves into contact with God, to thank Him for his benefits and ask Him for the graces we need. It is the prayer which places us in familiar contact with God like the son that goes to his father to thank him for the gifts he has received, to talk to him about his special concerns to receive his guidance, his help, his support and his blessing.



Since we all need to pray, God asks of us, as a kind of daily installment, a prayer which is within our reach: the Rosary, which can be recited either in common or in private, either in Church in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament or at home, either with the rest of the family or alone, either when travelling or while walking quietly in the fields. A mother of a family can say the Rosary while she rocks her baby's cradle or does the housework. Our day has twenty four hours in it. It is not asking a great deal to set aside a quarter of an hour for the spiritual life, for our intimate and familiar converse with God. ... continue d on page 18

On the other hand, I believe that, after the liturgical prayer of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, the praying of the Rosary, in view of the origin and sublime nature of the prayers used in it, and of the mysteries of the Redemption which we recall and on which we meditate during each decade, is the most pleasing prayer that we can offer to God, and one which is most advantageous to our own souls. If such were not the case, Our Lady would not have asked for it so insistently, p131-132).

Jubilee Year of Fatima Granting of Plenary Indulgence

In order to celebrate with dignity the centennial of the Apparitions of Fatima, by mandate of Pope Francis, a Jubilee Year is granted, with the inherent plenary indulgence, from the 27th of November 2016 till the 26th of November 2017. The plenary indulgence of the jubilee is granted: a) To the faithful who visit the Sanctuary of Fatima on pilgrimage and devotedly participate in some celebration or prayer in honor of the Virgin Mary, pray the 'Our Father', recite the symbol of the faith (Creed) and invoke Our Lady of Fatima; b) To the pious faithful who visit with devotion an image of Our Lady of Fatima, solemnly displayed to public veneration in any temple, oratory or adequate place, on the anniversary days of the apparitions (the 13th of each month, from May to October 2017), and who devotedly participate there in some celebration or prayer in honor of the Virgin Mary, pray the 'Our Father', recite the symbol of the faith (Creed) and invoke Our Lady of Fatima; c) To the faithful who, due to their age, illness or another serious cause, are hindered of moving, if repented of all their sins and with the firm intention to carry out, as soon as it will be possible to them, the three conditions indicated below, in front of a small image of Our Lady of Fatima, on the days of the apparitions, joining spiritually the jubilee celebrations, offering with confidence to the merciful God through Mary their prayers and pains, or the sacrifices of their own life. In order to obtain plenary indulgences, the faithful who are truly repentant and filled with charity must fulfill the following ritual conditions: sacramental confession, Eucharistic communion and prayer for the intentions of the Holy Father. Note: This is the English translation, made by the WAF International Secretariat, of the text in Portuguese released by the Sanctuary of Fatima about the Plenary Indulgence to be granted during the Fatima Jubilee Year, in 2017.

Sister Leonella Sgorbati, Consolata Missionary, Nurse and Martyr

In September 17, 2006, Sister Leonella Sgorbati, a Consolata Missionary Sister, was ambushed and shot by two gunmen in Somalia's war torn capital of Mogadishu. Although a sorrowful tragedy, her life and her death give testimony to the victory of love over hate.



Sister Leonella was born in Piacenza, in northern Italy in 1940. At an early age, she wanted to become a missionary nun. At 23 years old, she realized her dream and joined the Consolata Missionary Sisters. From 1966 to 1968, she studied nursing in England, and then in 1970 she was called to serve in Kenya, working in the Consolata Hospital near Nairobi. In 1983, she took advanced courses in nursing, and she became the main tutor for the nursing school attached to Nkubu Hospital. For 6 years, she also served as Regional Superior for the Consolata Missionary Sisters in Kenya.

In 2001, she saw the great need for a nursing school for the SOS Children's Village Hospital in the Somali capital of Mogadishu. The war-torn country was in an unstable political situation since the collapse of the military government in 1991. However, Sister Leonella worked hard to create the nursing school; and in 2002, the Hermann Gmeiner School of Registered Community Nursing became a reality. Before her death in 2006, she was able to watch as her first 34 nurses graduated. Each nurse was awarded the World Health Organization's internationally recognized diplomas due to Sister Leonella overcoming many bureaucratic struggles.

Sister Leonella then returned to Kenya with three of her students. She wanted to have these students study at the Medical Training College, and then become the future tutors at the school. Once this was accomplished, she headed off to Uganda to scout for hospitals willing to train her other students in operating theatre work. She returned to Mogadishu on September 13, 2006, but with difficulty this time. The Islamic Courts Union had overtaken the country and made new strict laws in regards to foreign travellers.

On the afternoon of September 17, 2006, Sister Leonella crossed the road that separates the hospital from the convent. Hiding behind vehicles and kiosks that lined the street, two gunmen started shooting at her and her bodyguard, Mohamed Osman Mahamud. Mohamed opened fire on the two gunmen. They fired back killing him and hitting Sister Leonella. One of these bullets entered her back and severed a major artery. Sister Leonella was rushed into the SOS Children's Hospital. Her dying words were in Italian: "*Perdono, perdono*" "I forgive, I forgive".

Holy Father, Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI, in a public address just days after her death, commended her Christian witness:

"Some are asked to give the supreme testimony of blood, just as ... Sr. Leonella Sgorbati, who fell victim to violence... This sister, who for many years served the poor and the children in Somalia, died pronouncing the word 'forgive,'... This is the most authentic Christian testimony, a peaceful sign of contradiction which shows the victory of love over hatred and evil."

The closing paragraph is taken from the Consolata Missionary Sisters' website:

"Sister Leonella was well aware of the danger surrounding her. As she used to say, she knew that there was a bullet with her name engraved on it just waiting for her in Mogadishu. But this never deterred her or discouraged her. She was certain that God wanted her in Somalia. For her, that was the will of God. So, nothing could stop her in the mission undertaken, not even the knowledge that she could be killed any time. For this reason, she dedicated herself completely, sparing no effort and truly turning every stone to accomplish the mission of setting up the school of nursing, to give hope and a future to a country ravaged by war. Her love for God and the Somali people was stronger than any fear, and she strongly believed in the people she was serving."

Faith Community Nursing Networking Calls

The Catholic Health Association (CHA) is pleased to host networking calls among parish/congregational nurses working with Catholic parishes, Catholic hospitals or other Catholic health care organizations. These calls will be an opportunity for nurses practicing in health ministry in a Catholic setting to meet each other over the phone, to share inspiration, challenges and successes.

Upcoming faith community nursing call:

Nov. 7, 2017, 3-4 p.m. ET

Participant phone number is (844) 263-6303.

If you have a topic you would like discussed on one of the calls or would like to speak briefly about your program, please contact Julie Trocchio, BSN, MS, (202) 721-6320.



Scholarship for Nursing Students

NACN-USA members who are students enrolled and in good standing in an accredited associate, baccalaureate or graduate nursing program. One scholarship of \$1,000 is available annually. The deadline for submission is June 30, 2017. Please visit our website for further information!

<https://nacn-usa.org/resources/scholarship-award/>

Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development



Effective January 1, 2017, Pope Francis instituted the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development into which was merged the competencies of 1) the Pontifical Council of Justice and Peace, 2) the Pontifical Council Cor Unum, 3) the Pontifical Council for the Pastoral Care of Migrants and Itinerant People and 4) the Pontifical Council for Health Care Workers.

Within the new Dicastery are three commissions:

- * The Commission for Charity
- * The Commission for Ecology
- * The Commission for Health Care Workers

Cardinal Peter Turkson, the President of the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace, is the first prefect of the new dicastery.

Since her appointment in 2011 by Pope Benedict XVI, Marylee Meehan, RN, NACN-USA & CICIAMS Past President has served on the Pontifical Council of Healthcare Workers (Pastoral Care). She was invited to and attended the first meeting of the Dicastery along with our CICIAMS President Geraldine McSweeney. Marylee now retires from this role with the Vatican. Thank you so much Marylee for your continued support of Catholic Nurse and care of the human person.

The following are a couple excerpts from the Motu Proprio establishing the Dicastery and the Statutes: “In all her being and action, the Church is called to promote the integral development of the human person in the light of the Gospel. This development takes place by attending to the inestimable goods of justice, peace, and the care of creation...”

“The Dicastery expresses the Holy See's concern for issues of justice and peace, including those related to migration, health, charitable works and the care of creation...”

The Dicastery also expresses the Holy Father's care for suffering humanity, including the needy, the sick and the excluded, and pays special attention to the needs and issues of those

who are forced to flee their homeland, the stateless, the marginalized, victims of armed conflicts and natural disasters, the imprisoned, the unemployed, victims of contemporary forms of slavery and torture, and others whose dignity is endangered...”

(For the motu proprio http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/motu_proprio/documents/papa-francesco-motu-proprio_20160817_humanam-progressionem.html creating this new Dicastery and the statutes: https://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/motu_proprio/documents/papa-francesco_20160817_statuto-dicastero-servizio-sviluppo-umano-integrale.html)

Access the Vatican website and the links above).





President Elect's (& CICIAMS Ethics Committee Chair's) Newsletter Report

Our NACN-USA is increasing in vitality and we have so much gratitude to share with our past and current presidents, treasurer, other board members and committee chairs. This ministry of health care in which we are engaged, continues to be blessed because of each of you. So much continues to be accomplished, from international participation of CICIAMS (International Catholic Committee of Nurses and Medico-Social Assistants - Comité International Catholique des Infirmières et Assistantes Médico-Sociales) at the United Nations, to local council formation, to convention planning for both 2017 and 2018. I also chair the Ethics Committee for CICIAMS, and will include a report, later in this article, on significant efforts therein.

NACN-USA's growth has necessitated the development of more regions, which has led to an expansion of the board of directors, and to by-laws revisions, and elections of new regional directors. With this growth has come an opportunity for enhanced communication within our organization. To that end, in June I will be convening a conference call of all regional directors, to orient them to the by-laws and their revisions, as well as to their role in developing local councils, and outreach to schools of nursing in their regions.

Because of this growth, NACN-USA is increasingly sought as a source of public comment on issues impacting the health care professions and the people they serve. That is why we need members from all professional roles in health care, or consumers, to be involved, and who can speak from their unique perspective as either a direct care-giver, consumer, administrator, educator, or from whatever role in which a member is engaged in serving God's people. Together we can make a difference in a culture which is trying to redefine us as mere vending machines, conscienceless, and doing the bidding of whatever secular plurality demands, as advanced by Ezekiel J. Emanuel, MD., ethicist at the University of Pennsylvania, and architect of the *Affordable Care Act*, in a recent *New England Journal of Medicine* article.

Health care professionals who are unwilling to accept these [secular] limits have two choices: select an area of medicine, such as radiology, that will not put them in situations that conflict with their personal morality or, if there is no such area, leave the profession. [<http://www.nationalreview.com/corner/446565/ezekiel-emanuel-attacks-medical-conscience>]

There is so much at stake, not only for our profession, but for the people we serve. The challenges are international, and CICIAMS Ethics Committee is keeping international members abreast of these challenges, be they a redefinition of women's health, to assisted suicide advancing toward euthanasia, in which all are expected to participate despite matters of conscience. Our CICIAMS representatives to the United Nations are NACN-USA liaisons, and they have been invited to present at CICIAMS XX World Congress on "Aging populations, fertility decline, and replacement migration: Evidence that best practices for nurses and sustainable global policies needed are consistent with Catholic teachings." These representatives provide a data-based framework to countering a global approach to population health that focuses on contraception and abortion. Furthermore, CICIAMS is developing, through its Ethics Committee, a mechanism so that members can access The National Catholic Bioethics Center's free consultation service, enabling CICIAMS and NACN-USA members to seek informed bioethical opinions, consistent with natural moral law as elucidated by the Catholic Church. The challenges are real, and the expertise and commitment of our members are real. Together we can do great things. Spread the word!

Council of Catholic Nurses, Diocese of Joliet, Illinois

Update

By Janet Salihar RN, CCM

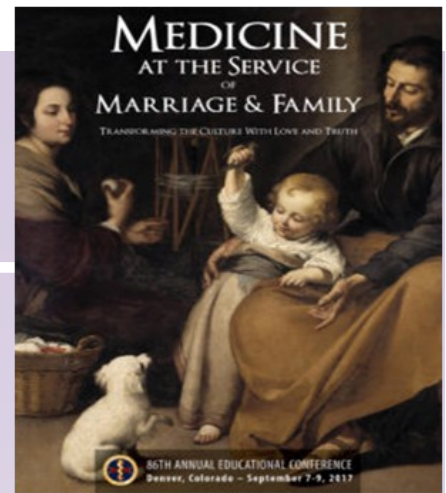
An extremely serious situation has occurred that affects us as Catholic Nurses in the State of Illinois. Effective Jan. 1, 2017, **SB 1564** was passed that makes a disturbing amendment to the existing **Health Care Right of Conscience Act**. The law now requires Catholic nurses and all health care workers to make referrals for abortion, abortifacients, in vitro fertilization, sterilization and other treatments that take and devalue the life and dignity of a human being. In addition to listing the risks of any legal medical procedure, the health care worker must also list the benefits when giving the referral.

For a Catholic health care worker to give a referral is to give an implicit consent, making the health care worker a complicit collaborator to a grave sin. The original Illinois Health Care Right of Conscience Act was once considered the gold standard of state-level First Amendment protective laws. This act allowed Catholic Hospitals, institutions and other medical providers and personnel to practice their right of conscientious objection to procedures and medications that it found to be morally objectionable. It also protected the institution and health care worker from giving referrals. Now this has changed.

At our Council meeting on February 18, 2017 the board discussed this tragic amendment. We reviewed our Council's Mission and Vision Statement in which we are called to be the "collective voice of the Catholic nurses and student nurses related to promoting moral principles and advocating for human dignity and the value of life." The Charter for Health Care Workers from the Pontifical Council calls us "Ministers of Life". From Chapter I:

The work of health care persons is a very valuable service to life. It expresses a profoundly human and Christian commitment, undertaken and carried out not only as a technical activity but also as one of dedication to and love of neighbor. It is "a form of Christian witness." **"Their profession calls for them to be guardians and servants of human life" (Evangelium Vitae 89).**

As this new law restricts our religious freedom and threatens our mission, we have agreed to have Peter Breen, Special Counsel for the Thomas More Society law firm, represent our Council as a group. He will detail in a complaint letter to US Health and Human Services Office for Civil Rights how the Illinois law violates the federal legislation that protects our right of conscience. Please keep us in your prayers.



UPCOMING EVENTS:

The Center for Bioethics and Human Dignity presents its 2017 conference on June 19-22 at Trinity International University in Deerfield, Illinois, a suburb of Chicago. This year's conference is "***Genetic and Reproductive Technologies.***" Cost to attend the conference is \$270 for members, \$320 for non-members and \$130 for full-time students. The President Elect for our NACN, Marie Hilliard, PhD, JCL, RN is one of the esteemed speakers. For more information and to register visit Center for Bioethics and Human Dignity.. <https://cbhd.org/>

Catholic Medical Association: *Medicine at the Service of Marriage and Family: Transforming Culture with Love and Truth*

Denver, Colorado- September 7-9, 2017

Thomas Hilger, MD, CFMCMC, creator of the Creighton Model Fertility Care System is the keynote speaker. Several talks will be given on this system and NaproTECHNOLOGY. For more information visit...

<http://www.cathmed.org>

National Catholic Bioethics Center

Catholic Healthcare Ethics:

A Tradition of Compassion and Care for the Human Person

2 Day Seminars

Begin articulating the Church's understanding of the inherent dignity of the human person as the objective basis for the Church's moral tradition in health care.

- Have a sense of how to apply the Church's moral teaching as expressed in *The Ethical and Religious Directives for Catholic Health Care Services* to effect the resolution of complex dilemmas encountered in clinical education, practice and research.
- Identify some of the resources available to health care workers and others involved in the health care ministry which provide guidance for the resolution of bioethical issues.

Bismarck, ND (August 11 & 12, 2017)

Philadelphia, PA (Sept. 8 & 9, 2017)

A maximum of 12.0 nursing contact hours will be awarded for this program

For more information: <https://www.ncbcenter.org/programs/two-day-seminars/>



History in the Making: The NACN-USA Ad Hoc Archives/History Committee (Brief #7)

Taking a Step Back...What We Know to Date About Our History

By Cheryl Hettman, PhD, RN

Nursing Consultant & Educator; Chairperson, Archives/History Committee

It is time to step back for a moment from our usual articles about affiliated councils, etc., to share a broad overview of what our Archives/History Committee has come to know about the journey from the past to the present regarding our organization. Recently, at the June 2016 national meeting in Chicago, I presented a timeline poster highlighting key elements of what we know to date. As segments of the timeline will be in this article, only brief commentary will be included about the items as more detailed accounts of this information will be forthcoming in future articles. I hope you will find this step back in time of great interest! I also hope that if you have any information in your own archives or files that can help contribute any details of these time periods, that you would contact our A/H committee to share your rich nuggets of history! Just email me at: hettmanca@hotmail.com



In the early 1900's, it became a practice of forming groups of nurses for support and to promote the values and principles as Catholic nurses in practice. Some of the first groups to organize were graduates/alumni of programs of nursing, which were often called guilds or clubs. The oldest of these on record in the United States was established in 1909 in Boston, called The Guild of St. Radegonde (which you might recall learning about from the very first Archives & History Brief). Many of the early guilds were "original bodies" and others that followed would sometimes be "secondary bodies" or affiliated chapters of a diocesan federation. For example, the 1938 Cleveland Diocese Federation of Catholic Nurses was an original body, and St. Elizabeth's Hospital Nurses' Alumni Association in Youngstown, Ohio was one of its affiliates (and would you believe that I just discovered a long lost council that sprung from this group at a later date that still exists today...stay tuned for more on this hidden gem in the next newsletter!).



As the development of these groups continued, the International Catholic Guild for Nurses was founded under the guidance of Fr. Edward Garesche in Wisconsin in 1924. This involved nurses from both the United States and Canada (and later Ireland & Scotland began to engage in the relationship). However, following attendance at the first convention of another newly formed group in 1933 in Lourdes, France – the International Study Committee for Catholic Nurses' Associations in Lourdes, France (which later in 1946 changed its name to the International Catholic Committee of Nurses and Medical Social Assistants, or in French, "Comité International Catholique des Infirmières et Assistantes Médico-Sociales" [CICIAMS]) - the U.S./Canada group revised its constitution and by-laws with a national focus. It also changed its name to The National Catholic Federation of Nurses, and the headquarters was moved to Chicago, Illinois.

It was a few years later (1935) while abroad at the Second International Congress of Catholic Nurses in Rome, that attendees were addressed by Pope Pius XI.

He implored the nurses to be properly prepared for their vocation and mission with the sick, and he declared that it was the duty of every Catholic nurse to join a Catholic nursing association. These desires for the organizing of nurses were reiterated by his successor, Pope Pius XII, through his spokesperson, Cardinal Pizzardo, to the Third International Congress of Catholic Nurses in London in 1937.

All the while nurses were busy forming their organizations, so too were the U.S. bishops in the process of organizing themselves into what became known as the National Catholic Welfare Conference in 1919. Their goal was to promote the welfare of all Catholics throughout the country – and this came to include nurses. Their inclusion was stimulated by the receipt of a letter dated April 8, 1938, sent by Cardinal Pizzardo to the U.S. bishops on behalf of Pope Pius XII, which included a statement that:

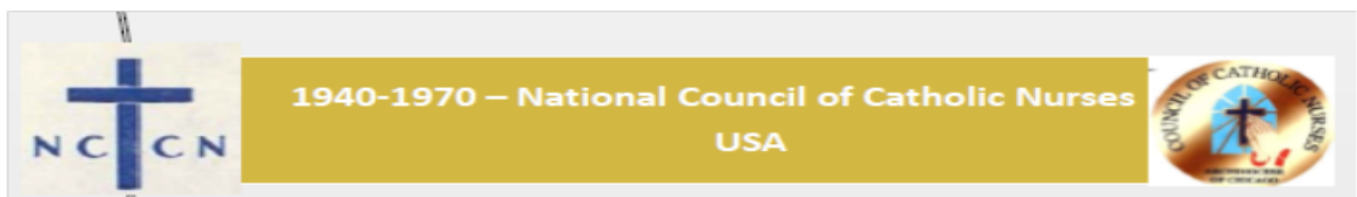
"In accordance with the wish of the Holy Father, it is most desirable that the Catholic nurses of the United States be gathered into one national association under the direction of the respective Ordinaries and of the Hierarchy."

After reviewing the pope's desire for establishing diocesan, national, and international organizations, the Board of the National Catholic Welfare Conference appointed Reverend Joseph Rummel (Episcopal Chairman for Lay Organization of the National Catholic Welfare Conference) to take on this task. He led the organization efforts for the new national organization and dissolved the pre-existing National Federation of Catholic Nurses. On June 10, 1940, at a meeting in Chicago, the official National Council of Catholic Nurses of the United States (NCCN) was established.

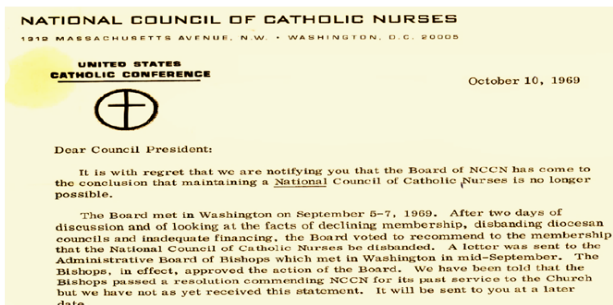
The organization's office was later moved to the same building as the U.S. bishop's National Catholic Welfare Conference headquarters in Washington, D.C., where they continued to provide the NCCN with support and oversight.

Representatives from all parts of the United States were present at that meeting to draft the constitution and to discuss ways and means of establishing an association in every archdiocese and diocese. One of the first aims of the constitution is "to encourage and assist in the formation of an association of Catholic nurses in every diocese in the United States."

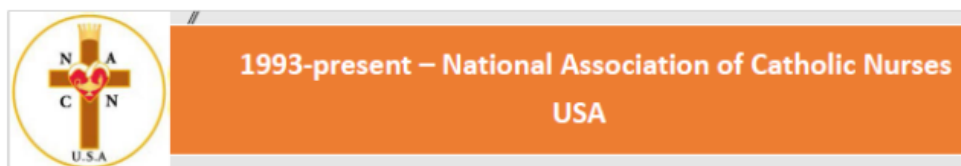
The NCCN grew steadily for over 20 years in the number of individual members and local or regional councils that served the communities until a significant downturn took place in the 1960's. The decreased membership was accompanied by a decrease in sufficient financial status. In October 1969, members were notified of the Board's consideration of disbanding, and the call for a formal vote to determine the final outcome of the organization was sent out to the delegate representatives of each council. This resulted in the ending of the NCCN memberships in December 1969 and the official closing of its Washington, D.C. office doors in February 1970.



Thereafter, most affiliated councils also disbanded, yet some did remain or reorganized as separate bodies when they split off from their diocesan groups. Two examples of councils that have remained intact the longest include the Council of Catholic Nurses of the Archdiocese of Chicago (since 1954), and the recently discovered Albany Council of Catholic Nurses, that was featured in the last issue of this newsletter. It is celebrating 70 years in the running this year and is the oldest, consistently existing council that we know of at this time! The photos below are from one of their celebration events. From L to R: Bishop Scharfenberger & President Joan Riley-Borck; Richard Zazycki (Treasurer) & member, Sr. Christiana; Fr. Farano (Spiritual Director) & members (including Gracie, in yellow, who is their oldest member); and other members. Congratulations, Albany!



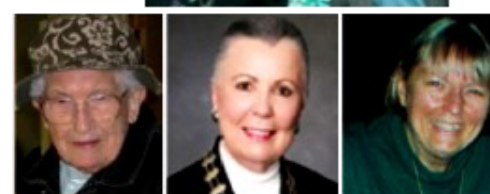
Over 20 years after NCCN disbanded, a group of nurses from some of the remaining regions got together in 1993 after attending a CICIAMS conference. They were inspired to have a national organization and reorganized as the current National Association of Catholic Nurses (NACN)-USA. With great dedication and effort by Eula Sofrza (president), Marylee Meehan (VP), Mary Pellizzari (Secretary-Treasurer) – shown below respectively from left to right - and others, the official incorporation of NACN-USA took place in June, 1998 under the auspices of then Bishop Joseph Imesch of the Diocese of Joliet, Illinois. Today NACN continues to grow in many ways as an organization, in its overall membership, and in affiliated local/regional councils (over 700 members and now 9 known affiliated councils, with more in development – or perhaps even yet to be discovered, like Albany and Youngstown!).



More and more members are becoming personally involved in NACN through councils, committees, the Board, etc., and one example is Marylee Meehan. Not only has she been an active leader in NACN in the past (VP and President), she also served as president of the international group in recent years (2008-2010). Through its member status in CICIAMS, NACN is able to not only have a voice at our national and regional/local levels, but also internationally as exemplified by persons like Marylee (who by the way, was also appointed to the Pontifical Council of Healthcare Workers in 2011 by Pope Benedict XVI!). And now there are NACN members even serving as CICIAMS delegates to the United Nations (Maria Arvonio, Marian Nowak, Patricia Sayers, and Patricia Staley)!

Through God's grace, YOUR voice as a member of NACN-USA is being heard in important current issues involving freedom of religion, the sanctity of life, and other health-related matters in the United States and around the world! What a journey it has been...and will continue to be in the years ahead...through continued dedication and involvement of all of us as Catholic nurses and members of NACN!

The Archives & History Committee looks forward to hearing from you about the history of YOUR Catholic nurses' organization. For consideration to be featured in a future publication please contact C. Hettman, Chair, Ad Hoc Archives & History Committee, at hettmanca@hotmail.com





Our Lady of Fatima Virgin Pilgrim Statue Returns to the United Nations

Courtney Donahue MS, RN, FNP-BC, PCCN

This year marked the Centennial Anniversary of the Fatima apparitions on May 13. A day prior to this anniversary on May 12, the Pilgrim Virgin Statue of Our Lady of Fatima was shown at the United Nations (UN) for the second time in its history. The last time that this statue visited the UN was on December 8, 1952. On that day, the statue (which had recently been blessed by the bishop of Fatima) was carried through the UN, where Father Harold V. Colgan, the founder of the Blue Army, and a young writer named John Haffert prayed the Rosary for peace.

On May 12, with the effort of many dedicated people, the statue returned to the UN 65 years after its first appearance. This event was sponsored by the Portuguese delegation at the UN and the Holy See's Permanent Observer Mission to the UN. The event was titled "The Centenary of Fatima and the Enduring Relevance of Its Message of Peace." Guest speakers included Ambassador Alvaro Mendonca e Moura (permanent representative of Portugal to the UN), Archbishop Bemadito Auza (apostolic nuncio and permanent observer of the Holy See to the UN) and Johnette Benkovic, the Founder and President of Women of Grace, a Catholic apostolate for women. Judy Studer, a nurse and custodian of the Pilgrim Virgin Statue of the Lady of Fatima was also present. Judy was diagnosed many years ago with terminal cancer and told she had six months to live. Her mother called her up one day and told her that the Statue of Fatima to the UN was coming to her cathedral and that she should go and pray for healing. Judy reluctantly went with her mother and prayed that if she were healed, she would spread devotion to Our Lady of Fatima and the Rosary. Several weeks later, Judy was given a clean bill of health by her doctor. She proclaimed "Our Lady did it" and has spent her life spreading the devotion to Our Lady. She became a member of the Rhode Island Division of the World Apostolate of Fatima (formally known as the Blue Army), the keepers of the UN Statue of Our Lady of Fatima.

May 12, 2017 was a beautiful, sunny day. Members of the NACN met outside the United Nations and greeted one another, excited for what was in store for them that very special day. Ironically, it also happened to be National Nurses Week, and there was a concurrent nursing meeting occurring. This gave NACN members, especially Maria Arvonio and Dr. Patricia Sayers a wonderful opportunity to hand out pamphlets spreading the word about our wonderful association and the Cape Cod Summit! Once inside, they were given the opportunity to take pictures with the statue and meet all of the wonderful speakers. It was truly an honor to be present at this event with our fellow NACN members. The members had a wonderful conference and feel blessed to have experienced this epic moment.



Our Lady of Fatima continued...

God through Our Lady had asked us to go to Mass and receive Holy Communion every day, there would undoubtedly have been a great many people who would have said, quite rightly, that this was not possible. Some, on account of the distance separating them from the nearest church where Mass was celebrated; others on account of the circumstances of their lives, their state of life, their job, the state of their health, etc. On the other hand, to pray the Rosary is something everybody can do, rich and poor, wise and ignorant, great and small.

All people of good will can, and must, say the Rosary every day. Why? In order to put ourselves into contact with God, to thank Him for his benefits and ask Him for the graces we need. It is the prayer which places us in familiar contact with God like the son that goes to his father to thank him for the gifts he has received, to talk to him about his special concerns to receive his guidance, his help, his support and his blessing.

Since we all need to pray, God asks of us, as a kind of daily installment, a prayer which is within our reach: the Rosary, which can be recited either in common or in private, either in Church in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament or at home, either with the rest of the family or alone, either when travelling or while walking quietly in the fields. A mother of a family can say the Rosary while she rocks her baby's cradle or does the housework. Our day has twenty four hours in it. It is not asking a great deal to set aside a quarter of an hour for the spiritual life, for our intimate and familiar converse with God.

On the other hand, I believe that, after the liturgical prayer of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, the praying of the Rosary, in view of the origin and sublime nature of the prayers used in it, and of the mysteries of the Redemption which we recall and on which we meditate during each decade, is the most pleasing prayer that we can offer to God, and one which is most advantageous to our own souls. If such were not the case, Our Lady would not have asked for it so insistently, p131-132).

Afterwards the apparition, Francisco said, "I loved seeing the angel, and I loved seeing Our Lady even better, but what I liked best of all was seeing Our Lord in that light which Our Lady put into our hearts. I love God so much, but He is so sad because of all the sins. We mustn't commit even the tiniest sin!"

In Lucia's Memoirs she shared that when Francisco visited a church he liked to pray behind the altar at the foot of the tabernacle. He liked to be hidden as he prayed close to Jesus. Many people testified that they had received great graces after having asked Francisco to pray for them.





Hello from the new **Newsletter Editor**! I am excited to be a part of this wonderful association. As a Catholic nurse practitioner, it is great to have a wonderful, supportive group of people to network and share ideas with. The deadline for article submissions for the next newsletter is August 15th. Please email me articles you would like to add to the Fall newsletter to CourtneyGDonahue@yahoo.com. I look forward to hearing from you!

Mission Trip to Jamaica!

When: February 24 – March 3, 2018

Who: Members of NACN-USA & affiliated Councils (& other healthcare professionals are welcome, too!) who wish to volunteer as individuals, representing themselves, not representing NACN-USA; also other healthcare professionals are welcome as volunteers, pursuant to acceptance by Mustard Seed Communities

Where: Mustard Seed Communities (See website: This is their ministry, and not sponsored by, or affiliated with, NACN-USA), Kingston, Jamaica (Catholic mission founded in 1978).

Trip Facilitator: Cheryl Hettman, PhD, RN - past president, NACN-USA, 2010-2012 & current chair, Archives/History Committee (Dr. Hettman will be facilitating this trip independent of, and not as a representative of, NACN-USA, which is not a sponsor of this trip or affiliated with Mustard Seed Communities). Dr. Hettman has been leading trips to Mustard Seed Communities for 15 years

BY JULY 31, 2017: For More Information & Pre-Registration:

Ask if God is calling you...then contact Cheryl Hettman hettmanca@hotmail.com

FYI – The mission requires a minimum of 12 persons (can take up to 20) for a trip, so it is imperative that you make contact ASAP to express your interest and pre-register if you wish to go, so the trip can be confirmed as soon as possible if there is enough interest. A \$100 down payment will be required to pre-register and hold your spot. This will be refunded to you if the trip is not confirmed. Pray this is not the case, but it is a possibility. Final payment of \$850 will be due by November 1. Individual fundraising suggestions are available, along with a personal online fundraising site through the mission, if needed (TBA when the trip is confirmed, along with details for the specific airfare information for purchasing your ticket).





NACN MEMBERSHIP...

Current cost of membership dues is \$50 annually.
Please go to the NACN-USA website to register at:

<https://nacn-usa.org/membership/levels/>

If you are already a member and need to renew go to:

<https://nacn-usa.org/membership/membership-renewals/>

Please log into the member's area to begin your renewal.
Dues can be paid via credit card on the website (preferred)
or by check (subject to a \$50 return check charge) mailed to:

Richard Zazycki, NACN-USA Treasurer,
c/o Circles of Mercy, 11 Washington Street,
Rensselaer, NY 12144 Email: circlesofmercy@nycap.rr.com

Free Consultation Services on Bioethical Issues

AVAILABLE THROUGH THE NATIONAL CATHOLIC BIOETHICS CENTER (NCBC)

The 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, 7 days/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 Request Form**

NOTE: The National Catholic Bioethics Center (Center) is a non-profit research and educational institute committed to applying the moral teachings of the Catholic Church to ethical issues arising in health care and the life sciences. The Center provides consultations to institutions and individuals seeking its opinion on the appropriate application of Catholic moral teachings to these ethical issues.

Neither the Center's moral analyses nor any other project of the Center should be construed as an attempt to offer or render a legal or medical opinion or otherwise to engage in the practice of law or medicine, or other health care disciplines.