



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

Greetings and Blessings,

I am writing to request that you share information about the National Association of Catholic Nurses with Catholic Nurses in your parish and diocese. In this time when many changes are occurring in the healthcare field, it is important that faithful Catholic nurses are united in supporting the dignity of each human person, each other, their parish, diocese and the Church.

The National Association of Catholic Nurses-USA (NACN-USA) is a membership organization for nurses who share the same Catholic values and principles. Our mission is to give 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.

NACN-USA was initially formed following the formation of the International Catholic Committee for Nurses and Medico-Social Assistants (CICIAMS) whose first meeting was held in Lourdes in 1933. In 1938 Pope Pius XI, through his spokesperson, G. Cardinal Pizzardo, encouraged the bishops to organize local associations of Catholic nurses according to the needs of their respective diocese and in time create a National organization. Disbanded for 20 years, there was great interest from the local councils who remained to reestablish the national organization. In 1993 the NACN-USA was formed under the auspices of the Diocese of Joliet, Illinois, with the permission and spiritual advisement of Bishop Joseph L. Imesch. NACN-USA is a full voting member of CICIAMS and in October 1996, NACN-USA was approved by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops for inclusion in the “Official Catholic Directory.” Forming local and regional councils of Catholic Nurses is an integral initiative of our Association.

In addition, several of our members serve at the International level. One of our members, a past president of both NACN-USA and CICIAMS, was appointed by Pope Benedict XVI in 2011 to serve on the Pontifical Council for Health Care Workers (Pastoral Care) which she did until it was consolidated within the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development in 2017. This member attended the initial meeting of the Dicastery in April 2017. Four members represent CICIAMS at the United Nations and have presented statement before the UN Commission on Population and Development in 2015, 2016 and 2017. Finally, three other members serve in positions with CICIAMS (Pan American Representative, Chair of the Ethics Committee and Member of the Committee on the Family). Additional information including our newsletters are available on our website: www.nacn-usa.org. I can be contacted at catholicnurses@nacn-usa.org.

I sincerely hope you will help us continue our effort to unite nurses and student nurses across the nation to support one another and our parishes. May God continue to bless and strengthen you in your ministry.

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President, National Association of Catholic Nurses-USA