

NACN-USA Logo Design and History (1995-2017)



In 1995 the National Association of Catholic Nurses, U.S.A. (NACN-USA) held a Logo Contest. Marylee Meehan, RN, MA, one of the founders of the newly formed national Catholic nursing organization, was at the time she won the contest serving as the Vice President (1993-1996). Marylee would go on to serve as NACN-USA President (1996-1998), Vice President, International Committee of Catholic Nurses and Medico-Social Assistants (CICIAMS), North American Region (1998-2000), the NGO Representative of CICIAMS: United Nations, New York and Australia, NGO UNICEF, New York, International Catholic Organizations, New York and Pan American Health Organization, Washington, D.C. (2002-2007), the CICIAMS President (2007-2012), and Member of the Pontifical Council for the Pastoral Assistance of Health Care Workers appointed by His Holiness Pope Benedict (2011-2017). She was honored by the Holy See with the title “CICIAMS President

Emeritus” in 2016. Marylee received the NACN-USA Living Legacy Award in 2017 at The Summit in Cape Cod for her many contributions locally, nationally and internationally.

In an oral history Marylee shared with Peg Olson how she came to design the logo. In her home she made a prayer room. Marylee lit a candle, prayed for inspiration and asked the Holy Spirit to share with her the design. As Marylee made it manifest, it was important that she start with a circle, a group bound by a common tie. A circle because God is eternal and the group has no beginning and no end. Once we have the design of a circle, the next inspiration came to her that the middle of the design is a cross. And the reason for the cross being in the middle of the logo is because the cross stands for suffering, death and resurrection. On the four sections of the cross are the initials of the organization, N.A.C.N., and at the bottom of the cross is U.S.A. In the middle of the cross is the heart, the Sacred Heart of Jesus. The heart stands for “love of God and patients.” In the center of the heart is the Nightingale Lamp. And the Nightingale lamp has escaping from it is... the Holy Spirit in the form of a vapor, the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit in the form of a dove is atop the Sacred Heart of Jesus. The nurses’ lamp and light symbolizes nursing and being one little light. Marylee speaks of how it is the responsibility of each one of us to be a light and shine for everyone with whom we come in contact. As she was designing the logo the words from the Holy Spirit, “*Come Holy Spirit, Fill the hearts of Thy faithful and enkindle in them the fire of your love...*” And last but not least, perhaps the most important part of the logo is the crown, the gold crown at the top of the cross. The gold crown symbolizes, “Christ the King” and in Bible Revelation 16:14-15, “... *A crown of solid gold upon His head and a sharp sickle in his hand ...the time has come for you to reap, the harvest is ripe on the earth.*” For us it is time to reap, the harvest of our student nurses.

In 2017, with her consent, the NACN-USA Board of Directors added the organization name around the outside of the logo. Below is the original meaning of each aspect of the logo and pictures of the old and new logos:

1. SHAPE: Circle, A Group Bound by a Common Tie.
2. CROSS: Suffering Death & Resurrection
3. HEART: Love for God & Patients
4. HOLY SPIRIT: “Come Holy Spirit, Fill the hearts of Thy faithful and enkindle in them the fire of your love.
5. NURSES LAMP AND LIGHT: Nursing and being one little light
6. GOLD CROWN: Christ the King and in Bible the Revelation 16:14-15, “...*A crown of solid gold upon His head and a sharp sickle in his hand ...the time has come for you to reap, the harvest is ripe on the earth.*” For us it is time to reap, the harvest of new members and our student nurses.



Original design 1995

Thank you Marylee for the original design



2017 Modification

Thank you Richard Zazycki, LPN, Treasurer and Sister Barbara Roman, RSM for our 2017 modification.