



*Unity in Charity*

*Where NURSING, MINISTRY, and CATHOLIC MISSION meet*

## *2018 National Conference*

**Responding to Healthcare Challenges  
Influencing Catholic Nursing Practice...  
August 2-3, 2018 - San Antonio, Texas**

### **Welcome**

The National Association of Catholic Nurses-USA Board of Directors and 2018 Conference Committee Members are excited to welcome you to San Antonio, the home of the Alamo, the famous River Walk, several missions (some remaining as places of worship today), and the historic Menger Hotel. The conference has been designed to provide a variety of educational presentations, professional and social networking options, and time to enjoy a few of San Antonio's treasures with conference participants, family, and/or friends.

It is evident that our organizational foundations and primary conference focus embrace nursing guided by the Catholic faith. Healthcare providers or individuals supportive of these central identities of religious faith and professional practice are welcome and encouraged to join with us as conference participants, organizational members, or sponsors.

Two new NACN-USA initiatives will be introduced that support the conference title: "Responding to Healthcare Challenges Influencing Catholic Nursing Practice".

First, a national prayer chain will be established. Members will have the opportunity to access this new initiative on the NACN-USA web page ([www.nacn.org](http://www.nacn.org)) and request prayer for self or others. A pattern will be established to routinely delete entries so as to not overload the website. However, renewal of prayer requests along with new requests will always be welcomed.

Second, conference participants are invited to bring a one page description and contact information on one or two volunteer organizations or activities they support for placement on a designated conference table. The selected entry should not only further your personal understanding of the many needs facing us worldwide, but also strengthen other faith practices and/or beliefs. Thus, it would be helpful if you indicate, if applicable, the local Catholic community/agency that is involved in the organizations/activities that you have described. After the conference, a brief description of **selected** volunteer entries will be posted on our website to encourage others to participate in the same or similar experience.

By extending one's knowledge, energy, and/or expertise to improve the well-being of life... be it service to other humans, animals, or our environment... we are each doing God's work while expecting little or no recognition for our efforts.

### **Conference Description**

Today strong legal, ethical, financial, educational, and scientific forces are challenging our Catholic-formed consciences and nursing job practices. Secular and Catholic healthcare workplaces and educational institutions face discussions and decisions important to the blending of healthcare and religion. These discussions are unfamiliar to some, uncomfortable for many, ignored by others, and often only tacitly addressed in institutional documents guiding philosophy of care, delivery of healthcare practices, and appropriate educational preparation and certification for all healthcare providers. This situation presents dangerous crossroads for Catholic nurses. Our faith beliefs, values, and actions must guide and be aligned with our professional practice of nursing that is also defined by state mandates and institutional guidelines.

This conference is designed to provide participants with a variety of presentations and conversations that provoke "food for thought" and action. Topics of fighting hunger, human trafficking, emergency shelter management issues, and cultural immersion are a few of the areas that will be addressed. Participants should also leave with a renewed and shared sense of joy and power that we, as nurses and others hold dear in our practices as Catholic healthcare providers.

### **Conference Learner Outcomes**

- 1) Learners will self-report the ability to open discussions across familiar and unfamiliar areas of healthcare practice that challenge the implementation of their Catholic faith.
- 2) Learners will self-report strategies nurses and other healthcare providers can employ in professional clinical practice that aligns with the teachings and practices of the Catholic faith.
- 3) Learners will self-report an increase in their ability to recognize opportunities to advocate for the health and well-being of self and others in ways that integrate their Catholic faith with desired health outcomes.