



National Association of Catholic Nurses-U.S.A.

Where *NURSING, MINISTRY and CATHOLIC MISSION* meet
“Unity in Charity”



www.nacn-usa.org

Winter 2017 Newsletter

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President's Letter

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

Dear Members and Potential Members,

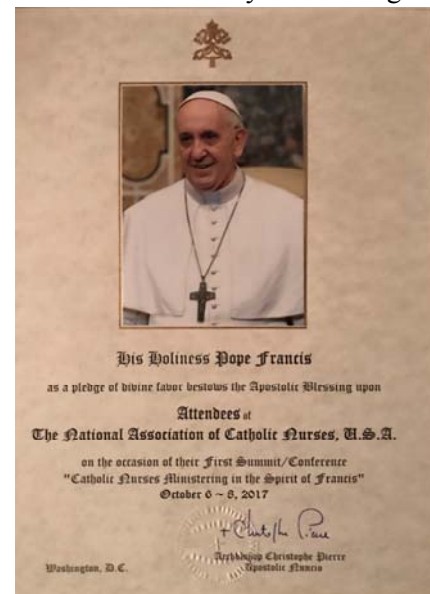
Greetings with prayers for peace in our nation, homes and our hearts. I ask you to pray with me as our nation suffers

multiple tragedies these last few months. May God hold those affected in the palm of His hand and Mary wrap her mantle around them bringing all comfort, peace and a speedy recovery. As we approach the Advent and Christmas season, may God bless you and your loved ones as we celebrate our Savior's birth in the humble impoverished surroundings in Bethlehem (House of Bread). May your Advent be blessed and your Christmas merry.

This fall we were blessed to hold a successful Summit in Cape Cod, 6-8, 2017 attended by many wonderful nurse leaders and devoted clergy. The Summit was in the planning for three years and was held in response to a request by His Holiness Pope Francis that NACN-USA expand its membership, become more involved nationally and share good works as part of the New Evangelization.

This message was conveyed by Monsignor Zygmunt Zimowski (1946-2016), President of the Pontifical Council for the Pastoral Care of Health Care Workers to Marylee Meehan who served on this Pontifical Council from 2011-2017. Archbishop Zimowski was to be our keynote speaker.

Instead, The Summit was held in his honor.



Thank you to Bishop Edgar da Cunha of the Diocese of Fall River for opening the Summit, his wise opening address and for our special mass. Many thanks to Fr. Paul Caron who donated the space and to Deacon William Gallerizzo, the parish volunteers and Knights of Columbus who volunteered their time to help make the event a success. See our conference webpage for the prestigious speakers and

President's Letter (cont'd)

the “members only” section for the presentations. Also noteworthy was the expertise and insight of the participants who, in the Task Force Groups, addressed targeted areas of healthcare need particular to the United States: 1) Drug Use: Pre-Birth to Pre-Death to include in utero, hormonal contraception and the national opioid crisis¹, 2) Military² and Veterans Suicide Prevention and 3) Health-Fitness Management Issues and Solutions specifically investigating Healing “Touch,” Therapeutic “Touch,” Reiki³, tai chi, Tai Chi, yoga, Yoga,⁴⁵ and Christian alternatives.⁶ If you are interested in continuing to work on a task force addressing one or more of these key issues, please volunteer by sending an email to catholicnurses@nacn-usa.org.

The month of November, four members will attend the 32nd International Conference of the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development at the Vatican 16-18 November 2017. The aim of the conference are to examine the theme of the inequalities, still present in the world, with regard to health care services. Safe travels to Marylee Meehan, Pat Sayers, Maria Arvonio and Ellen Gianoli.

Two major events are also occurring in 2018. Please join us in **August 2-3, 2018 for the NACN-Conference, “Responding to Healthcare Challenges Influencing Catholic Nursing Practice” at the Historic Menger Hotel, Alamo Plaza, San Antonio.** The conference planning committee under the



The River Walk, San Antonio, Texas

leadership of Jane Cardea has secured the conference room rate for August, 1, 2, 3 and 4 for those who might make this a family vacation. We hope to see all our members in San Antonio. The other event is our CICIAMS XX Congress. Though Dr. Marie Hilliard will assume the helm of the NACN-USA beginning July 1, 2017, she has graciously asked that I represent NACN-USA in Malaysia 4-7 September. The theme chosen for the Congress is *Education for Sustainable Health: Engaging Development, Respecting Life*.

Issues the board has address the past quarter include: 1) The California Board of Nursing rescinding the continuing education credits awarded to a course that taught about the Abortion Pill Reversal treatment. <https://www.abortionpillreversal.com/> and 2) the HHS Draft Strategic Plan FY 2018-2022. Thank you Dr. Carolyn Laabs, PhD, MA, FNP-BC, RN, Chair, Ethics and Spirituality Committee for the excellent analysis and comments. The Supreme Court opted not to hear the surrogacy case M.C. v. C.M. in which we participated in the medical/scientific brief in collaboration with the Thomas More Society and others. Despite the Court's ultimate decision, the Court did review all four of the amicus briefs, so it has now considered – for the first time ever – the constitutional and policy issues surrounding surrogacy. On a positive note, the Supreme Court did consent to hear the Masterpiece Cakeshop, LTD. vs Colorado Civil Rights Commission. Pray that they decide in favor of religious liberty.

We have consolidated at <https://nacn-usa.org/resources/resource-links/> guidance on ethics in nursing practice: 1) New Charter for Health Care Workers, 2017, 2) CICIAMS Ethics Guidelines and Principles of Practice for Nurses and Midwives, July 2014 and 3) USCCB Ethical and Religious Directives, 5th edition, 2009.

I end with an invitation that you all join us in prayer for NACN-USA by praying the Novena to the Immaculate Conception, our patroness, which is contained in this newsletter. Thank you for being a Catholic nurse. May God bless you with the gifts and fruits of the Holy Spirit as you minister to patients, students, colleagues and family members.



Deacon Joseph Cooley, Bishop Edgar da Cunha, Fall River Diocese, Marylee Meehan, Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, Our Lady of the Highway, South Yarmouth, Massachusetts

¹ Mackey, S., Porter, L et al. (Interagency Pain Research Coordinating Committee-IPRCC). *National Pain Strategy: A Comprehensive Population Health-Level Strategy for Pain* (note dated – after 2015).

² www.dspo.mil

³ USCCB Committee on Doctrine. *Guidelines for Evaluating Reiki as an Alternative Therapy*. March 25, 2009

⁴ Ratzinger, Joseph Cardinal with approval of Pope St. John Paul II. *Letter to the Bishops of the Catholic Church on Some Aspects of Christian Meditation*. Congregation of the Doctrine of the Faith, October 15, 1989 Feast of St. Teresa of the Jesus.

⁵ St. Teresa of Avila in regards to Meditation, *The Interior Castle*, VI:7, 10-11

⁶ Pontifical Council for Culture and Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue 2003 joint statement, “*Jesus Christ the Bearer of the Water of Life: A Christian reflection on the “New Age,”*” 2003.



Dr. Marie Hilliard,
President-Elect

Hope for the Protection of Our Vocation as Nurses

by Dr. Marie Hilliard, MS, MA, JCL, PhD, RN
President-Elect

A Catholic nurse has a unique vocational call. Among all the functions carried out on behalf of our ministry, for which each of us has been commissioned by our baptism, the most important vocational call of this ministry is that of accompaniment. Pope Francis often has spoken of this obligation. When speaking to the bishops of Brazil while in Rio de Janeiro for [World Youth Day in 2013](#), Pope Francis [addressing the plight of refugees] said:

[W]e need a church capable of walking at people's side, of doing more than simply listening to them; a church that accompanies them on their journey; a church able to make sense of the "night" But we need to know how to interpret, with courage, the larger picture.

There is much evidence of the dark “night” engulfing vulnerable seekers of health care. Health care, which by its very nature is a source of healing, has been contorted into a forum of death, through abortion and physician-assisted suicide, and now euthanasia implemented on vulnerable persons no longer able to speak for themselves. A eugenic culture prevails, and a secular relativism distorting the value of human life and the sacredness of the health care ministry, has replaced the very foundation of health care grounded in natural moral law. Ironically, this secular relativism does not tolerate the views of those who consistently defend the sacredness of human life. There is a growing intolerance toward Catholic health care workers exercising accompaniment with the vulnerable who suffer, rather than cooperating in the deliberate elimination of the sufferer as a means to end suffering. However, we will never eliminate suffering, and the harder society tries, the greater the number of victims of this professional movement to eliminate suffering by eliminating the sufferer. To this end the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops is calling for support for the [Conscience Protection Act of 2017](#) (H.R. 644). Similar needs to protect the free exercise of the religion of health care workers are in evidence throughout the world. Health care workers, including nurse, are being forced to choose between their faith and their profession.

Yet our obligation to accompany those we serve in the dark night continues: not only to alleviate their suffering while respecting their lives and dignity, but to help them find meaning in their suffering. That is the unique role of the Catholic nurse. We are much more than dispensers of expert healing skills. We are bringing Christ to those we serve, to help them “to interpret, with courage, the larger picture” imbedded in their physical, emotional, and spiritual suffering. Suffering is composed of far more than physical, or even psychological pain. With all the unknowns experienced in some of those most difficult situations, such as the baby Charlie Gard case, Catholic nurses have much to offer. Patients and families struggle with why God allows suffering, and often even experience a false sense of guilt. Our healing hands do far more than accompany sufferers physically, but also emotionally and spiritually, helping them find meaning in intractable suffering: suffering can be redemptive. This is our unique additional contribution to health care which we provide as Catholic ministers of healing; we must be free from coercion to enable us to provide it.

Recent efforts by the federal government give reason for optimism. The U.S. Internal Revenue Service, Employee Benefits Security Administration, and the Department of Health and Human Services have issued interim final rules, while seeking public comment, concerning “Religious Exemptions and Accommodations for Coverage of Certain Preventive Services under the Affordable Care Act.” These interim final rules allow faith-based non-profit ministries to be exempt from the “Contraceptive Mandate,” under which our Catholic agencies had been forced to provide such insurance coverage for all employees, under the misnomer of being (*cont’d*)

Hope for the Protection of Our Vocation as Nurses (cont'd)

“accommodated.” During this same period the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has requested input on anecdotal evidence of barriers to faith and conscience that health professionals and organizations face in working with the government. Almost contemporaneously the U.S. Attorney General issued “Guidance on Federal Law Protections for Religious Liberty,” containing twenty principles that administrative agencies are to employ to assure religious liberty is being respected. Encouragingly, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services sought public comment, which was provided by NACN-U.S.A. on its 2018-2022 Strategic Plan. A significant feature is its recognition that “life begins at conception,” and a commitment to improve health care outcomes for all peoples, “including the unborn.” These are encouraging signs of hope for the protection of human rights of all persons, and the religious freedom of those of us engaged in ministering to these very same persons. Let us continue to encourage public policy that allows us to respond faithfully to this phenomenal vocational call we have been given as nurses.

NB: Numerous resources are available to help Catholic providers address the ethical dilemmas they face: internationally, CICIAMS Ethics Committee (ciciams@eircom.net), as well as The National Catholic Bioethics Center (USA, but accepting all questioners by e-mail or telephone: consults@ncbcenter.org; 215-877-2660).

Living Legends Awardees

by Dr. Marian Nowak, DNP, RN

CICIAMS Pan American Representative & CICIAMS Representative to the UN



**President, Diana Ruzicka,
Kathleen Kirkpatrick, Awardee,
Mary Lee Barron, Chair, Awards
and Scholarship Committee**

Kathleen Kirkpatrick, RN

Words cannot express the gratitude we have for the service of Kathy Kirkpatrick and Mary Ann Meehan two founders and longtime members of NACN-USA. Their personal lives and their nursing vocation has given us unparalleled examples of Christian principals in action. Kathy Kirkpatrick has been a pro-life advocate for over 60 years and in the picture here you can see many of her 8 children, grandchildren and great grandchildren. Kathy has worked tirelessly to enable the protection of



**Kathy Kirkpatrick
1957**

human life, prevention of suffering and guidance to future nurses ministering as a Catholic nurse. Kathy was the president of the NACN-USA from 2008 to 2010. Under her leadership NACN grew from just 84 members in 2008 to 264 members in 2010. Additionally, while there were local councils in just 4 states, 3 new councils were in formation. During this fruitful time, the Board met monthly, an 8-page quarterly newsletter was written, printed, and mailed to each member. The yearly \$1000 scholarship awarded a nursing student was maintained. NACN was also active in conferences, hosting our own conference in Worcester, MA in



Kathleen Kirkpatrick & Family - The Summit, Cape Cod, Oct. 6-8, 2017

Living Legends Awardees (cont'd)

conjunction with the Healthcare Workers for Divine Mercy in May, 2008 and sending 10 members to CICIAMS 18th World Congress, March, 2009 in Monterrey N.L., Mexico. The theme of that world congress was “*Professional Nursing: Global Perspectives Towards Excellence*”. Kathy Kirkpatrick served as Chair for a conference day theme: “*The Impact of Cultural Diversity*.” When Bishop Sartain stepped down as the NACN Spiritual Advisor, Kathy was instrumental in recruiting Most Reverend Joseph Siegal, Auxiliary Bishop of Joliet, who became the Spiritual Advisor to NACN.

Marylee Meehan, RN, MA



**Marylee Meehan & Family, Living Legend Award
The Summit, Cape Cod, October 6-8, 2017**

Marylee Meehan has served nursing and her colleagues for many years

and as she would humbly say, “I can’t believe the Lord would choose little me from Cape Cod to represent nursing at the Vatican. I’m just a small part of the nursing world.” Her

humility and devotion to helping others is most admirable. Mary Lee’s commitment to Catholic nurses is a witness to all

that have the privilege to know her. She attends daily devotion and prays for our

nurses on a daily basis. One could not ask for a better friend, role model, mentor and again, an exemplary nurse who combines her love for nursing

with her love for the Lord.

Marylee Meehan

demonstrated outstanding leadership, having served as the first vice president (1994-1996), and as the second president of NACN-USA (1996-1998). She has long served our organization in a variety of roles. Just of few of her contributions include: facilitating the inclusion of NACN-USA in the Official Catholic Directory & USCC group tax exemption ruling provided for 501(c) status in 1996; working with the Board that helped the NACN-USA official Articles of Incorporation be recognized by the State of



**Marylee Meehan with Pope Francis
“Pray for me,” he said.**

Illinois; development of the newsletter, website, and email communication and planning the first NACN conference in Tucson, AZ in 1995. Marylee was one of twenty nurses who attended the XV International Committee of Catholic Nurses & Medico-Social Assistants (CICIAMS) World Congress in Belgium. NACN-USA



**Eula Sforza, 1st NACN-USA President,
Mary Pellizzari, 1st Treasurer, Kathy
Kirkpatrick, Pres 2008**



**Marylee Meehan with CICIAMS Board
(International Catholic Committee of Nurses and Medico-Social Assistants)**

Living Legends Awardees (cont'd)

became full voting member of CICIAMS, rendering all members of NACN-USA also members of CICIAMS through the Association in 1994. Later in 2008-2010, she served as CICIAMS President. Following her service as President, in 2011 Marylee was appointed by Pope Benedict XVI to serve on the Pontifical Council for the Pastoral Care of Health Care Workers which she did until 2017 when Pope Francis consolidated for pontifical councils into the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development. This year Marylee had the honor of being named President Emeritus of CICIAMS by the Holy See.



Marylee Meehan (Upper Left Area)
Member, Pontifical Council for the Pastoral Care of Health Care Workers at Health Care Synod

Pope Francis appointed Marylee to the Health Care Synod which brings a nursing voice to global health care topics. She remains the only nurse worldwide appointed to this position and regularly travels to Rome in a consultation status. Thankfully, she is still contributing to NACN-USA, having lent her experience and expertise to the 2017 Awards Committee!

Congratulations and many continued blessings to Kathy and Marylee who have left lasting footprints on our hearts. Their legacy that will continue to live on for many years in the NACN-USA family.

*****NACN-USA SCHOLARSHIP*****For NACN-USA members who are students in nursing programs, or who desire to attend a nursing program or a non-degree offering program applicable to nursing, may apply for this scholarship. One scholarship of \$1,000 is available annually. Scholarship Award applications must be submitted by June 30. Apply online at www.nacn-usa.org. Sign-in to the Member Dashboard section. Scholarship Award Application and Guidelines are on the bottom right of the Member Only Pages.



SAVE THE DATE

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CATHOLIC NURSES (NACN-USA)



Conference and Annual Meeting

August 2-3, 2018

San Antonio, Texas



Responding to Healthcare Challenges Influencing Catholic Nursing Practice*

CONFERENCE FEES

Early Registration (Before June 15, 2018)

Members: \$295 Non-Members: \$320
Students: \$100

HOTEL INFORMATION

Historic Menger Hotel

Alamo Plaza 204
San Antonio, Texas 78205

Late Registration: (After June 15, 2018)

Members: \$320 Non-Members: \$350
Students: \$120

Toll Free Reservation: (800) 345-9285

Room Availability for 1, 2, 3, and 4 people
Conference Rate extends August 1-4, 2018

* Registration begins & more information available after December 1, 2017 at:
www.nacn-usa.org

Call for Nominations – 2018-2020

Come share your talent with this dynamic organization



The National Association of Catholic Nurses (NACN-USA) invites nominations for the 2018-2020 Board of Directors. Self-nominations are encouraged. Please ask permission of the nominee if you wish to nominate peer or colleague.

Please send nominations including a curriculum vitae of the nominees to Dr. Diana Newman, Chair Membership and Elections Committee at dianadoc@comcast.net.

Nominees are sought for six Board of Director positions whose two year terms end in 2018:

*****President –Elect**

*****Corresponding Secretary**

Regional Directors:

*****Region 1- Upper Northeast (UNE)** - Connecticut, Vermont, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Maine, Rhode Island.

*****Region 2- Lower Northeast (LNE)** - New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, District of Columbia, Archdiocese of the Military Services (AMS) in the District of Columbia

*****Region 6 - South Central (SC)** - Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi.

*****Region 7 - Midwest (MW)** - North Dakota, South Dakota, Montana, Idaho, Wyoming

See the position descriptions in the bylaws at the bottom of the page at this link: <https://nacn-usa.org/about-us/board-of-directors/>

An Encounter with the Father

By Deacon Joseph Cooley, deacon.joe@housesofmercy.net

Struggle?

Do you struggle with anxiety? Repetitive sin? Negative emotions? Obsessive patterns & thoughts? Suicidal thoughts? Addiction to pornography or other things? Perhaps you were traumatized and cannot forgive yourself or others? Perhaps you dabbled in the occult and the experience continues to impact your life? *These could all be signs of spiritual bondage.*⁷

Spiritual bondage darkens our intellect to perceive problems and weakens our will to resist the influences of evil in our lives.⁸ It thwarts our relationship with our heavenly Father; it helps us to turn inwards on ourselves versus outwards towards the Lord. In spiritual bondage we give our consent, sometimes implicitly, to a lie about who we are and our purpose in life. We may live as though the weight of the world is on our shoulders, despair that we'll never break free from "that one sin", or experience fear every time we encounter a particular circumstance. These strongholds in our lives hold us captive.

Spiritual bondage strips us of our freedom in Christ – freedom to live full lives saturated with happiness, joy, and rich relationships! Spiritual bondage mutes our ability to know the Father's love for us! *We are made for more, much more!*

Hope!

"For freedom Christ set us free" so that we can experience His family here and now, and rest with our Father eternally (Gal 5:1)! Jesus sets us free to live fully alive today! He longs for this and offers freedom from spiritual bondage through **deliverance ministry** (cf. Lk 23:34; 10:17, 19).

Deliverance – a mighty deed of God – floods the soul with God's love and mercy.⁹ It gives us the power through the Holy Name of Jesus to identify strongholds of evil in our lives, break them, and retract consent with the lies. Even more, deliverance brings us into an intimate encounter with our Father through the Face of His mercy and the power and presence of the Holy Spirit!¹⁰ Deliverance is no more about evil than the Israelites exodus was about Pharaoh!¹¹ It draws us deeply into the family of God! It is about encountering a heavenly family and knowing that this is where we belong! *We belong!*
UNBOUND.

"UNBOUND Ministry is an approach to deliverance and healing prayer developed by Neal Lozano."¹² UNBOUND breaks spiritual bondage that leads to sin and restores peace in a person's life. It neither replaces Sacramental Confession nor the Major Rite of Exorcism but complements both. "The focus of the UNBOUND model is on the individual ... it helps people to respond to the good news of the Gospel" using five basic responses called the Five Keys:¹³

Repentance and Faith: Repentance for sin and expression of faith in Jesus' power to save. When we surrender to Jesus, we give him authority to manifest His healing power in our lives.

Forgiveness: Extension of Jesus' forgiveness on the Cross to us and through us. In this key, we do not forgive in our own strength, but by the power of Jesus' forgiveness manifested on the Cross--forgiveness is a grace-filled choice to release judgement to the hands of the Father.

Renunciation: Withdrawal of an act of consent made with an evil spirit. After we destroy strongholds with the first two keys, we can retract consent because evil no longer has a legal right in our lives.

Authority: Taking of authority over the works of Satan in one's life in the Holy Name of Jesus. After we retract consent, we command spirits to leave in the name of Jesus. They must obey (cf. Phil 2:10-11).

The Father's Blessing: Humble receipt of the Father's love & desire for our life. After our "house" is clean, we fill it with the love of the Father. In this key, the Father powerfully confirms that we belong in his family. He confirms our identity and destiny and leaves no room for fellowship with evil (cf. Lk 11:24-26) (*cont'd*).

⁷ cf. International Catholic Charismatic Renewal Services Doctrinal Commission, *Deliverance Ministry* (Locust Grove: Catholic Charismatic Renewal National Service Committee, 2017), 53. (DM)

⁸ DM 55.

⁹ cf. Neal Lozano and Matthew Lozano, *UNBOUND Ministry Guidebook: Helping Others Find Freedom in Christ* (Clinton Corners: Jubilee Studio, 2011), XIII. (UG)

¹⁰ cf. Pope Francis. *Misericordiae Vultus*, April 14, 2015.

¹¹ cf. Neal Lozano.

¹² <http://www.hearttothefather.com/about/unbound/>

¹³ *Ibid.*

Encounter with the Father (cont'd)

We are all sinners in need of a Savior, Lord, and loving Father, and the UNBOUND model helps us open to this reality in a deeper, more intimate way!

Is UNBOUND for Me? How Can I Seek Prayer?

First read chapters 1-9 of *UNBOUND: A Practical Guide to Deliverance*

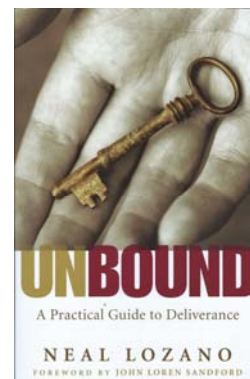
Second, in the Boston, MA area contact *Houses of Mercy* to arrange a prayer time:

<http://www.housesofmercy.net>

Outside of Boston, MA? See <http://www.heartofthefather.com> to find a local ministry team.

How can I learn more?

Contact Deacon Joe at deacon.joe@housesofmercy.net and he can help you find the right resources and people.



----- Pictures from

The Summit in Cape Cod, October 6-8, 2017



Drug Use: Pre-Birth to Pre Death Panel – Day #1
Dr. Mary Lee Barron (speaking), Deacon Bill Gallerizzo,
Peggy Humm, Baby Center, Cape Cod,
Dr. Katherine Soss Prihoda, Diana Ruzicka



Military & Veteran Suicide Panel – Day #2
Geroge Parisi, DoD DSPO; Abigail Beagen,
VA; Barbara McCormick, USAF, Deacon
Joseph Cooley, Unbound Ministry



**Dr. Dahlia Rojas, PhD, RN with Sister
Callista Roy signing
Dee's dissertation in which she used the
Roy Adaptation Model**



The Blessed Virgin Mary



**Fr. Kazimierz Chwalik,
English/Polish Translation
Team, National Shrine of
Divine Mercy and NACN-USA
President Diana Ruzicka**



NACN-USA Board & Committee Members at The Summit, Cape Cod, October 6-8, 2017
Janet Munday, Dr. Dahlia Rojas, Peggy Humm, Dr. Martha Baker, Maria Arvonio, Dr. Mary Lee Barron,
Diana Ruzicka, Dr. Marie Hilliard, Ingrid Tegtman, Ellen Gianoli



Task Force Work Group Presenter:
Matthew Young



Presenters: Ingrid Tegtman & Jamie Shepherd



Conference Planning Committee:

**Sr. Carole Mello,
 Marylee Meehan,
 Dr. Pat Sayers,
 Dr. Nancy Cresse,
 Maria Arvonio,
 Dr. Martha Baker**

**Dr. Mimi Nowak
 (not pictured)**



**Sister Mary de Paul, OP
Dominican Sisters of Hawthorne
Task Force Work Group**



**Banquet, Hyannis Yacht Club,
Cape Cod, Massachusetts**

Catholic Nursing and Battle at Gettysburg

by Dr. John Dinolfo, PhD

Catholic faith provides a rich theology of care for the dying that can inform and transform public debates about efforts to legalize clinically assisted suicide in the US. There are countless Catholic precedents for accompanying the dying in prayer and bedside care as chaplains, nurses, doctors, and other healthcare professionals often do in “hidden” circumstances. A vivid precedent



preserved in historical records occurred during our nation’s Civil War and is memorialized in museums in Pennsylvania and Maryland.

In July 1863, during and after the three-day Battle of Gettysburg, the pivotal conflict in the War Between the States, nurses in the Daughters of Charity cared for wounded and dying Union and Confederate soldiers in Gettysburg’s St. Francis Xavier Church, transformed into a war zone clinic. That first responder service is memorialized in a vibrant stain glass window near the front of the church with an image of sister-nurses tending to wounded Union and Confederate combatants followed by the inscription “Blessed are the merciful. For they shall obtain mercy.”¹ Other memorials of Daughters of Charity caring for Union and Confederate soldiers are in museums on Seminary Ridge in Gettysburg, PA and at the Basilica of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton in Emmitsburg, MD.

From July 1 to July 3, 1863, approximately 51,000 American soldiers were killed, wounded, or captured at Gettysburg, the combined count of Union and Confederate casualties in one of the bloodiest battles in U.S. history – a battle with enormous meaning for the future of the nation. Prior to the conflict, Northern troops camped on the Emmitsburg grounds of the Daughters of Charity (about 10 miles from the battlefield), and Southern troops passed through those grounds after the fighting. The largest artillery barrage in North American history occurred during the decisive third day of fighting.

More than 300 nurses in the Daughters of Charity served with distinction in northern and southern hospitals during the Civil War. The Daughters who served Christ in the



St. Francis Xavier Stain Glass Window

Catholic Nursing and Battle at Gettysburg (cont'd)

wounded and dying in St. Francis Xavier Church were united by a grace and resolve that deeply transcended political differences about the war. In addition to providing end of life care to combatants of both armies who had retreated to the church, filling the aisles and pews, the Daughters explained the basic tenets of the Catholic faith and offered baptism to wounded and dying soldiers, and many accepted the offer.²

How might the charism of that *ars moriendi* nursing speak to the realities of nursing care for the dying today? Among other communication effects, the Civil War nursing memorials in Pennsylvania and Maryland are an enduring testimony to Catholic nursing at a critical time in our nation's history when Catholicism was often greeted with suspicion and hostility. Seen through the lens of faith, the Gettysburg memorials can lead 21st nurses to invoke the intercessory prayers of the 19th century sisters who were first responders in Gettysburg, in particular, nurses today who challenge and resist arguments for clinician-assisted suicide.

Such invocations seem especially fitting at this time. 2017 marks the 400th anniversary of the founding of the Ladies of Charity by St. Vincent de Paul in France, who subsequently became the Daughters of Charity under the direction of St. Vincent (1581-1660) and St. Louise de Marillac (1591-1660). The first congregation of Daughters served the poorest of the poor in France. In July 1809, America's first native born saint, Mother Elizabeth Ann Seton (1774-1821), founded the initial U.S. congregation of the Sisters of Charity in Emmitsburg, and in 1850 the Emmitsburg group merged with the Daughters of Charity in France. The Daughters' 400-year legacy of prayerful service to the most vulnerable in society is reflected today in mosaics in the Basilica of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton in Emmitsburg and in the stained glass art of St. Francis Xavier Church in Gettysburg.

The critical comfort care provided to Union and Confederate combatants after the Battle of Gettysburg is an ongoing testimony to the mystery and power of God's tender mercies³ and an enduring witness in support of religious freedom and Catholic evangelization today.⁴

1. Matthew 5:7.

2. McNeil, B. A. (Ed.) (2011). *Dear Masters. Extracts from Accounts by Sister Nurses*. Emmitsburg, MD: Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul, pp. 89-90.

3. "For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ your life appears, then you too will appear with him in glory." *Colossians* 3:3-4

4. "Modern man listens more willingly to witnesses than to teachers, and if he does listen to teachers, it is because they are witnesses." Pope Paul VI, *Evangelii Nuntiandi*, 41.



Nurse Sister Civil War Monument, Washington, D.C.

Guidelines for Catholic Nursing Ethics

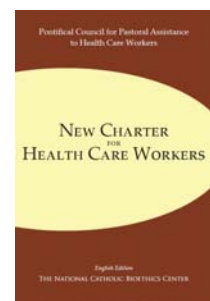
At our main resource page (<https://nacn-usa.org/resources/resource-links/>) please find key Catholic documents for guidance on ethical issues in nursing practice:

***From the Vatican – *The New Charter for Health Care Workers*, 2017

***From CICIAMS (The International Catholic Committee of Nurses and Medico-Social Assistants): *Ethics, Guidelines and Principles of Practice for Catholic Nurses and Midwives*, July 2014

***From the USCCB – *Ethical and Religious Directives (ERD) for Catholic Healthcare Organizations*, 5th edition, 2009.

***From the NCBC (National Catholic Bioethics Center): *End of Life Guide: An Explanation of Church Teaching on Advance Directives, Euthanasia and Physician Assisted Suicide* (with templates for Health Care Proxy and Advance Medical Directive).



Upcoming Events

Register Now, until 10Feb2018

- National Catholic Certification program in Health Care Ethics Enrollment is open for the mid-academic year class running February through December – www.ncbcenter.org Email: jkelley@ncbcenter.org;



November 16-18, 2017, XXXII International Conference – Addressing Global Health Inequalities sponsored by the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development, The Vatican in the New Synod Hall. In attendance NACN-USA members: Marylee Meehan, RN, MA; Dr. Patricia Sayers, DNP, RN; Maria Arvonio, BSN, MA(HCE), RN and Ellen Gianoli, BSN, PHN, RN. Watch the website for news.

January 13, 2018 – Colorado State Capitol – Rally 1pm; March 2pm; www.liferockymountains.org

January 22-26, 2018, *Catholic Priests Retreat: Training in Unbound Ministry*, Sacred Heart Retreat House, Alhambra, CA. Retreat Director: The Most Reverend David G. O'Connell, Episcopal Vicar of the San Gabriel Pastoral Region, Archdiocese of Los Angeles. Register at HeartoftheFather.com/priestretreat/ or call 610-952-3019. "The Church is a Field Hospital – To make our parishes more fully a place where people find healing from the battles of life. Share with your priest. Letters have been sent to all bishops.

March 22-25, 2018, 6:30am to noon. *Retreat and Bioethics & Legislative Conference*, 3rd Annual Florida Guilds of the Catholic Medical Association. Our Lady of Perpetual Help Retreat & Spirituality Center 3989 S. Moon Drive, Venice, FL 34292. <https://www.cathmedflorida.org>; FloridaCMAretreat@gmail.com; registration deadline: Thursday, March 15, 2018.

April 4-6, 2018 – *Humane Vitae (1968-2018) Embracing God's Vision for Marriage, Love and Life, A 50th Anniversary Symposium*. Catholic University of America. Registration opened 5Sep2017. Questions: Theresa Notare, PhD, 202-541-3240 or tnotare@uscceb.org; <http://cuatoday.com/hv2018>

July 25, 2018 --- 50th anniversary of the papal encyclical *Humane Vitae*

Mark Your Calendar

August 2-3, 2018 – NACN-USA Annual Meeting, San Antonio, Texas

– *Responding to Healthcare Challenges Influencing Catholic Nursing Practice*.

Room rate available 1-4

August. Register online www.nacn-usa.org after December 1, 2017. Board meeting 1Aug2018.



September 4-8, 2018 - CICIAMS (International Council of Catholic Nurses and Medico Social Assistants) Congress, Riverside Majestic Hotel, Kuching, Sarawak, Malaysia. Congress concludes with evening mass on September 7th.

September 20-22, 2018 - CMA 87th Annual Educational Conference, Dallas, Texas; *Restoring Healthcare in a Technocratic Age: Building Parallel Structures to Deliver Compassionate Care*

November 2-4, 2018 – 1st Annual Catholic Women Nurses' Retreat has formed in response to multiple request to include nurses in the Catholic Women Physician's Retreat. Spend some time with Our Lord at the beautiful Dominican Sisters of St. Cecilia's Bethany Retreat House, 2002 Garners Creek Road, Dickson, Tennessee. Contact: diana.ruzicka@gmail.com



Saturday evening banquet
Hyannis Yacht Club
The Summit, Cape Cod, Oct 6-8, 2017

Online Natural Family Planning Course
<https://nfp.marquette.edu/>



CICIAMS Update

(Comité International Catholique des Infirmières et Assistantes Médico-Sociales=
International Catholic Committee of Nurses and Medico-Social Assistants)

Mark your calendar for the CICIAMS XX World Congress in Malaysia, September 4-8, 2018. The **Theme is: Education for Sustainable Health: Engaging Development, Respecting Life**. Hosted by the Catholic Nurses' Guild of Malaysia, the Congress will be held at the Riverside Majestic Hotel, Kuching, Sarawak, Malaysia. The Opening Mass and Welcome Reception will be on the evening of Tuesday, the 4th at 1800

(6pm). Each of the next three days of the Congress has a subtheme as follows:

Wednesday, 5 September: Sustainable Development

Thursday, 6 September: Holistic Care

Friday, 7 September: The Roles of Health Care Practitioners

The closing mass ends around 1800 (6pm) on Friday. The Preliminary Programme for CICIAMS XX World Congress are now available on <http://www.ciciams.org/>; Host contact information: Francisca Malatin, Chairperson, Congress Organizing Committee and National President, Catholic Nurses' Guild of Malaysia, Catholic Diocesan Centre, P.O. Box 10225, 88802 Kota Kinabalu, Sabah, Tel +60168300767.

Committees

Bylaws; Membership & Elections;
Ethics & Spirituality; Communications;
Awards & Scholarship;
Education, Practice & Research

On which committee are you called to serve?

Volunteer at www.nacn-usa.org or
catholicnurses@nacn-usa.org



FREE CONSULTATION SERVICES ON BIOETHICAL ISSUES

AVAILABLE THROUGH THE NATIONAL CATHOLIC BIOETHICS CENTER

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](http://www.ncbcenter.org/page.aspx?pid=1174):
<http://www.ncbcenter.org/page.aspx?pid=1174>.

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.



Kate Mahoney
Recipient of the first miracle attributed to
Saint Marianne Cope
The Summit, Cape Cod, MA, Oct 6-8, 2017

December 8 is the Feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary



On December 8, 1854, in the Apostolic Constitution *Ineffabilis Deus*, Pope Pius IX, infallibly defined, ex cathedra:

... the most Blessed Virgin Mary, in the first instance of her conception, by a singular grace and privilege granted by Almighty God, in view of the merits of Jesus Christ, the Savior of the human race, was preserved free from all stain of original sin, is a doctrine revealed by God and therefore to be believed firmly and constantly by all the faithful."
(<https://www.ewtn.com/faith/teachings/marye1.htm>)

The Committee on Ethics and Spirituality invites nurses everywhere to **join in a Novena to the Immaculate Conception**, beginning November 30 and ending December 8.

PRAYER TO THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

O God, who by the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary,
did prepare a worthy dwelling place for Your Son,
we beseech You that, as by the foreseen death of this, Your Son,
You did preserve Her from all stain,
so too You would permit us, purified through Her intercession, to come unto You.
Through the same Lord Jesus Christ, Your Son,
who lives and reigns with You in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, world without end.
Amen.

The nine days of prayer can be found at this link
<http://www.ewtn.com/Devotionals/novena/immaculate.htm>

Suggested Intention: That all nurses, as true children of Mary, walk in her footsteps and serve every patient in the spirit in which she served Our Blessed Lord.

Our Mission:



The National Association of Catholic Nurses, U.S.A. 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 of NACN

- 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 professionals and non-healthcare professionals who support the mission and objectives of the NACN-USA
- To advocate for those in need through efforts which integrate faith and health



National Association of Catholic Nurses, U.S.A.
c/o Richard Zazycki, NACN-USA Treasurer
Circle of Mercy
11 Washington Street
Rensselaer, NY 12144

From the Editor:



Articles must be received by the following deadlines to be considered for the newsletter:

---Winter (published in Dec.):
Nov. 15

Spring (published in March): Feb. 15

Summer (published in June): May 15

Fall (published in September): Aug. 15

Please send your submissions by e-mail to:
Courtney Donahue MS, RN, FNP-BC, PCCN,
Newsletter Editor at
courtneygdonahue@yahoo.com,

NACN-USA Membership



Membership dues are \$50/yr and can be paid via the website <http://www.nacn-usa.org/>. Questions? Email Richard Zazycki, Treasurer at: billing@nacn-usa.org or 518-462-0899. Thank you for renewing. Welcome to those joining.