



The Torch

Volume 2 Number 31
February 2014

A PUBLICATION OF CATHOLIC HEALTH INTERNATIONAL

Our Mission at Catholic Health International is to ensure the presence of Catholic values in our Corporations.

Les Religieuses de Notre-Dame-Du-Sacré-Coeur celebrate the 90th anniversary of the founding of their Religious Institute this year. This order was founded after many years of attempting to create a French-speaking novitiate within the Sisters of Charity of the Immaculate Conception of Saint John, NB.

Readers may recall that the Sisters of Charity were the first English speaking congregation established in Canada, on October 21, 1854 in Saint John, NB. From the beginning, French speaking women who entered the order prayed and taught in English, in an area of New Brunswick which was primarily French. The Sisters were continually asked by their parishioners to provide education to their children in their first language.



Sister Suzanne Cyr, (known as Mere Marie-Anne) and 52 Acadian Sisters, wrote to the Pope in 1922. They received final approval from Rome and the new Order was officially established February 17, 1924 when they held their first chapter. Sister Marie-Anne was elected Superior General, a role she held until 1936.



The primary apostolate of the NDSC Sisters has always been education in the French language, a contribution to preserving their culture and their faith. They've taught more than 200,000 young Acadians across Atlantic Canada and Louisiana, as well as in Peru, Columbia and Haiti, and are a Member of the Sisters of Charity Foundation.

Mission: "We the Sisters of Notre-Dame-du-Sacré-Coeur, responding to a divine call and as consecrated women in the Church, participate in the mission of Jesus.

We want to live and witness God's love within an apostolic community after St. Vincent de Paul, of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Mother Marie-Anne and her companions, and in a spirit charity, simplicity, humility and risk in faith.

We want to guide our service to those in need focusing especially on those who have little, knowledge and power.

Open to the Spirit, attentive to the signs of the times respectful of the dignity of the human person, we want to work with joy, as members of God's people running, to help build a kingdom of justice and peace.

Aware of our poverty to the requirement of our mission, we draw our strength in prayer and community life, trusting in God through the mediation of Notre-Dame-du-Sacré-Coeur."

Religious Hospitallers of St. Joseph celebrate February 2nd each year as Founders Day, and as a Feast Day of Venerable Jérôme Le Royer de La Dauversière. On this day in 1630 he received inspiration from the Holy Spirit to found the Daughters of Saint Joseph, to serve the sick, poor and most needy under the protection of St. Joseph. The RHSJ sisters renew their vows on this day each year to celebrate the day Jérôme received his first vision.

The 22nd annual **World Day of the Sick** was celebrated on February 11th. Introduced by Pope John Paul II, it is a way for



Christians to recommit themselves to caring for the sick and to pray for them. It is also an opportunity to honor those who reach out in service and in faith, to carry on the healing ministry of Jesus. God depends on us, just as those who are sick depend on us to be the providers of excellent, compassionate care. The day coincides with the commemoration of Our Lady of Lourdes.

Our family of sponsored Corporations celebrate this day in a variety of ways. Most arranged a special prayer service and circulated **World Day of the Sick** materials.

Hotel Dieu Hospital in Kingston ON sent their pastoral workers out to offer prayer within the facility population. Hotel Dieu Perth Andover in NB hosted a multi faith service. The Pastoral Care department at Langlade Hospital in Antigo WI planned a day of prayer services that took place in their Chapel. Hotel Dieu Shaver in St. Catharines ON held a Service of Prayer for patients, family and staff in their Chapel.

Mount St. Joseph in Miramichi NB held a Prayer Service for their residents, where the Pope's message was read in both English and French. Then they listened to the hymn "Great is thy Faithfulness" and after all the readings and Prayers of the Faithful were finished, the residents joined in singing "You Raise Me Up".

Pictured here, are Monseigneur Daniel Jodoin and one of the residents Mme Ernestine Gionet who is 102 years old, at Foyer Notre Dame de Lourdes in Bathurst NB.



Please join us in prayer for all those who work in Catholic health care for World Day of the Sick.

"Loving God, you created us with the capacity to heal, to restore and to offer peace through our role in Catholic health care ministry. Help us to be signs of love and compassion in the world today - honoring every person we meet who is in need of healing. When our burdens are heavy, renew us, remind us of the blessing of our calling and reawaken our commitment to the healing ministry. Amen."



Catholic Health Alliance of Canada
Alliance catholique canadienne de la santé

2014 Annual
Conference
April 30 - May 2
Ottawa, ON

A Living Legacy: Ours to Celebrate ~ Ours to Create
For more information go to the CHAC [website](#)

Committed to perpetuating the healing mission of Jesus

St. Joseph's Residence and The Washington Center, New London, WI

Dr. Robert Stewart, CEO & President of Catholic Health International is pleased to announce the appointment of Ms. Gidget Blank to the position of Executive Director of our St. Joseph's family of facilities in New London Wisconsin in February. Gidget replaces Bob Fietsch, who died in an accident earlier this year.



Gidget began what would become her career and life's passion, nearly 20 years ago in long term care. She worked in a variety of positions over the years, one of which, was the position of business office manager, where she assisted families with their finances and insurance.

After completing the UW-Madison Nursing Home Administration Program in 2007, she obtained her Nursing

Home Administrator license. She was promoted to Nursing Home Administrator, a position she held right up until her appointment in New London.

It's important to Gidget that "each day we strive for excellence, we provide service that enhances the quality of life of those we care for, and that our elderly feel loved, independent, and always treated with dignity, and respect." She believes a smile, a hug, love and compassion, are the best gifts one person can give to another. Please join us in welcoming her to our family. Those of you attending the Leadership Council meeting in April will have the opportunity to meet her there.

Employment Opportunity



Ms. Claire Savoie, Executive Director has announced her retirement plans. Interested parties can contact:

**Selection Committee at
Le Foyer Notre-Dame-De-Lourdes Inc.**

2055 Vallee Lourdes Drive, Bathurst NB, E2A 4P8
Phone: (506) 549-5085; Fax: (506) 549-5052
This position will be posted until March 7, 2014

IMPORTANT DATES! MARK YOUR CALENDARS!



Catholic Leadership Formation Program (English)

May 7, 8, 9 - Module 1

September 23, 24, 25 - Module 2

Modules to be held in Montreal at [Villa Saint Martin](#)

All persons seeking advancement to a Senior leadership position within one of our sponsored organizations must have taken, or commit to taking the program within the first 36 months of employment.

For more information and to register contact [Eileen](#)

View the [program outline](#) on our website under Education.

Catholic Health International Leadership Council

April 3 & 4, 2014 Fairmont Hotel, Montreal

**Catholic Health International Board of Directors
& Corporation meeting dates for 2014**

April 23, Annual meetings: June 11, 12 & 13
September 11, November 19

Hotel Dieu St. Joseph, Perth Andover, NB

Dr. Robert Stewart, CEO & President of Catholic Health International is pleased to announce the appointment of Ms. Karen O'Regan to the position of Facility Manager. Karen replaces Joy Van Tassel who has retired.



Karen began working at Hotel Dieu as a new graduate nurse on the Medical/Pediatrics unit in 1975. Since then, she's worked in a variety of roles including bedside nursing and roles in education, infection control and staff health within the facility and regionally. Karen says "I was privileged to be part of the Catholic Healthcare Leadership Program in Saint John, NB in 2011. I've had the opportunity to work with and be mentored by the Sisters over the many years of my career. They have all inspired me to promote and give care unconditionally and respectfully." Welcome Karen! See you in Montreal in April at Leadership Council.

Sister Loretta Gaffney, RHSJ, 1920 - 2014

Sister Loretta Gaffney died peacefully in Kingston, ON January 17th. She was 94 years old and spent 76 of those serving our Hotel Dieu hospitals in a variety of positions and locations.



Sister Gaffney entered religious life at Hotel Dieu Kingston in 1938 and graduated from their School of Nursing in 1944. She eventually became a Medical Laboratory Technologist and helped establish a school for Laboratory Technologists at Hotel Dieu in Kingston and in St. Catharines.

She served as Director of Nursing Services in Kingston, Nursing Administrator in St. Catharines, and in

1967 she was missioned to Hotel Dieu Hospital in Chatham, New Brunswick.

For most of the seventies, Sister was involved in establishing and coordinating Pastoral Care services in Kingston and Cornwall. In 1978 she became Archivist at Regional House in Amherstview ON, and served in this position until 2008. Sister Gaffney was part of the move of the RHSJ Sisters to the Sisters of Providence Mother House in Kingston, ON. The turn out at her service speaks to the impact she had on so very many people. She had a remarkable memory and her power of recall stayed sharp to nearly the very end. Rest in Peace Sister.

CATHOLIC HEALTH CORPORATION OF ONTARIO (CHCO)

In a recent Press Release, CHCO is pleased to announce the appointment of their new President and CEO Mr. John Ruetz effective February 24th.



John is replacing Mr. Don McDermott who held this position for over 15 years and is retiring. CHCO sponsors a number of Catholic healthcare organizations in Ontario.