



Parish Nurse Newsletter

Summer 2009

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Mission Statement

The Parish Nurse Newsletter serves to:

- create a bond between parish nurses and the staff of LCMS Health Ministries
- report creative programs developed in the field
- inform parish nurses of resources available from various sources.



Celebrating 20 Years of Parish Nursing!

The halls of Concordia University Wisconsin were filled with excitement and enthusiasm as more than 100 people took part in one or more of the opportunities to **celebrate!** The week-long celebration, May 25-29, provided opportunity to give thanks:

- to God for blessing the ministry of parish nurses
- to the LCMS parish nurses for their service
- for the sisterhood among the parish nurses
- and for the opportunity to continue to grow in knowledge and skills important for parish nursing in the congregation, community, and around the world.

The week began with the annual meeting for district representatives who shared positive stories from parish nurses. Rev. Matthew Harrison, executive director of LCMS WR-HC, sent a letter of thanks and celebratory presentations were given by Rev. John Fale, associate executive director of LCMS World Relief and Human Care (WR-HC), Maggie Karner, and Dr. Bill Duey.

The Concordia Conference began May 28 with a video greeting from LCMS President Rev. Gerald B. Kieschnick, who affirmed parish nursing and issued a proclamation making the day “LCMS Parish Nurses Day” in recognition of the ministry’s 20th birthday. Dr. Daniel Paavola’s keynote address “Who’s Watching Me?” was inspirational and insightful as he reminded participants that God is always watching — even when it seems no one notices or cares, God does! The day ended with a birthday party sponsored by LCMS World Relief and Human Care complete with cake and ice cream, gifts, balloons, and music.

There were 26 break-out sessions to select from at the conference, which offered time for each participant to attend six topics with options for novice or veteran as appropriate. Two break-out sessions were provided by Raida Mansour, a parish nurse from Christmas Lutheran Church in Bethlehem, in West Bank, Palestine. In addition

LCMS Parish Nursing Coordinator Dr. Marcia Schnorr, left, serves cake to parish nurses at the ministry’s 20th anniversary birthday party hosted by LCMS World Relief and Human Care at Concordia University Wisconsin in Mequon. The parish nurses are, from left, Karen Hardecopf, Yorkville; Kitty Weber, Aurora; and Marilyn Cummins, St. Charles, all from Illinois.



to educational sessions, there was a silent auction, numerous displays, a “store,” and a lot of networking opportunities.

Evaluations by attendees reflected on the celebration theme, and some said the annual meeting and conference at CUW was the highlight of their year. Building relationships with other parish nurses, worshipping together, and having the value of parish nursing affirmed were top highlights for participants.

Join fellow parish nurses next year, June 1-4. Parish nurse district representatives will meet June 1 and the morning of June 2. Pre-conferences will also be June 2. The 18th Annual Concordia Conference for Parish Nurse and Congregational Health Ministries conference will be June 3-4, and focus on the theme, “Christ Be My Leader.”

Reflecting on Parish Nursing’s Landmark Celebration

Whew! What a party! After this year’s Parish Nurse District Representative Meeting and CUW Conference, I had to sit back and reflect upon the events and the landmark celebration we had to commemorate the past and move into the future! I think we can all say that following 20 years of groundbreaking work from parish nurses over the years, this vocation is finally becoming an understood part of our LCMS “culture.”

Recently, someone asked me whether parish nurses could become one of the Synod’s Recognized Service Organizations (RSOs). I must say that I was taken aback and wanted to quickly clarify that as one of the program areas supported under the umbrella of LCMS World Relief and Human Care (WR-HC), parish nursing is not a separate organization from the Synod and does not need RSO status. In fact, the vocation of parish nursing is supported under WR-HC because this vocation of service is part and parcel of who we are as a Synod!

Parish Nursing is an integral part of WR-HC outreach and our witness of diakonia (mercy) to the church and community. In fact, I see it as the prime example of the perfect marriage between physical and spiritual care as practiced by Christ. As you and I continue to emphasize and intentionally work to grow this program, I want all of you to begin thinking about ways for parish nursing to become more of a “married part” of all the work that WR-HC and our Synod does. For instance, how can parish nurses advise, complement, and dovetail with other WR-HC programs such as disaster response, life ministries, social ministry outreach, congregational outreach, and our housing corporation? Don’t hesitate to brainstorm and think of ways the clinical expertise of parish nurses (combined, of course, with the spiritual emphasis) can actively enhance and advise the work of many of our other areas of work. Our parish nurses are an immense resource of skill and knowledge, and I hope each of you will begin to feel integral to the work of the Synod and WR-HC.

To do that, I would encourage all of you to stay abreast of the Synod’s diakonic work being done through WR-HC. If you haven’t already done so, surf around our Web site, www.lcms.org/worldrelief, awhile and become familiar with all the cool things that have been happening in



Rev. Dr. Daniel Paavola, keynote speaker at the annual parish nurse district representative meeting at Concordia University Wisconsin in Mequon, Wis., shared a presentation titled, “Who’s Watching Me?” which reminded participants that while parish nurses are watching out for the welfare of those we serve, God watches out for the parish nurse.



Carol Zimmerman, left, parish nurse from the North Wisconsin District and Eleanor Loomis also of Wisconsin enjoy cake and ice cream May 28 during the 20th anniversary celebration of LCMS parish nursing.

WR-HC ... after all, this is YOUR organization and we are all co-workers in mercy. The various WR-HC program directors have been meeting monthly to share our work and gather ideas amongst ourselves as a team. We like to bounce things off of each other so we know what activities we're each up to, and therefore get a better idea of the work being done in another program area. You would be amazed how many times that leads to a lively conversation about how one area can "fit into" and share in the work of another. As an example, over lunch recently I spoke with Marie Kienker, executive director of the Lutheran Housing Support Corporation, about some potential grants for urban renewal that she is applying for through our Housing Corporation. As we spoke, I introduced her to areas where a parish nurse could really amplify a neighborhood church's outreach into the local urban community. She loved the idea and intends to include this concept as part of her grant proposal ideas. Wouldn't it be wonderful if this or another grant comes through to establish parish nurses in underserved urban areas through an LCMS church? We also talked about putting together a "task force/think tank/focus group" in a couple of chosen urban areas to explore the ways parish nursing can complement Lutheran Housing Corporation's work there.

So, as you see, parish nursing is moving into what I see as a larger, more strategic role in the outreach of WR-HC and the Synod. I am excited about the possibilities and I hope you are too. On a personal note, it was wonderful seeing so many of you at the recent CUW conference and I enjoyed being able to put faces with names. I pray for each of you as you serve Christ in your congregations and communities.



In the healing and redeeming love of our Savior,
Maggie Karner

Maggie Karner serves as director of Life and Health Ministries with LCMS World Relief and Human Care. She may be reached at Maggie.karner@lcms.org.

Portfolio Review Offers New Option For Parish Nurse Recognition

Nurses who want to serve as a parish nurse with, but for various reasons have not been able to take a parish nursing course, will soon have another option: a portfolio review. Practicing parish nurses may also undergo a portfolio review as a form of peer review, as part of a plan for professional evaluation and development.

According to guidelines in *Faith Community Nursing: Scope and Standards of Nursing Practice*, faith community nurses (also known as parish nurses) are to complete special educational preparation. However, it does not specify the source or format for the education. Thus a committee of five parish nurses and one pastor developed a comprehensive portfolio review process, which includes all of the major components of a basic parish nurse educational program. However, it is not intended to replace a more traditional parish nurse course.

Upon successful completion of the portfolio review, a certificate of completion will be awarded from LCMS Health Ministries.

Guidelines and consultation are available to all who opt for the portfolio review. A nominal fee will be charged for this service. For more information about the portfolio review contact Dr. Marcia Schnorr, coordinator of LCMS Parish Nursing, at 815-562-6823 or mschnorr@rochelle.net

How to Subscribe

To subscribe to the *LCMS Parish Nurse Newsletter*, register online at www.lcms.org/enews. Select *LCMS Parish Nurse Newsletter* from among the "LCMS World Relief and Human Care" newsletters.

To receive this newsletter in printed form, please send your request along with your current address to:

LCMS World Relief and Human Care
Attn: *Parish Nurse Newsletter*
1333 S. Kirkwood Rd.
St. Louis, MO 63122

Support LCMS Health Ministries

LCMS Health Ministries is an outreach of LCMS World Relief and Human Care. All programs of LCMS Health Ministries are funded strictly by donations from caring people like you. No dollars come from the Missouri Synod's unrestricted budget.

Your generous gift to the international and domestic work of LCMS Health Ministries will make a tremendous difference and help to uphold the message of Christ's mercy to all in body and soul. [Click here to help.](#)

News Welcomed!

We want to know what you're up to, what big issues you are facing, and what programs are working in your congregation or agency! We welcome story suggestions, questions, short articles, or photographs that highlight achievements in parish nursing.

If you have news you'd like to share, contact Dr. Marcia Schnorr at mschnorr@rochelle.net or 815-562-6823.

Please note: editorial staff reserve the right to edit or decline articles.

Faith Community Nursing Credentialing Update

By Nancy L. Rago Durbin, M.S., R.N., F.C.N.

The following is a summary of the work of Health Ministry Association; the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC) and the Faith Community Nurse (FCN) Recognition Task Force, and is specific to the development of a certification by portfolio for FCN.

Since December 2008, The Faith Community Nurses Recognition Task Force, formed at the request of leadership from the Health Ministry Association (HMA), has been working closely with the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC) on a credentialing process by portfolio. Membership of the FCN consists of leaders from FCN curricula, practicing FCN, program coordinators, and representation from the International Parish Nurse Resource Center.

The credentialing process will use a web-based portfolio process rather than a written exam, hence the use of the new term "recognition" and will require both a commitment of time and a desire to pursue. The portfolio process will offer the FCN candidate an opportunity to validate that they have met the standards set forth in the American Nurses Association's 2005 edition of the *Faith Community Nursing: Scope and Standards of Nursing Practice*.

ANCC has contracted with Decision Critical, an organization with a web-based portfolio management system already in place to house the portfolios for the recognition process. Currently, any professional nurse can use this system to manage their professional web-based portfolios. Visit www.decisioncritical.com.

The recognition process will be optional, and the cost of the application process has been established at \$390 for non-HMA members and \$270 for HMA members. Membership in ANA will not be required. The FCN candidate will need to have completed a basic preparation course with a minimum of 32 hours of course content. There will be a time that a bachelor's degree in nursing will not be a submission requirement. This will allow those nurses who do not have a college degree to submit their web-based portfolio application and be "grandfathered." While the official designation will be "recognition," the terminology will likely change after ANCC reviews the new portfolio process, and completes rigorous psychometric and validity studies, to transition from recognition to credentialed status. No additional submission will be required by those who have already obtained recognition.

Several members of the FCN Task Force began initial work with intensive training at the ANCC headquarters in Silver Springs, M.d., and since that time, have continued the work of developing required elements for the portfolio process.

Those elements will include a resume, letters of support, peer evaluation, a spiritual journey, spiritual leadership, three evidence-based case studies, and a description of the faith community in which the FCN works. The FCN Task Force members have been working to develop templates for these various elements and scoring grids to evaluate candidates' submissions. Once all of the templates are completed and reviewed by the FCN Task Force as a whole, they will be submitted to ANCC for review and approval. The FCN anticipates submitting all relevant material to ANCC by late June or early July.

The ANCC review process can be time consuming and may include revision work by the FCN Task Force. The anticipated schedule for the FCN portfolio to be available remains winter/spring 2010.

The anticipated timeline allows FCN to begin the discernment process on this exciting opportunity and allows the professional specialty of faith community nursing to begin the necessary educational support of potential candidates.

Regional HMA and faith community nursing conferences and the annual Westberg symposium are dedicating time for educational preparation for this process. Educational assistance will need to include helping develop computer skills, learning to write curricula vitae, and writing three detailed case studies. Templates and tools developed by the FCN Recognition Task Force will be shared as they become available, through collaborative efforts of both HMA and the International Parish Nurse Resource Center.

Nancy L. Rago Durbin, M.S., R.N., F.C.N., serves as director of parish nurse ministry of Advocate Health Care and as chairperson of the HMA FCN Task Force.

Portfolio Review: A Door into the Ministry

Hope Knight, R.N., M.S.

The ministry of the parish nurse is one way a registered nurse can use his or her gifts and talents for the health and wellness of the local church. The parish nurse has many opportunities for specialized educational programs, but may have chosen to chart their own course with self-directed readings. There are many wonderful books, articles, and journals to help with this ministry,

but they do not have the critical evaluation piece required for recognition. The resource, *Faith Community Nursing: Scope and Standards of Nursing Practice*, gives guidance for this professional choice, which includes an essential evaluation process.

The portfolio is a place to showcase the ministry, which would benefit all parish nurses. This tool can be used when relocating to a new area or when a church experiences a change in pastors. Many pastors and congregations have not had, or been exposed, to the parish nurse ministry and may not know about the blessings that come with it.

For credentialing purposes, the portfolio review will begin with an interview with LCMS Parish Nurse Coordinator Marcia Schnorr. There will be a charge for the portfolio review, but it should not be prohibitive. A notebook will be used for documentation of the many necessary areas of the process.

Candidates going through the portfolio review process will focus on:

- Documentation of the self-directed learning
- Profession of their faith, participation in Word and Sacrament
- Description of personal definition of the parish nurse
- Application of the roles of the parish nurse as integrator of faith and health, health educator, health counselor, referral agent, and facilitator/trainer of volunteers
- Comparison of congregational and institutional models
- Challenges from current or previous congregations
- Description of the community served
- Presentations given
- Evidence of documentation and reporting to the pastor
- Volunteer recruitment
- Continuing education or updates on the ministry.

These areas and many more are included in the portfolio review to provide the reviewer, coordinator, and new congregation or pastor a window into the ministry. The development of the portfolio may encourage the parish nurse to take a preparation course to continue their education.

The ministry of the parish nurse is complimentary to the pastor and usually increases the health of the congregation in which they serve. Registered nurses can take the knowledge and training they already have and join it with their faith to serve their church with health in the mind, body, and soul.

Hope Knight, R.N., M.S., serves as parish nurse in her local church; as a nurse educator in complex/critical care, mental health, and community and leadership; and as the Oklahoma District parish nurse representative. She has the following hospital experience: ICU/CCU, emergency department, and radiology nursing. She also serves on the regional faculty for BLS with the American Heart Association, teaching CPR to the community and church.

The Bethlehem Exchange

Raida Mansour, a parish nurse from Christmas Lutheran Church in Bethlehem, Palestine, traveled to the United States to participate in the annual meeting for parish nurse district representatives, the Concordia Conference for Parish Nurses, and Lutheran Parish Nurses International meeting, all held on the campus of Concordia University Wisconsin.

The Northern Illinois District (NID) Parish Nurse Network has “adopted” Mansour and hosts a silent auction at the annual Concordia Conference to pay travel and lodging for her biannual trips to the United States for networking and continuing education. A meeting with NID parish nurses and others was held at the Baymont Inn in Grafton, Wis. NID parish nurses also had the opportunity to attend fellowship with Mansour at St. Paul Lutheran Church, in Rochelle, Ill.



Raida Mansour, front and center, a parish nurse from Christmas Lutheran Church in Bethlehem, Palestine, met with U.S. parish nurses during conferences in May. Parish nurses from the Northern Illinois District have “adopted” Mansour and helped pay for her travel costs.

Parish nurses who have traveled to Bethlehem as a part of regularly scheduled parish nurse mission and ministry outreach trips have witnessed the dedication of the community nurses who work with Mansour. It is not uncommon for them to take a cab to a nearby village and then walk over a mile to make a home visit. Sue Neff, parish nurse representative for the English District is coordinating an effort to secure a van for the nurses to use with Ajyal II, the outreach program for the elderly in the villages of Bethlehem. If you would like more information to help with the “van project” contact Sue at sneff@youhaveaplace.com.

If you are interested in future parish nurse trips to Bethlehem, please contact Marcia Schnorr at mschnorr@rochelle.net.

Parish Nurse or Faith Community Nurse? A Response to a Frequently Asked Question

Many parish nurses use the abbreviation “PN” for parish nurse and others use “FCN” for faith community nurse. What is the difference? Although this question has an easy answer, the implications are not so easy.

Congregation members understand “PN,” although some may have had a hard time learning what a PN is and what they do. After crossing the hurdle of educating congregants about parish nursing and spending money to put “PN” on business cards, brochures, and other materials, it may seem easier to let the “PN” remain.

Faith Community Nursing: Scope and Standards of Nursing Practice identifies “FCN” as the appropriate designation for parish nurses to use — especially those who have completed an educational program. (The first edition used the more familiar “parish nurse” title.) Although *Scope and Standards* does say that we can use any term (including parish nursing) to identify our special area of nursing, it does not provide options for the designation.

To avoid confusion within the profession, it is LCMS Parish Nurse Coordinator Dr. Marcia Schnorr’s recommendation to use “FCN” rather than “PN” when involving professional distribution. When preparing something for internal use, she suggests spelling out “parish nurse” rather than using the “PN” or “FCN” as a good compromise.

Resources

HEART (Help End Abuse with Respect and Trust) is the title of a six-hour workshop provided by Diane Stelling that addresses domestic violence and child abuse. Diane lives in Wyckoff, N.J., and serves as a member of the Lutheran Advocates for Safe Families (LASF), which includes members from LCMS and ELCA. Diane has presented her workshops for parish nurses, clergy, and other church workers and is well received. For more information, contact Diane at 201-891-45435 or dianestelling@yahoo.com. You may also visit her web site: www.abusehelpspiritual.com

Positively Aging! was the theme for the 12th Annual Cedar Valley Gathering May 19-20, sponsored by the LCMS South Wisconsin District near West Bend, Wis. The event was planned to meet the needs of active adults, pastors, lay ministers, Bible class leaders, and anyone interested in ministry to and with seniors. Dr. Richard Bimler, past president and now senior staff associate for Wheat Ridge Ministries, was the presenter. Many parish nurses provide intentional ministries to the older adults in their congregation and other venues. This topic may be of interest as districts plan educational events. Contact Rich@wheatridge.org for more information.

Parish Nursing Goes to Washington. Harold G. Koenig, M.D., provided testimony to the Subcommittee on Research and Science Education of the U.S. House of Representatives on September 18, promoting parish nursing as an important way to improve public health. His 18-page document is available through www.dukespiritualityandhealth.org or by e-mailing Koenig@geri.duke.edu.

“HealthNotes,” available through Wheat Ridge Ministries, is written by Marla Lichtsinn, parish nurse representative for the Pacific Southwest District. Her topics are well written and on “observed” or “recognized” health care topics. They are available one month in advance to provide lead time for your newsletter deadlines. Find them at www.wheatridge.org/site/c.khLSKZPDLof/b.2721191/k.878C/Health_Notes.htm.

A Domestic Violence and Child Abuse Task Force has been formed by LCMS World Relief and Human Care in response to 2007 Synod Resolution 6-09. The task force will provide assistance to congregations and professional church workers to address

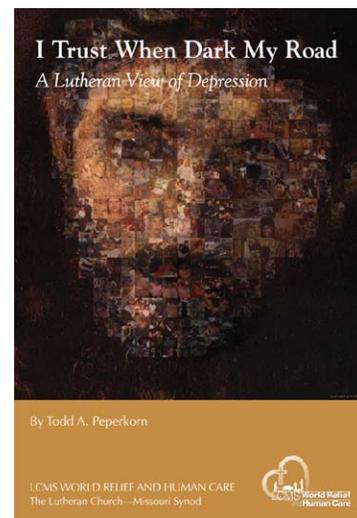
domestic violence and child abuse. Louise Tower, parish nurse representative for Minnesota-North District, is serving on the task force.

The Parish Nurse Directory is now available on-line at <http://nurse.wrhc.info/> (username: nurse, password: lcms_2009). For the first time, besides listing LCMS parish nurses, the directory includes an updated list of resources, guidelines for parish nurse pinning, and other useful information.

Thanks to the district representatives for their hard work in retrieving and updating the information. If you are not listed, or need to update your information, please click on the "Edit" button on the directory.

Med Schedule Tool. A good, free, online resource for developing printed med schedules for people taking multiple medications can be found at www.MyMedSchedule.com. This personalizable tool can be useful for individuals to keep with them in case of medical need, doctor's appointments, and to keep handy as they set up a weekly pill box.

Clergy and depression. Delving into the somewhat taboo topic of clergy and mental illness, the latest free resource from LCMS World Relief and Human Care, *I Trust When Dark My Road*, offers a rare glimpse into one LCMS pastor's personal journey through depression while remaining reliant upon God's grace. This 100-page book also offers suggestions to help a loved one battling depression. To order a copy or download an electronic version of this free resource, visit www.lcms.org/wrhcstore and look for the title under "Booklets."



Conferences

The 23rd Annual Westberg Symposium will be September 25-27 at the Hyatt Regency Riverfront in downtown St Louis, Mo. The conference theme, Opening Doors to Wholeness, provides the focus for keynote speakers, breakout sessions, and exhibits. Full information and registration information is available at www.parishnurses.org.

Lutheran Parish Nurses International will host a study tour/meeting to Bethlehem and other holy land sites April 16-25, 2010. Due to space limitations and special needs related to planning a trip to Bethlehem, reservations are being requested by October 1, 2009. Late reservations will be accepted only if space is available and passports are in order.

Actual cost will be released in early 2010, but is estimated to be about \$2,400 for airfare, ground transportation, lodging, educational expenses, some meals, and some sightseeing.

LPNI is a newly organized network that includes Lutheran parish nurses from any Lutheran denomination in the global community. For more information about LPNI or the trip, contact Dr. Marcia Schnorr at mschnorr@rochelle.net or call 815-562-6823.

The 18th Annual Concordia Conference will be held June 3-4, 2009 and focuses on the theme, "Christ Be My Leader." LCMS parish nurse district representatives will meet prior to the conference, June 1-2.



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