

REFLECTIONS

&
Connections

FEBRUARY 2018



Congregation of Sisters of St. Agnes



Agnesian HealthCare
1896 – 2017

Monroe Clinic
1939 – 2017

*Moving Forward Together
with Gift, Grace
and Gratitude*



CSA

Congregation of Sisters of St. Agnes
Promoting Justice, Building Community

Dear Friends,



Greetings as we begin a new year, a year of transition for the Sisters of St. Agnes. I would like to take this opportunity to reflect on what sponsorship has meant to CSA. Agnesian HealthCare and Monroe Clinic have been woven into the fabric of CSA's history. In 1896, with the construction of St. Agnes Hospital, Mother Agnes opened the door to health care as a ministry of the Sisters of St. Agnes. In 1939, Mother Aloysia furthered this ministry by opening St. Clare Hospital, now Monroe Clinic. These health care services have greatly expanded over the past 121 years, providing services to people and to areas that would otherwise be without health care. Only with wonderfully skilled partners in ministry has so much been able to evolve.

While we have been focused on the transition of the CSA health care ministries, we wish to acknowledge the growth and creativity of Marian University which we continue to sponsor. From a college housed in areas of the former St. Agnes Convent, Marian University now has a great footprint of its own in Fond du Lac, with expansion areas in Appleton and Milwaukee.

These significant ministries in health care and education are gifts to the communities in which they are located, and are grace into the future. These ministries were entrusted to CSA by the Church, and we have held them in trust since their founding. We, too, like the founders of each ministry, must be responsive to the signs and needs of the times. Prayer and discernment have led to the decision in faith that God is calling us to let go of what we love. Because of the complexity of the social and cultural context in which we live, this is the best time to enable the evolution of the sponsorship of our health care ministries. Only if we love, can we let go. Because we love, it is painful to let go. This is bitter-sweet for our sisters, especially those who have served for a significant part of their lives at Agnesian HealthCare, Monroe Clinic, and St. Francis Home.

We know that now is the time to entrust to someone else what has been entrusted to us by the Church. It is time to make way for a broader and deeper form of sponsorship, a form made possible by the transfer of our beloved ministries to SSM Health, a ministry that shares our values and our commitment to Catholic health care and provides the structures needed for 21st century Catholic health care.

Our 2017 Chapter called us to face our future with honesty and hope as we make decisions regarding the stewardship of our resources. We give thanks to Agnesian HealthCare and Monroe Clinic for all that has been accomplished through them. The mission we share with SSM Health provides the foundation on which a "future full of hope" will flourish. We know that the mission of Jesus continues as our ministries interweave with the needs and realities of the 21st century. With gratitude for all that is yet to be, we advance, gifted and graced by our loving God.

In the peace and love of Christ,

Sister Jean Steffes, CSA

General Superior

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On the cover:

The expanding heart linked with the out-reaching cross, designed by Doris Klein, CSA, reflects the desire of the Sisters of St. Agnes to connect at the level of the Sacred and to move forward in mission with partners in ministry with gift, grace, and gratitude.

Design and printing by Reindl Printing Inc.

Moving Forward Together

with Gift, Grace and Gratitude

BY SISTER MARY NOEL BROWN, CSA
EXECUTIVE LEADER OF SPONSORSHIP

As families and friends gathered to celebrate the dawn of a new year at the stroke of midnight on January 1, 2018, the Congregation of Sisters of St. Agnes (CSA) embraced a new beginning of another kind. As the hours and minutes of 2017 faded away, so, too, did CSA's congregational involvement in the ministry of health care that spanned more than 120 years. When the clock struck twelve, heralding the beginning of 2018, Agnesian HealthCare and Monroe Clinic became part of SSM Health of St. Louis.

A few days later, on a frigid January 4, members of CSA, representatives from SSM Health Ministries, and leaders from SSM Health, gathered in Fond du Lac and Monroe to commemorate the momentous occasion. The sub-zero external temperatures paled in comparison to the warmth and gracious hospitality of Agnesian HealthCare and Monroe Clinic leaders and employees. Experiencing a sea of emotions, employees, providers, and board members spoke of the gift and grace of their relationship with Sisters of St. Agnes, their gratitude for being part of CSA's legacy of health care, and their embrace of becoming part of SSM Health.

Sister Jean Steffes, CSA, general superior of CSA, commented that "although today signals the start of a new beginning, the

(Continued on page 8)



L to R: Damond Boatwright, president of operations, SSM Health Wisconsin; Mike Sanders, president and CEO, Monroe Clinic; Sister Jean Steffes, general superior, Sisters of St. Agnes; Laura Kaiser, president and CEO, SSMHCC; and Steve Little, president and CEO, Agnesian HealthCare.



Sister Mary Noel Brown (l) presents the plaque to Sister Kathy Buchheit, FSM, while Sister Jean Steffes presents the lantern to Jennifer Grantham Stein. Sister Kathy and Jennifer are members of SSM Health Ministries.



Mike Sanders and Jane Monahan (r) joined Sisters Susan Stucki and Lucina Halbur in celebrating the transfer of sponsorship.

The History of Sisters of St. Agnes *(Compiled by Sister Cyndi Nienhaus, CSA, and Sister Susan Seeby, CSA, General Councilors)*

1896

St. Agnes Sanitarium opens.

1900

Sanitarium is renamed St. Agnes Hospital.

1903

Boyle Home for the Aged opens.

1909

St. Anthony's Hospital Hays, KS, opens.

1910

St. Agnes School of Nursing is founded.

Weaving the Future

BY SISTER RHEA EMMER, CSA
GENERAL VICAR

with SSM

Franciscan Sisters of Mary

In 1872, five sisters from Germany arrived in St. Louis, MO, with the intention of living lives of consecrated service to God by caring for the sick and the poor. They built hospitals, nursing homes, and other healthcare facilities throughout the Midwest and South. They chose to open these hospitals where access to health care was sorely lacking, often in economically distressed communities comprised of large numbers of people living in poverty. As the religious community grew, sisters were sent to open missions in Brazil and Peru, as well as to establish a Birthing Center to serve poor families in southeastern Texas at the Mexican border.

Though health care has changed considerably since the founding of the congregation, the compass of compassionate presence to suffering persons, lives on in the innumerable lay partners-in-ministry. By 1986, the leadership of the Congregation recognized the need to plan for the future of their sponsored ministries. They placed the leadership of their ministries into the hands of capable lay people who had the same passion “to bring the healing presence and love of God to those in need.” This became the foundation upon which SSM Health was created.

SSM Health, Wisconsin

SSM Health’s presence in Wisconsin includes:

- Three acute care hospitals: SSM Health St. Mary’s Hospital, Madison, SSM Health St. Mary’s Hospital, Janesville, and SSM Health St. Clare Hospital, Baraboo.
- Two nursing homes: SSM Health St. Mary’s Care Center, Madison and SSM Health St. Clare Meadows Care Center, Baraboo.
- SSM Health Dean Medical Group
- Dean Health Plan
- SSM Health Freestanding Emergency Center
- Home Health United



The History of Sisters of St. Agnes

- 1916** Physicians form Fond du Lac Regional Clinic.
- 1918** First lay students attend St. Agnes School of Nursing.
- 1936** Marian College in Fond du Lac opens.
- 1939** St. Clare Hospital in Monroe, WI, opens.
- 1964** Marian College Nursing Division opens.
- 1966** St. Agnes School of Nursing closes.

SSM Health, St. Louis

SSM Health is a Catholic, not-for-profit health system serving the comprehensive health needs of communities across the Midwest through one of the largest integrated delivery systems in the nation.



History at a Glance

1872 Founded by 5 German Sisters who arrived in St. Louis with \$5.	1876 Opened first hospital in St. Louis.
1933 Opened first Catholic hospital for African Americans in the U.S and gave privileges to African American physicians and nurses.	1986 Formed the SSM Health Care System.
2007 Went live with first electronic health record.	2012 Opened St. Mary's Jonesville Hospital and purchased St. Anthony Shawnee Hospital.
1898 Opened first hospital in Oklahoma Territory.	1912 Opened St. Mary's Hospital in Madison.
1990 Adopted Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) principles throughout system.	2002 Became first health care organization to win the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award.
2013 Purchased Audrain Medical Center and merged with Dean Health Systems.	2015 Acquired SSM Health Saint Louis University Hospital.



2016 at a Glance

Our Mission

Through our exceptional health care services, we reveal the healing presence of God.

Our Values

Compassion We reveal the healing presence of God through compassionate care focused on the fullness of the person.	Respect We respect life at all stages and promote the dignity and well-being of every person.	Community We cultivate relationships that inspire service and promote justice in our organization and throughout our communities, with special concern for the poor and marginalized.	Stewardship We use financial, human and natural resources responsibly and care for the environment.	Excellence We provide exceptional care and service through employees and physicians dedicated to our Mission.
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Who We Are

- Sixth largest Catholic health care systems in the country
- Operating in Illinois, Missouri, Oklahoma & Wisconsin
- Founded by the Franciscan Sisters of Mary
- 2 skilled nursing facilities
- Non-profit organization
- 20 hospitals
- Added Dean Health System (Fall 2013)
- 61 counties served by hospice
- 63 outpatient building locations
- 70 counties served by home care
- Pharmacy benefit management company
- Health plan
- Headquartered in St. Louis, MO

Fast Facts



Inpatient Admissions	176,256
Outpatient Visits	1.6 million
Emergency Visits	765,866
Babies Born	15,760
Outpatient Surgeries	68,341
Home Care Visits	308,194
Hospice Care Days	139,373
Completed Medical Group Appointments	4.3 million

Physicians & Employees	Dean Health Plan	Navitus
Active providers: 9,500+	Largest HMO in Wisconsin	Lives covered approx. 5.3 million
Employed physicians: 1,600+	Insurance members: 423,265	39 States served
Employees: 33,000+		

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Proven Track Record of Successful Partnerships

SSM Health has a long history of witnessing to the value of partnership in order to better meet the needs of those they serve. The transfer of sponsorship of Agnesian HealthCare and Monroe Clinic will contribute to this rich history.

1978
St. Francis Home opens.

1980
Hospice Hope opens.

1987
School Sisters of St. Francis transfer sponsorship of Waupun Memorial Hospital to CSA.

1991
St. Clare Terrace opens.

1992
St. Clare Hospital and Monroe Clinic merge.

MARIAN UNIVERSITY EXCELLENCE IN ACADEMICS



L to R: Sisters Edie Crews, Marie Scott, Donna Innes, Deborah Walter, Cyndi Nienhaus

Living Our Legacy at *Marian University*

BY SISTER DONNA INNES, CSA, SISTER EDIE CREWS, CSA, AND SISTER MARIE SCOTT, CSA

*Weaver God, empower us to weave with you
a tapestry of beauty and strength
that reflects your desire for our community, our world,
and Your mission
into the future ...*

— Concluding prayer, CSA General Chapter, June 2017

When the Sisters of St. Agnes founded Marian College in 1936, there was no crystal ball to see what Marian University would become eighty-one years later. The sisters, however, did give birth to a tiny college for the education of the sisters that would later spread the

torch of faith to hard-working first-generation students. The college sought to create an environment where students could develop their unique gifts through rigorous academic pursuits, service, and commitment to social justice.

The five sisters currently ministering at Marian University recently shared some reflections on three questions:

What does it mean for the Sisters of St. Agnes to sponsor Marian University?

CSA is committed to ongoing sponsorship of Marian where the mission and values of the congregation continue to be fostered. Students are challenged to engage in the world and become men and women in the service of others, especially

The History of Sisters of St. Agnes

- **1996**
St. Agnes Hospital and the Fond du Lac Regional Clinic form Agnesian HealthCare.
- **1998**
St. Francis Terrace opens.
- **1999**
Consultants Laboratory, St. Francis Home, and Waupun Memorial Hospital join Agnesian HealthCare.
- **2003**
Dale Michels Center for Heart Care performs first open-heart surgery.
- **2011**
Ripon Medical Center joins Agnesian HealthCare.

the most vulnerable and disadvantaged members of society.

How are CSA's legacy and mission lived out on a day-to-day basis?

Today, guided by the gospel of Jesus, we continue CSA's legacy of mission and ministry. Academic offerings at both the undergraduate and graduate levels exemplify this. Policies and procedures reflect Catholic teachings and values. Our legacy is also lived out through promoting diversity, providing tuition assistance, and in the day-to-day activities such as: opportunities for prayer, worship, and retreats, community service, book club discussions, food pantry, and social events that foster community-building.

How can friends support CSA's mission and legacy for the future?

We invite you to support CSA's mission and legacy in a variety of ways: visit the campus, enjoy coffee at Common Grounds, attend Mass with students on Sunday evenings, volunteer in the Campus Ministry food pantry, partner in prayer with a student, attend university events, invite to your home students who cannot go home during holidays, open your place of employment to students for internships or full-time work, become a volunteer tutor...

Together we will pass on the torch of faith, God's mission, and the CSA legacy at Marian University!

For further information, contact is available from any of the Sisters of St. Agnes at Marian.

In Memoriam... Walking with God



Sister Thomas Ann Reynolds, CSA

October 21, 2017

Sister Thomas Ann was born on September 7, 1922, in Bronx, New York. She was one of ten children including seven boys and three girls. She made her first profession on August 15, 1951. She received a BS in Education from Marian College of Fond du Lac and taught in elementary schools for 37 years. After her many years in the classroom she volunteered at The Leo House in New York City and at St. Columba and Guardian Angel Schools. Sister Thomas Ann had a warm, outgoing personality. She appreciated the humor in life and enjoyed entertaining others in the person of her clown character named STAR. An avid walker, she logged numerous miles while taking in the sights and sounds of the sidewalks of New York.



Sister Francis Assisi Pielmeier, CSA

October 25, 2017

Sister Francis Assisi was born in Altoona, Pennsylvania, on January 28, 1919. She entered St. Agnes Convent in 1934, followed by her first profession of vows on August 15, 1938. She received a BS in education from Marian College. She furthered her education earning an MA in Education and Psychology from Catholic University of America, Washington, D.C., and a PhD in Education.

She taught five years at St. Mary's Grade School in Fond du Lac. She devoted thirty years to leadership in teacher education at Marian College. She was a professor of education, director of teacher education and supervisor of student teaching. She valued creativity, literature and the arts in the curriculum. She wrote a children's fiction story; was the author of a history textbook and an editor for a textbook company; and for eight years, contributed poetry, stories and a weekly column to a publication for primary students.



Sister Margaretta Ehrlich, CSA

November 23, 2017

Sister Margaretta Ehrlich was born in Indianapolis, IN, on June 13, 1924. She was the oldest of nine children. She made her first profession on August 15, 1945. She received a Bachelor in Music Education degree from Alverno College, Milwaukee, and a Master in Music degree from Catholic University, Washington, D.C. Sister's whole life was wrapped in music. Of her 54 years devoted to music education, half were spent in Fond du Lac. Sister Margaretta understood the power of music to touch the human spirit, cultivated her own musical giftedness, and devoted her life's work to inviting students to value the arts, especially music.



Sister Rose Kreuzer, CSA

November 29, 2017

Sister Rose Kreuzer was born in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, on April 24, 1922. She was the only girl in a family of ten. After her mother's early death, Rose held a job and shared the responsibility for raising her younger brothers. She made her first profession of vows on August 15, 1959. Sister Rose received a BA in Sociology and Business Administration from Creighton University and an MSW in Clinical Social Work from St. Louis University.

During Sister's first nine years of service she worked in turn as Director of Purchasing at St. Agnes Hospital, and in Medical Records at St. Clare Hospital in Monroe, Wisconsin. She later was a Clinical Social Worker for three years. She was also employed at Marian College for seven years as Assistant to the Academic Dean and Assistant to the Vice-President for Academic Affairs.

In her retirement she pursued her avocation as an avid and excellent photographer. She shared her photos of nature in "Roseprints" greeting cards and in framed art design.

For full obituaries go to www.csasisters.org. Memorials can be sent to the CSA Development Office or through the website.

2015

Villa Loretto and Villa Rosa join Agnesian HealthCare.

2016

Treffert Center opens.

2017

Christian Home and Rehabilitation Center of Waupun joins Agnesian HealthCare.

2017

Monroe Clinic opens a hospice facility.

2018

CSA transfers sponsorship of Agnesian HealthCare and Monroe Clinic to SSM Health Ministries.



CSA

Congregation of Sisters of St. Agnes
Promoting Justice, Building Community

320 County Road K
Fond du Lac, WI 54937

Ways to connect with CSA:

CSA web site:

<http://www.csasisters.org/>

Adelante Mujer/Advance Woman

<http://www.womanadvance.com/>

(in the front page of our web site)

Justice Peace and Integrity of Creation

<http://justicepeacecsa.blogspot.com/>

(in the front page of our web site)

Streams 'N Stirrings

<http://csa-vocations.blogspot.com/>

(in the front page of our web site)



<http://www.facebook.com/sasisters?sk=wall>

(in the front page of our web site)



[http://www.youtube.com/user/](http://www.youtube.com/user/TheCSAchannel1)

TheCSAchannel1

(in the front page of our web site)

Moving Forward Together with Gift, Grace and Gratitude *(Continued from page 3)*

healing mission of the Church continues. The sisters trust that Agnesian HealthCare and Monroe Clinic will continue their legacy of healing through the larger SSM Health family.” “We sought a sponsor,” Sister Jean shared, “whose mission and culture fits Agnesian and Monroe. We believe that SSM does, and that will serve our patients, residents, and loved ones well.”

Referencing the Franciscan heritage of SSM Health, Laura Kaiser, president and CEO, noted that St. Francis of Assisi “was always new, always fresh and always beginning again. Today,” continued Laura, “we honor this tradition in a new way – by joining together for those we serve.”

Almost two weeks later, shortly after the feast of St. Agnes, representatives of SSM Health, including the executive leaders of the newest members of SSM Health - Monroe Clinic and Agnesian HealthCare – joined members of CSA at St. Agnes Convent in Fond du Lac.

In a ritual commemorating the transfer of sponsorship, Sister Jean Steffes presented Jennifer Grantham Stein, a member of SSM Health Ministries, with a lantern, reminiscent of Mother Agnes Hazotte, a foundress of CSA. Sister Jean shared her desire that the light of the lantern, which symbolizes the light

of Christ within each of us, may always emanate from the heart of each person associated with SSM Health and that this same light of Christ may always shine brightly within the halls, patient care rooms, and board rooms of each SSM Health facility.

In presenting Sr. Kathy Buchheit, FSM, with a second symbol, a crystal plaque with a heart linked with CSA’s cross, Sister Mary Noel Brown explained, “The design represents the congregation’s desire to always connect at the level of the Sacred for the sake of mission. We give this to you as a sign of the transfer of our beloved ministries and ask that you pray with us, that we may move forward together with gift, grace, and gratitude.”

SSM Health attendees then participated in a missioning ceremony and a renewal of commitment to the values of SSM Health - values which are already deeply rooted within the culture and lives of those associated with Agnesian HealthCare and Monroe Clinic.

The ritual closed with 24 *Alleluias* resounding throughout the chapel. Filled with mixed emotions, the Sisters of St. Agnes sang their prayerful response that reflected their desire to move forward with SSM Health with gift, grace, and gratitude.