



AN AFFILIATE OF HOSPITAL SISTERS HEALTH SYSTEM

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ST. JOHN'S CLINICAL PASTORAL EDUCATION PROGRAM EARNS ACCREDITATION

SPRINGFIELD, IL – St. John's Hospital has been accredited by the National Accreditation Commission of Association for Clinical Pastoral Education (ACPE), Inc. of Decatur, Georgia. This marked the return of Clinical Pastoral Education to Springfield and St. John's became one of the newest ACPE Centers in the United States.

CPE is an on-the-job theological training program designed to complement formal seminary courses and to prepare ministers and students of ministry for careers in chaplaincy. "We are proud to offer CPE to students in a faith-based health care setting that meets the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of our patients," said Father Charles Hart, O.F.M., chaplain/CPE supervisor at St. John's.

The recent accreditation followed two years of several extended units of CPE, a rigorous and extensive self-study document, and a three day, on-site review by a national site team from ACPE in late August.

St. John's was affirmed for its commitment to education and its state-of-the-art clinical setting, which includes St. John's College of Nursing, the oldest hospital based Catholic nursing program in the United States. In addition, the program received high marks for the active support and involvement of the administration, the program's creative documentation and curriculum design, and its supervisor.

St. John's was the site of an ACPE program from 1974 through 1994. That program was supervised by the Rev. Dick Dayringer. St. John's also sponsored a CPE program accredited by the National Association of Catholic Chaplains during this same period of time. It was supervised by Sr. Gerard Schwieder, O.S.F. and Sr. Helen Ely, O.S.F.

ABOUT HOSPITAL SISTERS HEALTH SYSTEM

Hospital Sisters Health System is a Roman Catholic health care mission founded to continue the healing ministry of Jesus Christ. Sponsored by the Hospital Sisters of St. Francis, HSHS provides state-of-the-art health care framed in traditional values taught by St. Francis and St. Clare of Assisi. It is dedicated to serving all people, including the poor and the needy, at each of its 13 Local Systems in Illinois (Belleville, Breese, Decatur, Effingham, Highland, Litchfield, Springfield and Streator) and in Wisconsin (Chippewa Falls, Eau Claire, Sheboygan and two in Green Bay). For more information about HSHS, visit www.hshs.org.

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