



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

MESSAGE FROM MARY CLEARY,
ACTING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,
PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

As many of you already know, Selma Verse, our Executive Director resigned in November 2005. In the two years that Selma was the ED, she did an outstanding job in developing the infrastructure for the programs and services that IHWA offers for the faith-based nurse.

Since her resignation, the board members have assumed the role and responsibilities for fulfilling the necessary duties that are required to keep the organization operating. As the Board President, I have assumed the position of acting director until a new ED is hired.

IHWA Board members are well aware that organizational planning is fundamental to a strong, successful, and credible enterprise. There are mounting demands that IHWA assist in meeting the critical healthcare needs that exist in our community.

The Board has begun a Strategic Planning process facilitated by Eric Kelly from the Allegany Franciscan Foundation. The Board believes it is an important tool in the management of the organization toward the fulfillment of their fiduciary and stewardship responsibilities.

The annual retreat offering parish nursing basic preparation curriculum is scheduled for June 19-23, 2006 at the Duncan Conference Center in Delray Beach. Dr. Susan Chase and Dr. Terri Touhy are finalizing the curriculum. Flyers will be mailed out in the next few weeks.

The Annual Faith-based Nurse Recognition Luncheon was held on April 6, 2006. The Interfaith Health and Wellness Board of Directors was pleased to recognize all nurses that are serving our faith based communities. We were honored to have Dr. and Mrs. William Adkins serving as our Honorary Chairpersons for this event. Sister Anne Meehan, SBS was chosen as the Faith Based Nurse of the Year. Sister Anne attended the first annual retreat that was offered last year and she is the founding parish nurse from the Katharine Drexel Nursing Outreach Center in Belle Glade, Florida.

I wish to commend and sincerely thank all of the members of the Board that so willingly assumed additional duties and responsibilities during this time of transition.

Mary Cleary



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Annual Retreat Experience

Basic Preparation Curriculum for Faith Community Nursing

June 19-23, 2006

Duncan Conference Center

15820 S. Military Trail

Delray Beach, Florida 33484

(561) 496 4135

The parish nurse basic preparation curriculum, recognized by the International Parish Nurse Resource Center, is being offered in south Florida through a partnership between Interfaith Health and Wellness Association and the Christine E. Lynn College of Nursing at Florida Atlantic University.

Price: \$650 (includes: lodging, meals, snacks, materials, IPNRC pin, certificate) • Daily rate: \$75. Does not include lodging • Discounts for organizations when registering 3 or more participants • Send checks payable to: Interfaith Health and Wellness Association P O Box 1885 • West Palm Beach, FL 33402 Email: mclearyrn@bellsouth.net • Phone (561) 379 1972

Registration Form: *(Please print)*

Name: _____

Title: _____

Organization: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____

Email: _____

Faith Affiliation: _____

RN License # (for contact hours) _____

Information about yourself to share with others:

Registration will be accepted via mail with non-refundable deposit of \$250. Full payment is due by May 15, 2006. Registration is possible up to the date of the conference if space is available.



Interfaith Health & Wellness Association Offers Nurses an Opportunity to Explore Faith Community Nursing Practice

Faith based Nurses report a very high job satisfaction compared to other nursing practice. Opportunities for faith based nursing is on the rise.

In 2005 twenty RN's complete the FCN curriculum in a retreat setting in Lantana, Florida

Between June 6 –10, 2005, twenty registered nurses working in Palm Beach County and others from around the state and as far away as New York gathered at the Cenacle Spiritual Retreat Center in Lantana, Florida, to explore faith community or parish nursing—an expanding independent nursing practice. As the first to complete the International Parish Nurse Resource Center's Basic Preparation curriculum in south Florida, these twenty (20) nurses are now designated as Faith Community Nurses (FCN) and the founding alumni of IHWA. This positive and very affirming experience created a bond that will assist them in their emerging practices. Although heavy on didactic encounters, time was also spent on group discussion, interfaith spiritual development and individual reflection and growth.

Interfaith Health and Wellness Association (IHWA), a 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization, is committed to the support and education of registered nurses who serve their congregations and communities by promoting care of the body, mind and spirit for healing and wellness. This mission is operationalized through mentoring and connecting current parish nurses in south Florida and offering to all nurses the opportunity to learn about this specialty practice.

IHWA is currently mentoring ten paid faith community nurses and assisting twenty-two faith communities in the exploration of initiating a nursing practice. At this time, the IHWA services are offered through the financial support of local foundations - the Community Foundation for Palm Beach and Martin Counties, the Palm Healthcare Foundation, the Allegany Franciscan Foundation and the Frank J. Lewis Foundation and a major in-kind donation from the First Presbyterian Church of West Palm Beach, Florida.

In partnership with the Christine E. Lynn College of Nursing at Florida Atlantic University and the International Parish Nurse Resource Center of St. Louis, Missouri, Interfaith Health & Wellness Association is offering the basic preparation curriculum which leads to a certificate of completion in parish nursing. It is provided in a variety of formats: modular learning (completing a series of non-sequential, one-day modules), and/or internet learning; week-end events; and, week-long retreats (summer 2006). The curriculum for basic preparation of parish nurse assists participants to:

- Explore theoretical and practical knowledge that is necessary to develop and implement an outcome oriented, faith-based nursing practice.
- Differentiate between body, mind and spiritual dimensions of individuals
- Assess spiritual needs of individuals.
- Recognize the various components of the parish nursing role.
- Understand various theological concepts from Christian, Jewish and eastern religions that affect individual healing and wellness.
- Discover the various components of a health ministry as they related to community health and wellness.

A new modular series will begin in January 2006 and the next parish nursing basic preparation curriculum is being offered at the:

Duncan Conference Center
15820 S. Military Trail
Delray Beach, FL 33484-9130
June 19-23, 2006

Price: \$695.00 (includes lodging, meals, ,materials, IPNR pin and certificate)

For more information visit our website at: www.IHWAassoc.org; OR, for a brochure or information call Phone: 561-379-1972. All nurses are welcome and encouraged to attend.



IHWA Board of Directors. Back row: Dr. William Adkins, Dr. Susan Chase, Ms. Guia Brown, Dr. Terri Touhy, Ms Abbi Bentz, Dr. Thomas Bila. and seated Ms. Mary Cleary.

Thank You!

To all the volunteers who assisted us in mailing luncheon invitations

The Board of Directors wish to sincerely thank Sister Barbara Jean and Ann Thomas who so graciously helped in addressing and stuffing the invitations for the annual luncheon. Sister and Ann are both residents at the Villa Franciscan in Riviera Beach, Florida. Your many hours of volunteerism are most graciously appreciated.



Catholic Charities Wellness Ministry

In April 2005, Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Palm Beach began a new ministry with the vision of and under the direction of Elder Affairs Division Director, Sister Maryrose Crowley. Through the generous gifts of several community members, this new program, Wellness Ministry, began providing parish nursing services to Indian River County through St. John of the Cross Church in Vero Beach. The program quickly expanded to provide services to the Haitian and Caucasian populations of Ft. Pierce in St. Lucie County through the parishes of St. Mark the Evangelist and Notre Dame Mission and the Haitian population of Delray Beach through Our Lady of Perpetual Help. Thanks to a recent grant from Allegany Franciscan Ministries, the program will expand its services in St. Lucie County and will soon be serving the diverse populations of Indiantown in Martin County through Holy Cross church.

A major goal of the program is to target services to those who are chronically underserved in healthcare settings due to physical barriers to access, i.e. homebound, lack of transportation, as well as lack of education, lack of insurance and/or financial resources, and language/cultural barriers. Since July 2005, the program has served over 650 individuals and provided over 2000 hours of service within our Diocese. Approximately 38 percent of the population served has been Haitian and we look forward to assisting the Guatemalan population in Indiantown very soon. Though the program targets frail elderly and their families, we don't turn anyone away. Approximately 28% of the individuals served have been under the age of 60.

The program strives to provide such recognized services as health education, health counseling, health screening & assessment, health promotion, disease management, and medication management. All services are provided from a holistic perspective – body, mind, & spirit. Our wellness nurses have found many creative ways to help the people of their area. Some activities that they have undertaken include health articles for church bulletins, a walking prayer group, setting up a respite volunteer program, blood pressure screenings and health fair activities at parish picnics and women's meetings, rituals in keeping with faith traditions, health classes to promote good health for parents and children, and lots of home visits that provide that individualized time & attention that so many people need.

Our program has collaborated with Adult Protective Services, the Council on Aging, Medicaid, Florida Community Health Centers, the public health departments, area health agencies such as VNA, hospitals and clinics to advocate for and assist clients. Thanks to the IHWA, our wellness nurses are certified parish nurses and have met the challenge of providing holistic health services to populations in need. They have helped the people of their parish areas learn more healthful ways to live; as God intended – with abundance!

Interfaith Health & Wellness Annual Luncheon (IHWA)

Mary Cleary opened her home on April 6, 2006, for the Annual Faith-Based Nurse Recognition Luncheon. Sixty leaders from the community attended the luncheon to honor the twenty nurses that were present from the faith based programs throughout the community. Sister Anne Meehan, SBS was honored as the Faith Based Nurse of the Year. Sister Anne has been working as a parish nurse at the Katharine Drexel Nursing Outreach Program at Saint Philip Benizi Church in Belle Glade. In addition to her work as a parish nurse, Sister also works part time with the Health Care District of Palm Beach County and Hospice of Palm Beach County.

Mary Cleary and Guia Brown co chaired the event. It was underwritten by Raymond James Financial Services, Worth Avenue, Palm Beach and Matrix Home Health Care.

IHWA in partnership with Christine E Lynn College of Nursing at Florida Atlantic University will sponsor a five day parish nurse basic curriculum retreat in June to prepare nurses for faith community nursing.

Dr. and Mrs. William Adkins were the Honorary Chairpersons. The Interfaith Health & Wellness Association primary mission is to support and educate nurses that are working throughout the faith based community.



Sister Anne Meehan and Eric Kelly



Terri, Abbi, Sherri and Dr. Adkins



Proud to

support the efforts

of the

Interfaith Health

and Wellness Association.

matrix
HOME HEALTH CARE



301 South Olive Avenue
West Palm Beach, FL 33401