



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CATHOLIC NURSES, USA

Winter 2009/2010

National Association of Catholic Nurses, USA

Purpose:

We are a national organization uniting employed, student, and retired Catholic Nurses, as well as associated health care professionals.

Objectives:

1. To promote education in Catholic Nursing Ethics
 2. To nurture Spiritual Growth
 3. To provide guidance and support for Catholic Student Nurses
- Nationwide nursing
 - National newsletter
 - Annual Nursing Conferences

P.O. Box 3016
Lisle, IL 60532-8016
Phone: (630) 852-1049
E-mail: capekirkpatrick@verizon.net
www.nacn-usa.org

President's Letter

Dear Colleagues,

In the past few issues we have talked about the proposed healthcare legislation that is still being debated. To remain true to the teachings of Jesus Christ we must continue to pray for the enactment of good law that will allow us a conscience clause, no tax dollars for abortion, or any provision for embryonic stem cell research. It may surprise some that these same healthcare issues are universal. Our CICIAMS representatives will be discussing these issues at the ICNGO Forum in Rome this February.

As members of NACN-USA we are also members of CICIAMS, the International Catholic Committee of Nurses and Medico-Social Assistants. Even though we are a private organization we do collaborate in actions of concern with the Holy See. Our members are eligible and encouraged to serve on committees and to attend conferences.

I'm asking each of you to be an active, interested member. You do make a difference in the world through your nursing care, your family values, your NACN-USA membership and unceasing prayer.

Kathleen Kirkpatrick
President pro tem



NACN-USA Scholarship Award

NACN offers a \$1000 award each year toward nursing education. The 2009 NACN-USA scholarship was awarded to Barbara Meyer, RN, from Massachusetts, who is attending the Creighton Model Fertility Care Practitioner program and is being trained to teach natural family planning. Interested applicants can find the award criteria and application on the NACN-USA website (www.nacn-usa.org). Applications for the award must be postmarked no later than March 30 each year for consideration.

About NACN

Mission Statement

The National Association Catholic Nurses, USA gives nurses of different backgrounds, but with the same Roman Catholic values, the opportunity to promote moral principles within the Catholic context in nursing and stimulate desire for professional development. This approach to Roman Catholic doctrine focuses on educational programs, spiritual nourishment, patient advocacy and integration of faith and health. As we continue to share our faith and values with each other, we simultaneously reach outward to the larger church and also our community, as we offer support to those in need.

International Catholic Committee of Nurses and Medico-Social Assistants (CICIAMS)

A THUMBNAIL GLIMPSE OF CICIAMS AND ITS ACTIVITIES BY



MARYLEE MEEHAN, R.N., M.A.
INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT OF CICIAMS

NACN, USA is a member of an extremely important global organization. Kathy Kirkpatrick, our NACN-USA pro-tem president asked me to give a brief introduction of CICIAMS and its activities. It is an honor to fulfill this request.

We are a private international Catholic professional organization whose members are in agreement with the Gospel and the instruction of the Catholic Church. We are under the vigilance of the competent ecclesiastical authority as regards to faith and morals (7.4 Canon 753) to acceptance of pastoral instructions and submission to the government of this same authority (Canon 305 and 323.2). The competent ecclesiastical authority has also the right to allow to “take the name of Catholic” (5.1 Canon 299.3) (Fr. J. Joblin, S.J 2006)

Our official languages are English and French. Presently our CICIAMS General Secretariat is in Dublin, Ireland.

Our **MISSION STATEMENT** is:

Informed by the moral and social teachings of the Church, CICIAMS is committed to:

- Giving Christian witness in our lives through guiding and supporting health care workers internationally
- Co-ordinating the work of member associations in their efforts to evangelize the ethos and ideals of the nursing profession and society in general
- Promoting the initiation of and participation in professional research and development towards the achievement of optimum care and well-being
- Respecting the religious convictions of others and accepting their rights to practice their beliefs
- Developing a positive vision of life from conception to death
- Representing Christian and professional values in our work with other national and international associations.

The CICIAMS General Council is the supreme governing body and its members are the national presidents or their representatives. The General Council meets every two years. In between these meetings, the CICIAMS Executive Board is responsible for the operation of the organization.

The **Five Regions** of CICIAMS are:

- English Speaking African Region
- French Speaking African Region
- Asian Region
- European Region
- Pan American Region

The **Permanent Committees** are:

- Statues
- Finance
- Professional
- Midwives
- Family
- Ethics

Membership is open to national Catholic nurse’s organization, individuals and Catholic schools of nursing.

CICIAMS' World Congress is held once every four years. We just had our XVIII World Congress in Monterrey, Mexico, March 2009. Our Mexican Catholic nurses did an outstanding job in hosting this Congress. Members from NACN-USA who participated at the Congress were guest speaker, Evelyn Madrid, Arizona, moderators, pro-tem President, Kathy Kirkpatrick and Joan Doherty, Massachusetts and CICIAMS' President, Marylee Meehan, Massachusetts gave the Welcoming Address. Twenty-five countries were present at the Congress. The Catholic nurses from Croatia are planning to host our XIX World Congress.



Joan Doherty, Moderator and UN Rep

Regional conferences are held once every four years. The English Speaking African Region had their conference in Ghana in September 2008. Asia is having their conference in Singapore, September 2010. All are invited to attend the Asian conference.

CICIAMS is a non-governmental organization (NGO) member of the **United Nation's (UN)** Civil Society. We are associated with the Department of Public Information (DPI) and the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). Our representative is Joan Doherty, USA. The Annual UN DPI/NGO Conference is usually at the UN in New York early in September. Three other CICIAMS member may attend this conference.

CICIAMS also has membership as an NGO at the **World Health Organization (WHO)**. Out of approximately 3000 NGO members at WHO, CICIAMS is the only Catholic member. Our representative is Isabelle Wilson, Scotland. The WHO meetings are in Geneva, Switzerland in January and May.

Membership at the UN is renewable every 4 years and every 3 years for the WHO. Both of these organizations require that we collaborate with other members and intergovernmental organizations in achieving the goals of the UN and WHO. WHO requires we make proposals in advance. Our three major proposals for the years 1010-12 are:

- MaterCare International(MCI): providing education for nurse and traditional birthing assistants in OB/GYN (fistulas) for the nurses at a health facility being built for very poor women in a very rural area in Kenya.
- The Association of International Charities (AIC) is a charity targeting poor women. CICIAMS is asked to provide basic health education to the poor women in Madagascar.
- The Catholic Nurses Guild of India has built a health facility, the Hope Center, for prevention and of HIV/AIDS. The government of India has contacted Sr. Anne John requesting 10 beds for education for their HIV positive patients who are in government hospitals about to start their ART. The patient will stay for five days of education at the Hope Center and then return to the government run hospitals. The government of India is paying for the patients to be at the Hope Center.

Because of our membership in these two intergovernmental organization as well as many others, CICIAMS is one of 100 Catholic international organizations, out of thousands, to be invited to participate in a **Forum** in Rome, December 2007, sponsored by the Vatican. The Forum's out come is to develop ways in which international Catholic non-governmental organizations (ICNGO) can collaborate and make a greater positive impact at these intergovernmental organizations. The second Forum is in February 2010. I have and will be representing CICIAMS and therefore NACN-USA at these Forums.

CICIAMS is in association with **the Pontifical Council for Health Pastoral Care**. This spring the council was appointed a new president, H.E. Zygmunt Zimowski. Every November this Council presents an international conference. This year's theme was, **Ephphata! The Deaf Person in the Life of the Church**. There are only 13 Catholic priests in the world that can "sign" a Mass, 11 of these priest are in the United States. I represented CICIAMS at this Conference as well as members from Spain and Portugal. All members of CICIAMS are invited to attend these annual conferences in Rome.

CICIAMS is truly a wonderful Catholic professional nursing organization. We celebrated the 75th Anniversary of CICIAMS in Ghana, 2008. We have an open invitation to each of the five regions to recruit/nominate their members to serve on all of the CICIAMS committees...you just need a computer, no travel necessary. Please consider actively participating in this great organization. In the future, we will be needing nominations to positions on the CICIAMS Executive Board.

Finally, I would like to extend my deepest gratitude to your pro-tem President, Kathy Kirkpatrick and Treasurer, Mary Pellizzari for all their devotion and hard work in restructuring NACN-USA. Prayers and action brings great success. A big

thank you goes to the members of our national Executive Board for their exceptional efforts in helping to move NACN-USA forward. Congratulations for the increase in doubling the membership and the formation of three new councils. Of all the countries in the world, the United States has the most Catholic health care facilities, hence, the most amounts of Catholic nurses. It has been noted that the USA has the least amount of members in their national Catholic nurses association. This statistic is not going to be true very much longer the way our membership is presently increasing.

I am very proud to say I am a member of NACN-USA. It is with great pleasure that I look forward to meeting many of you at our national conference this spring.

May you and your families have a Blessed Christmas and a very Happy New Year.

God bless,

Marylee Meehan, R.N., M.A.

International President of CICIAMS

(Past President of NACN-USA)

Respect Life

Here is the link to the prewritten letter to your Congressmen opposing Federal funding for abortion in the healthcare plans that are being debated and voted on very soon. This effort is sponsored by the USCCB. www.usccb.org/action

It is EASY to do this. All you do is put in your address and the letters are automatically sent to the appropriate Congressmen. And you will not receive unwarranted emails, so there should be NO reason why all Catholics do not do this.

It is SO important that we protect the unborn and the elderly. They are defenseless and vulnerable to exploitation and death because of our inaction.

Many of us that are healthcare providers are going to be faced with many difficult moral choices if this passes, not the least of which will be leaving the profession that we love, because of conflicts with our Faith. And imagine what will happen if Catholic hospitals have to close, rather than provide abortions or withhold morally obligatory end of life care (such as food and fluids).

This is a crucial time for this country and for those of us who care for the sick.

Please, please send the letter today.

Editor's Note: This item may reach you after our elected representatives have already cast their votes on healthcare reform. In any case, it is important that we all remain informed about this issue and make our voices heard to support authentic healthcare which respects the dignity of the human person.

Events

NACN-USA Conference: May 5-7, 2010 6th Annual Healthcare Professionals for Divine Mercy Conference

Plans are being made for the upcoming NACN-USA Conference. On May 5 & 6 we will join with the 6th annual Healthcare Professionals for Divine Mercy at Holy Cross College in Worcester, MA. The theme is "Medicine and Mercy: Intersecting for God and Good." C.E.U.s will be available. On Friday, May 7, NACN members will have their meeting at the Crowne Plaza Hotel and then visit the home of Little Audrey Santo (www.littleaudrey.org).

Accommodations with airport shuttle (from Boston, MA or Providence, RI) are being offered by the Crowne Plaza Hotel in downtown Worcester. Save the dates! More information to come soon.

Go to www.thedivinemercy.org/healthcare to sign up for email reminders and for more information about the Healthcare Professionals for Divine Mercy.

Spiritual Insights

Our Lady of Guadalupe

December 12

Do not be troubled or weighed down with grief.
Do not fear any illness or vexation, anxiety or pain.
Am I not here who am your Mother?
Are you not under my shadow and protection?
Am I not your fountain of life?
Are you not in the folds of my mantle?
In the crossing of my arms?
Is there anything else you need?

The Virgin Mary to Juan Diego in 1531

Current Events

Two Catholic Medical Association Conferences

Mary Pellizzari, NACN Treasurer

On May 2, 2009 current President Janet Salihar of the Joliet Council of Catholic Nurses and I attended the 5th annual Midwest Regional Bioethics Conference at the Indiana University School of Medicine in South Bend, IN. The guest of honor was Gerald P. Corcoran, MD Catholic Medical Association (CMA) Presidential Advisor. Former CMA President and pediatrics professor Eugene Diamond, MD spoke on Maternal Deprivation and Its Effect on the Health of Children. He stressed how important the mother's role is during the first three years of a child's life and the ill effects on development if she is absent or disinterested.



Janet Salihar with CMA Regional Director Thomas M. Zabięga, MD

Brian Clowes, Ph.D spoke about condom distribution and birth control to the poor in developing countries. He is Director of Research for Human Life International(www.hli.org). The press was quick to reject Pope Benedict's quote that with the distribution of condoms we risk worsening the problem of AIDS. Due to poor storage conditions many of the condoms sent are defective and give a false sense of security which heightens promiscuity. The Philippines in 1993 under the direction of Dr. Rene Josef Bullecer with the blessings of the bishops launched the AIDS-Free Philippines Program promoting Catholic teachings of chastity and fidelity in marriage. With this program the AIDs rate dropped to 1 in 21, 850 while in Thailand with their 100% Condom Use Program the AIDs rate increased to 1 in 90.

Indiana Family Practitioner Dr. Christopher McIntire discussed his volunteer work in Haiti. He was joined by Michael Fedele the founder of Life for the World (www.lifefortheworld.com). My friend who heard them speak was inspired to go to Haiti to help. Kentucky Family Practitioner Dr. A. Patrick Schneider II spoke about cohabitation which unfortunately is increasing eleven-fold. These relationships are unstable with higher risks of divorce and STD's which have tripled in the past six years. The rate of STD's for cohabitating couples is six times higher than among married women. There is greater substance abuse, psychiatric problems, poverty, and violence is 20 times higher in these couples. "Cohabitation is bad for men, worse for women and horrible for children." Read *Sacramentum Caritatis* (3-13-07). Bishop John M. D'Arcy graciously concelebrated mass at the Basilica of the Sacred Heart at Notre Dame for this conference. This was shortly before the President Obama graduation controversy. It was a wonderful conference.

Opportunities for Service

Caring for Retired Priests

Rev. Myron Judy, the coordinator for the health care of the retired Carmelite priests, called NACN-USA in his search for nursing care from Catholic nurses. Father would like to establish a registry of Catholic nurses who could be called upon as the need arises. Either Father Judy or Kathy Kirkpatrick (NACN President) will e-mail the job description to any interested member.

There are Carmelite Monasteries in these U.S. cities: San Francisco and Los, Angeles, CA; Phoenix and Tucson, AZ; Kansas City and Leavenworth, KS; Chicago (Southside) and Lake County, IL; Bergen County, NJ and Peabody, MA.

In this "Year of the Priest" we should be mindful that without these men who have consecrated their lives to God as priests we would not have the Holy Eucharist or be able to receive the Sacraments.

If you or a Catholic nurse that you recommend would be interested please e-mail Father Judy at mjudy@carmelnet.org.



Mary Pellizzari with Brian Clowes, Ph.D. of H.L.I.

Annual Meeting UN NGO/DPI: “Peace and Development - Disarm Now”

September 9-11, 2009

Mexico City

The 62nd annual NGO/DPI Conference entitled “Peace and Development---Disarm Now” was held in Mexico City, September 9-11, 2009. Representatives from all over the world came to determine how civil society can contribute to disarmament, peace and development. Among the attendees was the Honorable Mayor of Hiroshima, Mr. Todatoshi Akiba.

The Mexican Government was most cordial and hospitable. The first night of the Conference a reception was held in the courtyard of the oldest school in Mexico built in the 1700’s. The garden, architecture and overall ambiance created the perfect setting for such an event which was complete with a Mariachi band.

Ban Ki Moon, Secretary General of the United Nations delivered the opening speech. He stated that there are 20,000 nuclear weapons around the world. His profound statement, “The World is over armed... Peace is underfunded” spoke volumes.

Remarks by Chairperson, Miguel Marin Bosch at the opening session, “Weapons of mass destruction... The worst sin perpetrated by human beings.” The most horrible instruments of war, nuclear and chemical weapons, have all been used indiscriminately. We are now in the 21st century and WMD remain the greatest danger facing the world!

The Conference consisted of various speakers and workshops. This was all on a pick and choose basis, which made decisions difficult because the topics were

equally pertinent and interesting. One workshop that I attended was “The Impact of Armed Violence on Vulnerable Generations”, which was presented by the International Association of Gerontology and Geriatrics. I chose this session because I as a nurse, and we as an organization, should really look at this population and how this global problem can and will impact their health and well being. It is a known fact that between now and 2050 the total number of persons 60 years and older worldwide will rise from about 600 million to almost 2 billion. Never before in human history have so many people lived so long!

We must develop the ability to act not only on our behalf but on that of others. We must speak for the voiceless and the powerless, establish dialogue, and ways and means by which we can turn the situation around.

The Conference was intended to provide an opportunity for individuals and nongovernmental groups from around the world to learn from each other and to teach others how we can achieve the great goals of peace, development, and disarmament. Everyone is interconnected. People who harm others, harm themselves. We cannot understand peace if we do not understand development. One thousand people will die this day because of weapons. Nuclear weapons are dangerous. They pose an unparalleled threat to the very existence of mankind. They do not enhance a country’s security but rather imperil the survival of all nations. Development brings justice. Justice brings peace!

I am grateful to CICIAMS for the privilege of attending this meeting and representing our wonderful organization.

Joan Doherty, member NACN-USA

CICIAMS representative to UN, UNICEF, NGO/DPI



Council News

History and Events of Madonna University Council of Catholic/Christian Nurses (MUCCN), Livonia, MI

Madonna University Council of Catholic / Christian Nurses (MUCCN), located in Livonia, Michigan, was started in November 1998 through the support and encouragement of NACN. The Madonna University Council of Catholic Nurses followed the guidelines of the NACN to formulate their council.

We are a very active part of Madonna University's nursing and hospice department. Madonna University is a private Catholic University that has more than 400 students enrolled in various levels of nursing programs including a Bachelor of Science Degree (BSN), RN, and LPN to BSN, various Master's Degrees in Nursing, Post-Master's Certificates for Nurses, Bachelor and Master's Degrees in Hospice, and a new Doctor of Nursing Practice Program (DNP) that started in May, 2009. In accordance with the philosophy of Madonna University, the faculty of the College of Nursing and Health are committed to assisting students in the development of Christian humanistic values, a spirit of intellectual inquiry, openness to discovery of truth and readiness to serve others. With this mission in mind, we have found the initiation of the Madonna University Council of Catholic Nurses on our campus has become an excellent source for spiritual support and growth for both the faculty and our students. MUCCN is open to nursing faculty, nursing students, nurses from our local community, and health professionals. Membership fee: \$10.00/year for professional nurses and \$5.00/year for student nurses. Our motto is "*Healing Love Begins With You.*"

Our educational and spiritual support programs over the past eleven years have included topics in ethics and Catholic Health Care, helping nurses provide spiritual care to patients, humor in nursing, using complimentary therapies, hospice care, end of life issues, parish nursing, pastoral care in hospitals, complementary and alternative therapies, providing care for diverse patients, and sharing in different forms of prayer experiences such as the Labyrinth Walk, Taize Prayer, and Healing Prayer. We have used many of our Madonna University Professors and speakers from our

two local Catholic hospitals to provide both educational and spiritual programs for us. In addition, we have collaborated with *Michigan Nurses for Life and MUCCN* to do several all day conferences at Madonna University. This helps us share our resources and to become more deeply appreciative of the talents and gifts provided to us by others through the grace of God.

To address social issues, many of the members of MUCCN have been involved in the *All Saints Neighborhood Center* which is in a very poor section of Southwest Detroit. MUCCN members have performed a variety of activities at the center including planning health education programs, helping at holiday parties and events, and providing gifts for the needy children and adults surrounding the center. Donations of clothing, books and personal items have also been collected and donated over the years to several community centers for the poor including centers in Detroit, Wayne, Westland and Highland Park in Michigan, the St. Anne Outreach Center in Kingstree, S.C., and to the poor of Belize, South America. Also, each Christmas, MUCCN has planned a Christmas dinner, Nativity Play, and provided gifts to approximately 150 persons of Cabrini Clinic for the Poor in Holy Trinity Parish and homeless persons from downtown Detroit. Each person who attends the party is given a gift of gloves, hats, stockings, and other useful gifts.

Right to Life issues have been addressed by MUCCN through a collaboration with Nurses for Life and Madonna University's Campus Ministry. An upcoming conference is planned for Feb. 20, 2010 at Madonna University entitled: "***Women's Health: Truth about the Affect and Effect from Contraception and Abortion***". Everyone is invited to attend this conference and overnight room accommodations may be made at the Madonna University Residence Hall. Please contact Sr. Victoria Marie at svictoria@madonna.edu for more information about MUCCN.

Sr. Victoria Marie Indyk, RN, PhD
President of Madonna University Council of
Catholic/Christian Nurses
36600 Schoolcraft Rd.
Livonia, MI. 48150

E-mail: svictoria@madonna.edu
Office Phone: 734-432-5779

*National Association of
Catholic Nurses, U.S.A.
P.O. Box 3016
Lisle, IL 60532-8016*



*Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception,
our patroness, pray for us!*

Editor's Note

We invite you to submit news briefs, prayer requests, poetry, anecdotes, photos, and/or articles that would be of interest to Catholic nurses across the United States. Please notify us if you know of any member who is ill or who has died.

Articles must be received by the following deadlines to be considered for the newsletter:

Winter (published in December): November 15

Spring (published in March): February 15

Summer (published in June): May 15

Fall (published in September): August 15

Please send your submissions by e-mail to:

Pamela Richardson, RN, Corresponding Secretary at
Qenime@earthlink.com, or you may mail submissions
to: Pamela Richardson, Corresponding Secretary
NACN, USA

P.O. Box 3016, Lisle, IL 60532-3016

Dues Notice

NACN-USA Membership dues for 2010 are due in January 2010 unless you have received a letter from the NACN-USA Treasurer in December. Thank you for renewing.