

This photo was taken during a celebratory meal to commemorate the jubilee of Fr. Flanagan's ordination, June 24, 1961.



The date of this picture of the CHA Milwaukee office is unknown.

# 90 Years Working Together

## Responding to health care needs and struggles

### 1914: BIRTH OF A UNITED MINISTRY

In response to a remark from Fr. Charles B. Moulinier, SJ, about "organizing and having a Catholic Hospital Association," Mother Esperance Finn, CSJ, superior and superintendent, St. Mary's Hospital, Minneapolis, invited representatives from other CSJ hospitals to a summit with Fr. Moulinier on Sunday, July 19, 1914. They met on the porch of a cottage on the grounds of St. Mary's Hospital.

BY DAVID WARREN, PhD

*Dr. Warren is a communications specialist, Catholic Health Association, St. Louis.*

The 13 women religious who joined Fr. Moulinier and Mother Esperance that July morning included Sr. Leo Carroll, CSJ, assistant superintendent, St. Mary's Hospital, Minneapolis; Sr. Leocadia Hayes, CSJ, superior, St. Michael's Hospital, Grand Forks, ND; Sr. Vida Hopkins, CSJ, nurse, St. Joseph's Hospital, St. Paul; Sr. Vitaline La Joie, CSJ, director of nursing, St. Mary's Hospital, Minneapolis; Sr. St. Thomas Lindbergh, CSJ, nurse, St. Mary's Hospital, Minneapolis; Sr. Madeleine Lyons, CSJ, superior, St. John's Hospital, Fargo, ND; Sr. Elizabeth McGolrick, CSJ, pharmacist, St. Joseph's Hospital, St. Paul; Sr. Salome, CSJ, nurse, St. Mary's Hospital, Minneapolis; and Sr. Bartholomew Schwab, CSJ, nurse, St. Mary's Hospital, Minneapolis.



Moulinier

Fr. Moulinier understood that in order to survive, Catholic health care had to be a part of the hospital



standardization movement.

The St. Mary's cottage is seen here (from a photocopy) in a sketch published in a 1926 statement of account for St. Mary's showing daily expenses and more than \$30,000 in charity care.

### 1915-1927: WORKING TOGETHER

By the spring of 1915, a committee with the enthusiastic approval of Archbishop Sebastian G. Messmer, Milwaukee, had been appointed to draft a constitution for a Catholic Hospital Association. At the first CHA convention, ministry delegates elected Fr. Moulinier as president. He set up the CHA office in Milwaukee, where he was regent, Marquette University School of Medicine.

The new association continued Fr. Moulinier's focus on quality, and the ministry also sought remedies for such problems as nursing shortages, lack of public support for community hospitals, and no reimbursement for indigent care.

### 1928-1947: A NATIONAL MINISTRY ESTABLISHED

At the 1928 convention, ministry delegates elected Fr. Alphonse M. Schwitalla, SJ, president of CHA. In 1929, Fr. Schwitalla moved the CHA office to St. Louis, where he was associate professor of biology, St. Louis University, regent of its school of dentistry, dean of the medical and nursing schools, and acting dean of the graduate school.

Under Fr. Schwitalla, the ministry used CHA to promote and provide professional education, ensuring a Catholic health care as up-to-date in its practice of medicine as it was rock-solid in its religious identity.



Participants in a 1942 summer institute on hospital administration, seated left to right, Sr. Mary Leonarda Brennock, RSM, St. Edward Mercy Hospital, Fort Smith, AR; Sr. Mary Ancilla Hammer, OSF, St. Francis Hospital, Peoria, IL; Sr. Mary Carola Jehle, CMP, St. Joseph's Hospital, Buckannon, WV; Sr. Mary Claudine Martin, CCVI, St. Joseph's Hospital, Fort Worth, TX; Sr. Clare Mandlehr, SCN, St. Joseph's Infirmary, Louisville, KY; Sr. Mary Salesia Ridder, SSM, St. Mary's Hospital, Jefferson City, MO; Sr. Mary Carmelita Renz, SSM, St. Francis Hospital, Blue Island, IL; and, Sr. Josephine Marie Waters, OSF, St. Mary's Hospital, West Palm Beach, FL. Standing is Fr. Schwitalla.

# Working Together

## Strengthening our ministry for the future



This photo shows the 1966 CHA board of trustees. Seated left to right are Sr. Mary Madonna Ashton, CSJ, administrator, St. Mary's Hospital, Minneapolis, and board secretary; Sr. Mary Brigh Cassidy, OSF, administrator, St. Marys Hospital, Rochester, MN, and first woman religious CHA board president-elect (and, one year later, board president); Sr. Gertrude of Providence, FCSP, administrator, Providence Hospital, Seattle; Sr. Mary David, SCL, director, planning and development, St. John's Hospital Association, Inc., Santa Monica, CA; Sr. Elizabeth Steiner, DC, administrator, St. Paul Hospital, Dallas; and Sr. Margaret Vincent Blandford, SCN, hospital consultant, Nazareth, KY. Standing left to right are Charles E. Berry, LLB, MS, and Catherine Steinkoetter, both CHA staff; Fr. Thomas J. Casey, SJ, very recently appointed CHA assistant executive director, and Fr. Flanagan; Sr. Grace Marie Hiltz, SC, administrator, Good Samaritan Hospital, Cincinnati; Very Rev. Monsignor John A. Trese, archbishop's representative for hospitals, and executive director, Archdiocesan Hospital Council of Detroit, and CHA board president; Rt. Rev. Monsignor Bernard J. Koenig, Kansas City, MO, representing the bishop; Fr. Paul R. Moore, New Orleans, outgoing CHA board president; and Fr. John W. Kordsmeier, Little Rock, AR, representing the bishop. Not pictured are Mother Loretta Bernard, SC, mother general of the Sisters of Charity of New York; Mother William Joseph Lydon, RSM, mother provincial, Sisters of Mercy of the Union, Dallas, PA; and, Very Rev. Monsignor Timothy E. O'Brien, San Francisco, CA, representing the bishop.

### 1947-1968: GROOMING A NEW GENERATION OF MINISTRY LEADERS

After World War II, health care in the United States changed. Hill-Burton funds expanded the number of hospitals, and demand for health care professionals and others to staff the facilities soared. At the same time, hospitals had difficulty hiring and keeping qualified personnel.

At the 1947 convention, the ministry changed the CHA bylaws to establish the position of executive director to supervise the CHA central office and to be accountable to the CHA board. Later that year, St. Louis University agreed to provide

faculty and facilities for CHA educational programs in exchange for the right to nominate two Jesuits to become the association's executive director and assistant executive director. Although no assistant executive director was appointed until 1966, Fr. John J. Flanagan, SJ, president, Regis College, Denver, was named CHA's executive director.

Fr. Flanagan, a progressive educator, focused on transforming CHA services to meet the needs for recruiting and training a workforce committed to the values of the Catholic health ministry. ■

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