

Nursing and the Ministry

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ursing and Catholic Health Care" is the topic of this issue's special section. No more timely or pressing a topic can be imagined. Catholic health care organizations, like others, find it increasingly difficult to come up with sufficient numbers of trained nurses. And since nursing is so vital a part of health care, it is no exaggeration to call the nurse shortage a crisis.

Our special section has come together under the guidance of Sr. Rosemary Donley, SC, RN, PhD, a member of CHA's Board of Trustees, and Julie Trocchio, RN, CHA's senior director, long-term care. The eight articles range widely, including Sr. Donley's own analysis of the crisis ("The Nurse Shortage and Our Ministry," p. 22), two prescriptions for solving it (Marjorie Beyers' and Mary Anne Willson's "The Nursing Collaborative," p. 49, and Elaine I. Bauer's and George F. Longshore's "Improving Recruitment and Retention," p. 54), and an exciting new look at 19th-century nursing sisters (Sioban Nelson's "Invisible Radicals," p. 27).

PORTRAITS IN COLLABORATION

Also in this issue, we begin a new series called "Portraits in Collaboration," a group of articles about local partnerships involving Catholic health care organizations, Catholic Charities agencies, and others. The focus in this issue is on St. Petersburg/Tampa, FL. Accompanying that article is one concerning the results of the 2002 joint study, undertaken by CHA and Catholic Charities USA, of collaborative projects.

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