



Diocese of  
Buffalo

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 1, 2017

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## Ascension Withdrawing from Sponsorship of Catholic Health System in Western New York

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ST. LOUIS and BUFFALO, New York (May 1, 2017) – Ascension, the largest nonprofit health system in the U.S. and the world's largest Catholic health system, has announced its intention to transition from sponsorship and corporate membership in Catholic Health System, an integrated healthcare delivery system in Western New York.

Since it was formed in 1998, Catholic Health has been jointly sponsored by the Catholic Diocese of Buffalo, Ascension and, more recently, Trinity Health, through its merger with Catholic Health East.

"Ascension has been honored to be part of the sponsorship structure of Catholic Health alongside the Diocese of Buffalo and Trinity Health," said Robert J. Henkel, Executive Vice President, Ascension, and President and Chief Executive Officer of Ascension Healthcare. "We are confident about the ongoing success of Catholic Health System in serving the needs of residents of Western New York under the continuing sponsorship of the Diocese and Trinity Health."

"We greatly appreciate the support we have received from Ascension since our system formed nearly 20 years ago," said Joe McDonald, President & CEO of Catholic Health. "As healthcare continues to evolve, however, so do the relationships we share with our corporate members and sponsors. This change will have no effect on our patients, associates or physicians, and will in no way diminish our faith-based mission to serve those in need, which will continue under the sponsorship of the Diocese of Buffalo and Trinity Health."

### About Ascension

Ascension ([www.ascension.org](http://www.ascension.org)) is a faith-based healthcare organization dedicated to transformation through innovation across the continuum of care. As the largest non-profit health system in the U.S. and the world's largest Catholic health system, Ascension is committed to delivering compassionate, personalized care to all, with special attention to persons living in poverty and those most vulnerable. In FY2015, Ascension provided nearly \$2 billion in care of persons living in poverty and other community benefit programs. Approximately 160,000 associates and

36,000 aligned providers serve in 2,500 sites of care – including 141 hospitals and more than 30 senior living facilities – in 24 states and the District of Columbia as part of Ascension's Healthcare Division. Through its Solutions Division, Ascension subsidiaries provide a variety of services and solutions including physician practice management, venture capital investing, investment management, biomedical engineering, clinical care management, information services, risk management, and contracting through Ascension's own group purchasing organization.

### **About Catholic Health System**

As one of the largest health systems in Western New York, Catholic Health's 9,000 associates and 1,600 physicians are part of a healing ministry dating back more than 160 years. Today, with more than \$1.1 billion in operating revenue and nearly \$115 million in charity care and non-reimbursed services, Catholic Health serves nearly half a million patients and residents across its network of hospitals, subacute and long term care facilities, primary care centers, home care agencies, and diagnostic & treatment centers. Its hospital network includes Kenmore Mercy Hospital, Mercy Hospital of Buffalo, Mount St. Mary's Hospital and Sisters of Charity Hospital and its St. Joseph Campus. Among its many services, Catholic Health is known for excellence in cardiac care, stroke services, women's services, orthopedic services, bariatric surgery, vascular surgery and rehabilitation services. Along with its member physicians at Catholic Medical Partners, Catholic Health integrates the most advanced clinical and information technology with a tradition of medical excellence and compassionate care to carry out its mission to reveal the healing love of Jesus to those in need and to lead the transformation of healthcare in Western New York.

### **About Trinity Health**

Trinity Health is one of the largest multi-institutional Catholic health care delivery systems in the nation. It serves people and communities in 22 states from coast to coast with 93 hospitals, and 120 continuing care locations — including home care, hospice, PACE and senior living facilities - that provide nearly 2.5 million visits annually.

The organization was formed in May 2013, when Trinity Health and Catholic Health East officially came together to strengthen their shared mission, increase excellence in care and advance transformative efforts with our unified voice. With annual operating revenues of \$15.9 billion and assets of \$23.4 billion (as of 3/22/16), the new organization returns almost \$1 billion to its communities annually in the form of charity care and other community benefit programs.

Trinity Health employs more than 97,000 full-time colleagues, including 5,300 employed physicians. Committed to those who are poor and underserved in its communities, Trinity Health is known for its focus on the country's aging population. As a single, unified ministry, the organization is the innovator of Senior Emergency Departments, the largest not-for-profit provider of home health care services — ranked by number of visits — in the nation, as well as the nation's leading provider of PACE (Program of All Inclusive Care for the Elderly) based on the number of available programs.

### **About the Diocese of Buffalo**

The Diocese of Buffalo is as vast as it is diverse. It has 163 parishes and missions, utilizing 197 worship sites; 35 Catholic elementary schools; 15 Catholic high schools; and seven Catholic colleges and universities; and Christ the King Seminary, in East Aurora. The Diocese of Buffalo is a founding Member and Religious Sponsor of Catholic Health System. Another significant ministry of the diocese is Catholic Charities, which meets the needs of almost 135,000 Western New Yorkers each year. Catholic Charities of Buffalo helps people of all ages, races, faiths and walks of life every day. Professional staff members are available to listen, and begin to assess needs in a responsive and compassionate manner. Catholic Charities strives to empower individuals, families, children and couples to live healthy and meaningful lives. Through its parishes, Catholic schools, Catholic Charities, Catholic Health and countless other ministries, the Diocese of Buffalo lives out a mission of charity and service each and every day in the eight counties of Western New York.

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