



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 20, 2017

Contact: Julie Sellers, manager, marketing communication
Benedictine Health System
218-786-2370 or julie.sellers@bhshealth.org

Benedictine Health System CEO attends international health conference at Vatican City

[Duluth, Minn.] Rocklon B. “Rocky” Chapin, FACHE, president and CEO of the Benedictine Health System, attended the XXXII International Conference Addressing Global Health Inequalities held November 16-18, 2017, in Vatican City. Chapin was one of 350 participants from health care organizations across the world convening to discuss world health disparity. The presenters alone represented 22 countries.

This international discussion was held at a conference center within Vatican City and started with an Italian Mass celebrated in the Chapel of the Chair at St. Peter’s Basilica. The conference was kicked off by Cardinal Peter Turkson, President of the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace in Vatican City, and included a welcome from Pietro Parolin, Secretary of the State of the Vatican.

As a result of the work of the conference, five key recommendations were drafted to work toward world health equality. They include:

- Advocate for “universal health care” as a basic human right with a focus on preventative care, public health and reducing poverty.
- Declare medical care as fundamentally a “non-profit” enterprise.
- Advocate for access to clean water for all people.
- Catholic health care organizations must work together.
- With support of the International Confederation of Catholic health care institutions, globally match organizations with more resources with those organizations with less to address inequities.

“I was honored to have been invited to attend this conference,” said Chapin. “The recommendations reflect centuries of Catholic Social Teaching that focus on preserving and extending ‘The Common Good’ for all people. The conference affirmed the right of all people to basic health care services – not just a privilege afforded to the wealthy.”

The Benedictine Health System is a Catholic, non-profit health system based in Duluth, Minn., sponsored by the Benedictine Sisters of St. Scholastica Monastery, Duluth. BHS has served the health care needs of aging adults through the services of its short-term care and rehabilitation centers, long-term care centers and assisted and independent housing in Minnesota, Illinois, Missouri, North Dakota and Wisconsin since 1985. Additional information may be found at www.bhshealth.org.

#####