Plans Move Forward to Have Mount St. Mary’s Hospital Become Part of Catholic Health

Since plans were first announced in April to have Mount St. Mary’s Hospital and Health Center join Catholic Health, the two organizations, along with Ascension Health, have been laying the groundwork for the governance, religious and government approvals needed to move forward with the affiliation plans. Both Catholic Health and Mount St. Mary’s are members of Ascension Health. Catholic Health is also a member of the Diocese of Buffalo and Trinity/Catholic Health East.

This week, Catholic Health filed a Certificate of Need (CON) with the New York State Department of Health to begin the government review and approval to assume ownership of Mount St. Mary’s Hospital. “Following this filing, associates and physicians within Catholic Health and Mount St. Mary’s should begin to see more visible activity as we work together to develop a detailed transition plan,” said Joe McDonald, president & CEO of the Buffalo-based health system.

This work will include organizing task forces around various functional areas and creating work groups made up of Catholic Health and Mount St. Mary’s leadership. “The groups will be conducting meetings and gathering information to plan for the numerous details that need to be addressed as we come together as one unified system,” McDonald continued.

Pending CON approval, the organizations remain hopeful that the transfer of Mount St. Mary’s from Ascension Health to Catholic Health will be completed by mid-2015. “These activities will take several months to complete, as the various work groups carry out their assignments,” said Judith Maness, President & CEO of Mount St. Mary’s Hospital. “While we have a lot of work ahead of us, we have a good team in place and support from everyone involved.”

As previously announced, Mount St. Mary’s Nursing Care Residence, Our Lady of Peace, will remain part of Ascension Health Senior Care.

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Mount St. Mary’s Hospital and Health Center
Mount St. Mary’s Hospital and Health Center (www.msmh.org), a member of Ascension Health, is a 175-bed community hospital in Lewiston, New York. Mount St. Mary’s Hospital is committed to sustaining and improving the health and spirit of individuals and communities with special attention to the needs of those who are poor and vulnerable. Mount St. Mary’s team of healthcare professionals includes 1,200 employees, more than 200 physicians and 250 volunteers, working with the latest technology, the most current programming, and the very best of care. Other facilities include the 250-bed Our Lady of Peace Rehabilitation and Nursing Care Residence, the Center for Sports Medicine and Rehabilitation, and the Neighborhood Health Center.

Catholic Health
Catholic Health (www.chsbuffalo.org) was formed in 1998 and is sponsored by the Diocese of Buffalo, the Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul, and the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas, New York, Pennsylvania and Pacific West Community. Its corporate members are Ascension, the Diocese of Buffalo, and CHE Trinity Health. As one of the largest health systems in Western New York, 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, diagnostic & treatment centers, adult homes, and rehabilitation centers. Catholic Health’s 9,000 associates and 1,400 physicians are part of a healing ministry dating back more than 160 years. Among its many services, Catholic Health is known for excellence in cardiac care, stroke services, women’s services, cancer care, bariatric surgery, vascular surgery, rehabilitation services, and orthopedic care.

Ascension Health
Mount St. Mary’s is a member of Ascension Health (www.ascensionhealth.org). Ascension Health is transforming healthcare by providing the highest quality care to all, with special attention to those who are poor and vulnerable. Ascension Health, which is part of Ascension, provided $1.5 billion in care of persons living in poverty and other community benefit programs last year. It is the nation’s largest Catholic and nonprofit health system. Its Mission-focused Health Ministries employ more than 155,000 associates serving in more than 1,900 sites of care in 23 states and the District of Columbia.