

April 27, 2017

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Lourdes Bids Farewell to Daughters of Charity

The Greater Binghamton Community is invited to join Lourdes Hospital, part of Ascension, in bidding farewell to the Daughters of Charity in the Binghamton area. On Friday, May 5 at noon, a mass will be held at St. Thomas Aquinas Church, 1 Aquinas Circle in Binghamton followed by a community reception.

In November, 1924 the Corbett property at 169 Riverside Drive was purchased in order to establish Our Lady of Lourdes, a 25 bed hospital to serve the Binghamton community. The Daughters of Charity, pioneers in Catholic health and hospital service, arrived in Binghamton in August of 1925 to manage the hospital. Over the past 92 years, 365 Daughters of Charity have served in health care, education, parishes, and social ministries throughout Binghamton and the surrounding communities.

Last year, The Daughters of Charity, Province of St. Louise, decided to relocate from the Binghamton community and Lourdes Hospital. The Sisters that are currently assigned to the provision of spiritual care and parish work in the community have been reassigned to Albany and Washington, DC.

This change is an acknowledgement of the Daughters' confidence in the well-prepared, spiritually centered lay and community leaders sustaining and moving forward their mission of healing. It enables the Daughters to place Sisters in ministries where there is the greatest need, which is what they have done since they were founded by St. Vincent de Paul and St. Louise de Marillac in the 17th century. Additionally, living in community with other Sisters is part of the Daughters of Charity life in the Church. Sufficient numbers of Sisters living and working together is necessary to maintain this integral part of their community life.

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This decision by the Daughters of Charity, Province of St. Louise, will not affect Lourdes remaining a Catholic, faith-based organization or the services Lourdes provides in the community.

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About Lourdes:

Our Lady of Lourdes Memorial Hospital, in Binghamton, NY is part of Ascension, the largest non-profit healthcare organization in the US and the largest Catholic healthcare organization in the world. Lourdes is dedicated to spiritually centered, holistic care which sustains and improves the health of individuals and communities. Lourdes is committed to serving all persons with special attention to those who are poor and vulnerable.

The main hospital campus includes an Ambulatory Care Center, Breast Care Center, a Regional Cancer Center and numerous specialty practices. Reaching beyond these boundaries, Lourdes has established a network of primary care physicians at 12 convenient sites throughout the region and the Lourdes at Home and Hospice Programs which care for patients in their homes and various nursing facilities. The Mission In Motion Mobile Mammography van takes cancer screening services out into the community, making health care accessible to rural populations.

About Ascension:

Ascension (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 FY2016, Ascension provided more than \$1.8 billion in care of persons living in poverty and other community benefit programs. Ascension includes approximately 150,000 associates and 36,000 aligned providers. Ascension's Healthcare Division operates 2,500 sites of care – including 141 hospitals and more than 30 senior living facilities – in 24 states

and the District of Columbia, while its Solutions Division provides a variety of services and solutions including physician practice management, venture capital investing, investment management, biomedical engineering, facilities management, clinical care management, information services, risk management, and contracting through Ascension's own group purchasing organization.