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***Treasuring Our Franciscan Roots***

***While Planting New Seeds with Ascension***

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**Opening Song: Gather Us In**

**Reverend Scott Winters, Board Certified Chaplain**

*We are the young, our lives are a mystery*

*We are the old, who yearns for your face*

*We have been sung throughout all of history*

*Called to be light to the whole human race*

*Gather us in the rich and the haughty*

*Gather us in the proud and the strong*

*Give us a heart so meek and so lowly*

*Give us the courage to enter the song*

*Give us to drink the wine of compassion*

*Give us to eat the bread that is you*

*Nourish us well and teach us to fashion*

*Lives that are holy and hearts that are true*

**Call to Reflection**

**Linda Bronersky, Vice President, Mission Services**

**John Oliverio, President and CEO - Wheaton Franciscan Healthcare:** We are here today to honor our deep connections to our Franciscan Heritage entrusted to us by our Wheaton Franciscan and Felician Sisters. There have been seeds of Mission that have taken root over the years in responding to the needs of the time. Our Wheaton Franciscan Healthcare's Mission, much like an oak tree, has grown deep roots. Our roots have given birth to the gifts of valued workplace relationships and friendships that have crossed the boundaries of clinical sites and states. The gift of working side-by-side and doing what is ours to do, has enhanced our sense of Mission, propelling us to work and live with a deeper sense of purpose and meaning as physicians, leaders and associates. Mission is the foundation of who we are as Wheaton Franciscan Healthcare.

**Sr. Catherine Hanegan, SSM - Ascension Sponsor Member**: The healing ministry of Jesus is brought to life in our shared commitment to caring for all, with special attention to the poor and vulnerable. Through our ministry, we extend compassionate and exceptional care to those we serve across the continuum, whether they be in hospitals, ambulatory care centers, clinics, transitional care facilities, home care and hospice or in system administrative settings.

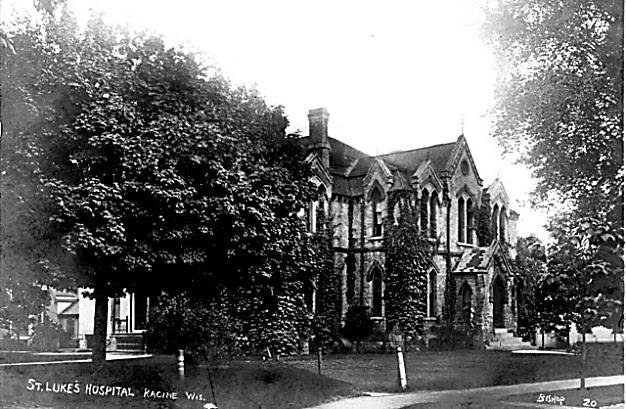
**Susan Boland, President – Wheaton Franciscan Healthcare South Market:** We have come to understand that in doing all that is ours to do; we become part of the healing ministry. Our *“ministry hearts”* have been formed by our relationships with one another and with the communities who have looked to us for health and healing.

**John Oliverio, President and CEO - Wheaton Franciscan Healthcare:** Let us take a few moments to recall the story of our beginnings here in the South Market. As you listen, pay attention to the close similarity to the earlier times when our Sisters were beginning and building the ministries that are now entrusted to us.

**Remembering Our Roots**

**Jim Kruse, Manager, Customer Service, Environmental Servces:** In 1879, three Franciscan Sisters arrived in Milwaukee, Wisconsin on a mission to provide nursing care to the community. Out of a small house on 4th and Walnut Streets on Milwaukee’s North Side, they began operating their health care ministry. At the same time, a group of Felician Sisters was also providing ministry and health care services to families throughout Wisconsin. Little did either group realize that their missions would link together and evolve over the next century into one of the region’s largest and most respected health care organizations.

**Steve Johnson, MD, Medical Director – WFMG:** In the 1880s as Racine became more industrialized, church officials in Milwaukee called on the Franciscan Sisters to start a hospital for the small town on Lake Michigan. St. Mary’s Hospital had its origins in 1882 in a renovated hotel. In 1883 a destructive tornado swept through the town. Many lost their lives and their homes. The injured received compassionate and skilled cared from the Sisters. The townspeople came to revere the Sisters and made significant contributions to them. Eventually, consent to build a new hospital was received and in 1889 this building was dedicated as St. Mary’s Hospital.



**Margaret Malnory, Admistrative Director, Women’s/Children’s Services:** More than 135 years ago, members of the Episcopal Church also saw a need in Racine for a hospital. They formed St. Luke’s Hospital in 1872, and operated in a leased facility until 1876 when the hospital trustees were able to erect their own building. In the first half of the 20th century, many additions were made to this building, and in 1952 the expanded hospital was renamed St. Luke’s Memorial Hospital.

**Michael Carter, Director, Medial Group Operations:** Over the intervening decades the Sisters expanded the structure and acquired the surrounding land. By the 1960s, the hospital was in need of significant updates to meet the needs of the growing community. In 1977, the new St. Mary’s Medical Center was opened on Spring Street and has grown into a sprawling campus.

**Carol DiRaimondo-Decker, Director, Rehabilitation Services:** As the areas expanded, so did the need for health care. In 1984, the Wheaton and Felician systems, each began providing home health services, which are now offered under the name of Wheaton Franciscan Home Health and Hospice.

**Jerry Hardacre, MD, Chief of Staff:** With a dedication to serve and a vision that was ahead of its time, the sponsors, hospitals, and community leaders recognized that they needed to come together to fulfill a shared purpose for future generations. St. Luke’s Memorial Hospital and St. Mary’s Hospital officially affiliated under the same parent corporation in 1991 to form All Saints Healthcare. All Saints Medical Group began in 1994 with the consolidation of the Racine and Kurten Medical Groups into All Saints Healthcare. These expansions into the ambulatory care setting have brought primary care and specialty services to communities across the Racine and Kenosha communities.

**Sr. Melanie Paradis, OSF, Provincial Councilor - Wheaton Franciscans:** The partnership we share was formed by those whose shoulders we all stand upon Our Wheaton Franciscan and Felician Sisters with lay partners were visionary leaders who recognized how working together served the needs of the people for over 140 years. Throughout these years, we have celebrated how mission has always been at the heart of our connections across the ministries.

**Sr. Clarette Stryzewski, CSSF; Executive Liaison – Felician Services, Inc.**: All of us have placed great value on our relationship with one another. Our Franciscan Mission and Heritage along with our Catholic Identity has been foundational to how we know ourselves, have come to know and love each of you, and how we have been known and highly respected in the communities we serve.

**Timothy Glover, Senior Vice President, Mission Integration – Ascension Health:** We recognize the depth of Mission that is so alive in you. We are grateful for your strong commitment to the healing ministry of Jesus and we look forward to welcoming your gifts in our shared ministry. We look forward to working together as we continue our journey to become One Ascension. Like Wheaton, the Ascension Mission also nurtures relationships with God, self, and others. In becoming part of Ascension Wisconsin, you will continue to make an impactful difference in the lives of people in your hospitals, clinics, across home care and hospice, and in your communities. Ascension will be so much richer as result of your gifts and talents.

**Reflective Reading: Ephesians 1:3-10 (adapted)**

**Paul Mason, Chief Operating Officer**

**Mary Ouimet, Chief Nursing Officer**

Blessed be God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,

Who has blessed us with all the spiritual blessings of heaven.

He chooses us. Chooses us in Christ

To be faithful partners serving and loving.

Such is the richness of the grace which

God has showered on us

In all wisdom and insight.

God has let us know the mystery of God’s purpose.

The hidden plan God so kindly made in Christ from the beginning

To act upon when the times had run their course to the end.

**A Reading from Philippians 1:4-6, 8-11**

**Sister Alice Drewek, Assistant General Directress, Franciscan Sisters, Daughters of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary**

I pray always with joy in my every prayer for all of you, because of your partnership for the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began the good work in you will continue to complete it until the day of Christ Jesus. And this is my prayer for you: *“that your love and knowledge may increase ever more and that you continue to grow in every kind of perception, to discern what is of value.”*

**Reflection Question:**

* How will your Franciscan roots help you to do even greater things in the future?

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**Expressions of Gratitude**

**Sister Pat Norton, OSF, Chair, Sponsor Member Board - Wheaton Franciscans**

**John Oliverio, President and CEO - Wheaton Franciscan Healthcare**

**Hope for Our Future**

**Sister Lois Bush, Interim Chief Mission Integration Officer, Wisconsin Ministry Market – Ascension Health**

**Prayers of Blessing**

**Paul Mason, Chief Operating Officer**: That we always remember the first Sisters who planted seeds of caring for the human spirit and how this care gave birth to the Wheaton Franciscan System.

**All**: May we stand proudly on the shoulders of all those extraordinary women who have co-created sacred sanctuaries of healing and safe dwelling.

**Mary Ouimet, Chief Nursing Officer:** We pray in gratitude for the gift of our Wheaton Franciscan Sisters whose presence in our lives will always remain a gift that sustains and nurtures us.

**All:** May we be guided to do what is ours to do with our new Ascension Sponsor and partner in ministry.

**Sung Response:** I give thanks to God, I give thanks to God. Upon my every remembrance of you.

**Daniel Ross, MD, Vice President, Medical Affairs:** We trust that our roots in this Franciscan Mission and Heritage, which inspire and guide our work every day, will deepen as new seeds of mission and new heritages are nurtured.

**All:** May we trust in God’s presence as we continue to let go, create new dreams, and believe in new possibilities.

**Ed Harasim, Vice President, Mission Services:** We pray in gratitude for our new Ascension Sponsors, whose members will guide and lead us as we participate in the healing ministry of Jesus.

**All:** Togetherwe will walk hand in hand to become a gentle, peace-filled, joyful, and compassionate healing presence for all those we serve and for our world.

**Sung Response:** I give thanks to God, I give thanks to God. Upon my every remembrance of you.

**Tracy Rogers, Senior Vice President – Ascension Health**: We pray for our patients and their caregivers who face many unknowns as they seek healing and wholeness.

**All:** May the God of Comfort, ease their suffering and plant in their hearts the promise of healing.

**Vince Caponi, Interim Wisconsin Ministry Market Executive – Ascension Health**: We pray for all associates whose caring sprit assures we compassionately care for one another every day.

**All:** May the God of Compassion be with us as we do what is ours to do.

**Sung Response*:*** I give thanks to God, I give thanks to God. Upon my every remembrance of you.

**Closing Remarks**

**Susan Boland, President – Wheaton Franciscan Healthcare South Market**

**A Moment of Recognition**

**Susan Boland, President – Wheaton Franciscan Healthcare South Market**

**Terri Rocole, Senior Vice-President of Mission-Wheaton Franciscan Healthcare**

**A Franciscan Blessing**

**Wheaton Franciscan Sponsors**

**Sponsors All**

May the Lord bless you. May the Lord bless you.

May the Lord keep you. May the Lord keep you.

May He show His face to you May He show His face to you

and have mercy. and have mercy.

May the Lord bless you. May the Lord bless you.

May the Lord keep you. May the Lord keep you.

May He turn to you May He turn to you

His countenance. His countenance.

And give you peace. And give you peace.

May the Lord bless you. May the Lord bless you.

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***“Every seed we plant***

***is a tiny loving prayer in action.”***

***~Rowen White***



***In Partnership with the Felician Sisters***