



Mission Leadership

in Catholic Health Care





Are you called to be a mission leader?

The work is Christ's own healing mission.

Mission leadership is marked by a demonstrated grasp of both the complexities of health care as a business and the unique theological, moral and spiritual expectations placed on a health care provider that claims Catholic identity.

This is challenging work in an industry where health care is more often understood as a commodity that is sold to those with the resources to pay for it. This work calls for leaders who recognize and respond to a call to service — a call that comes from God and “raises an echo in their hearts” — that is lived out and resounds in the communities in which these leaders work.

How do you become a mission leader?

There is no typical path.

Mission leaders are women and men; lay, religious and ordained; individuals with management, pastoral experience or clinical experience, or experience in social service or other healing ministries. Some have recently earned their master of divinity degrees or another graduate degree in theology; some are embarking on a second career in ministry after working in nursing, social work or business management.

All come steeped in a deep understanding of Catholic social teaching and tradition and the desire to help those working in Catholic health care integrate the mission and values of the organization into every interaction with patients, families, caregivers, co-workers and the community at large.

What's needed for mission leadership?

No one comes to this ministry with all of the core competencies, but most come with many, and all are able and willing to continue their own formation in the service of their ministry.

While some came to the field with a graduate degree in theology needing to learn the business and operations of Catholic health care, others already had degrees and experience in business and receive theological and moral formation through certificate and degree programs designed for second careers.

“Mission leaders are fortunate to have a role in serving, and we do that humbly, lovingly and wisely.”

JAMES A. SIFUENTES
Vice President, Mission/Community Development
Saint Anthony Hospital
Chicago

◀ Pictured on the front cover

JENNA HERRON
Regional Vice President, Mission Integration
St. Francis Health Center
Topeka, KS



Explore how your talents can make the difference in Mission Leadership
WWW.CHAUSA.ORG/CAREERS/CAREERSINMISSION

Mission leaders ensure that core commitments are kept.

Make your work the task of connecting health care providers with a vital, relevant, faith-based understanding of mission.

Mission leaders are called to collaborate with the providers with whom they work to advance the core commitments of Catholic health care.

As the Church's ministry of health care, we commit to:

- + PROMOTE AND DEFEND HUMAN DIGNITY
- + ATTEND TO THE WHOLE PERSON
- + CARE FOR POOR AND VULNERABLE PERSONS
- + PROMOTE THE COMMON GOOD
- + ACT ON BEHALF OF JUSTICE
- + STEWARD RESOURCES
- + ACT IN COMMUNION WITH THE CHURCH

The women and men in Catholic health care are involved in something greater than the day-to-day work inside brick and mortar institutions: they share in sacred experiences that allow them to extend care and compassion to patients, their families and other caregivers, all within the complex context of today's health delivery system.

To learn more about mission leadership, go to:

WWW.CHAUSA.ORG/CAREERS/CAREERSINMISSION



“The mission leader is uniquely responsible not only for allowing the faith of others to fill their work with meaning, but also, to help shape the spirituality of the entire organization.”

DARREN M. HENSON, Ph.D.

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