

To: Sisters, Clergy, Friends  
Subject: Franciscan Ritual  
Date: 11/22/99

## We Remember and We Celebrate A Ritual of Thanksgiving

For all that has been  
For all that is  
For all that will be  
O Lord, we give thanks

In December, the co-sponsors of the Tri State Health System – the Franciscan Sisters of the Poor, the Sisters of Mercy, and the Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth will have a ritual of remembrance. The theme of the ritual is “Where your treasure lies, there will be your heart.” Within the ritual we will recall our journey past and present and symbolically place our memories in a treasure chest.

If you wish to participate anonymously in the treasure chest, write down your memory, place it in an interoffice envelope and send it to **Memories c/o the Pastoral Care Office at your site**. The pastoral care ministers will empty the contents of the envelopes into a treasure chest that will be part of the ritual at your site. You are invited to attend the ritual most convenient to you; so watch for the local announcement.

12/6	Warwick	10 a.m. 11 a.m. 1:30 p.m. 2:45 p.m.	MAC SACH SACH Schervier
12/7	Warwick	7:30 a.m.	SACH
12/16	Suffern	11 a.m. 1:30 a.m.	GSH [Board of Trustees] GSH
12/17	Port Jervis	10 a.m. 2 p.m.	MCH MCH

In January the chest of memories will be presented to Sisters of Bon Secours and the Sisters of Charity at a ritual that the Bon Secours Health System is sponsoring.

*Please write your memory below and on the back of this sheet, place it in an interoffice envelope and send it to Memories c/o the Pastoral Care Office at your site*

**What is it you treasure in your healing ministry over the years with the Franciscan Sisters, Sisters of Mercy, Sisters of Charity? At this site? In Tri State?**

For all that has been  
For all that is  
For all that will be  
O Lord, we give thanks

# Tri State Health System, Inc.

255 Lafayette Avenue · Suffern · New York 10901-4869 · (914) 368-5000

---

November 22, 1999

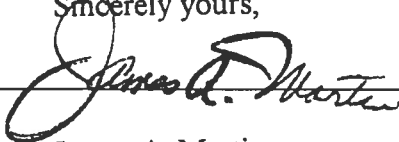
Dear Friends,

The co-sponsors of the Tri State Health System – the Franciscan Sisters of the Poor, the Sisters of Mercy, and the Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth invite you to join them in a ritual of remembrance. The theme of the ritual is “Where your treasure is, there will be your heart.” Within the ritual we will remember and celebrate the past and the present, as we prepare for a new relationship with the Bon Secours Health System.

I invite your participation. I have attached a schedule that will help you select the one most convenient in time and place for you. Light refreshments will be served.

Please call my office (914) 368-5304 and let my assistant know which ceremony you will be attending. I look forward to seeing you.

Sincerely yours,



James A. Martin  
President and CEO

Attachment (1)

**Tri State Health System**

**Member - Franciscan Health Partnership, Inc.**

Good Samaritan Hospital · Good Samaritan Home Health Care · Franciscan Care Center  
McAuley Primary Care Center · Mercy Community Hospital · Mercy Manor · Mt. Alverno Center  
St. Anthony Community Hospital · Schervier Pavilion

➤ For Franciscan Sister of the Poor Bernadette Sullivan, Sister of Mercy Patricia Wolf, and Sister of Charity of Saint Elizabeth Barbara Conroy who risked to partner in creating a regional Catholic healthcare presence we know as Tri State Health System. Let us pray to the Lord.

*All: THANK YOU, GOD OF OUR JOURNEY.*

➤ For the dedication of all now engaged in the enterprise of fulfilling -- with understanding and loving hearts -- the Mission and the healing ministry of Jesus and for all people of good will who journey with us. Let us pray to the Lord.

*All: THANK YOU, GOD OF OUR JOURNEY.*

O God, we thank you for the Franciscan Sisters of the Poor, the Sisters of Mercy, and the Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth and for the gift they continue to be for the church. They have provided for people who are poor and are an inspiration to all who strive to live the call of the gospel. Bless all who embrace their legacy of love and care for those in need. We ask this in Jesus' name. *All: AMEN.*

Compassionate God, guide us on our journey. Bless and heal our memories. Bless our work, forgive our failings, and give generous increase to our efforts, so that, by your Providence, the Mission on which you have sent us will be faithfully fulfilled, and the human community we serve reconciled and nurtured. Sustain us along the divergent pathways to which you now call us. *All: AMEN.*

**CLOSING**

(Administrator.) We know that we have come to a point in our journey where our sponsors will continue the Mission along separate pathways. And so, we say good bye to our Franciscan and Mercy sponsors and friends and wish them God speed, as we in Tri State prepare to continue our journey with the Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth in partnership with the Sisters of Bon Secours.

(Sponsor response.)

**“WE REMEMBER AND WE CELEBRATE”  
A RITUAL OF THANKSGIVING**

FOR ALL THAT HAS BEEN

FOR ALL THAT IS

FOR ALL THAT WILL BE

O LORD, WE GIVE THANKS

TRI STATE HEALTH SYSTEM  
MEMBER - FRANCISCAN HEALTH PARTNERSHIP  
DECEMBER 1999

## WE REMEMBER, WE CELEBRATE

### WELCOME

Someone has observed, "Change is a constant in life." Today we mark yet another significant change in our lives.

Three years ago on September 26, 1996, the Franciscan Sisters of the Poor, the Mercy Sisters of the New York Region, and the Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth joined together to co-sponsor the Tri State Health System -- a regional relationship among the Catholic health facilities in Warwick, Port Jervis, and Suffern.

Throughout the 20<sup>th</sup> century, numerous trustees, administrators, employees, physicians, volunteers and community people have journeyed with the Sisters. Together they built and razed, renovated, and expanded, up-graded and phased out, up-sized and downsized, divided, relocated and consolidated the various facilities and services. And, in the last three years following the example of our predecessors, we have worked at creating a regional health system for the Tri State community. Through it all, the motivation has always been fidelity to the Mission in serving community needs?

Today we remember and we celebrate these historic developments and relationships. We are grateful for the richness of our history and heritage. And, because memories can be sacred moments that we welcome and honor, we are taking this time to remember and to celebrate. In particular, we remember and we celebrate our co-sponsors.

### CALL TO PRAYER

Let us begin our ritual by recalling that we are in the presence of God, who has journeyed with us. Let us take a quiet minute to offer our God due praise -- thankful for all that has been, is, and will be.

As we pray, a Sister from each congregation will light one of the three wicks on the single candle that represents our co-sponsored relationship. Compassionate God, our constant companion and guide, bless this gathering. We remember and we celebrate the life and work of the Franciscan Sisters of the Poor, the Mercy Sisters, the Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth and the people who journeyed with them at this site, in our region, and in partnership. May our memories heal

and reconcile us and make us proud of our diverse, yet unifying, accomplishments on behalf of the Mission and the communities we serve. May our memories energize us with a spirit of appreciation for what has been, and a spirit of gratitude and joy for what is. May our memories further engender in us a spirit of a hopeful anticipation for the diverging pathways upon which we are about to embark. Amen.

### SCRIPTURE

"Where your heart is, there will your treasure be." [Luke 12:22-34]

### REFLECTION

Our Journey (site specific; sponsor specific)

### A TREASURE CHEST OF MEMORIES

What is it you have come to treasure in your healing ministry in relation to the Franciscans, the Mercies, the Charities? At this site? In Tri State? In partnership?

*Note: Written memories will be put in a treasure chest that will be passed on to the Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth and the Bon Secours Sisters on January 24, 2000, as they ritualize a new partnership and a new beginning with the Tri State Health System.*

### LITANY OF THANKS

- > For the inspiration of the founders of the sponsoring religious congregations
  - > Francis and Clare of Assisi and Frances Schervier;
  - > Catherine McAuley
  - > Vincent de Paul, Louise de Marillac, Elizabeth Ann Seton and Mary Xavier Mehegan. Let us pray to the Lord.
- All: THANK YOU, GOD OF OUR JOURNEY.
- > For the Franciscan Health Partnership and its several area systems. Let us pray to the Lord.
- All: THANK YOU, GOD OF OUR JOURNEY.
- > For the vision and legacy of the Sisters, the trustees, administrators, employees, physicians, volunteers, and community people who began -- and sustained for many years -- Catholic healthcare in our region. Let us pray to the Lord.
- All: THANK YOU, GOD OF OUR JOURNEY.