

Catholic Health Association of Saskatchewan 104 - 3502 Taylor Street East, Saskatoon, SK S7H 5H9
P 306-955-CHAS (2427) blake@chassk.ca www.chassk.ca

Annual CHAS Convention Best Opportunity for Fellowship and Learning about Mission



Submitted by:
Brian Martin
Executive Director
Mont St. Joseph Home
Prince Albert, SK

Shortly after arriving at Mont St. Joseph (MSJ) Home, I received an important piece of advice from Sister Marie of the Sisters of the Lady of the Cross. The Sisters founded MSJ Home. **She urged the Home to create a culture of learning and “provide staff with the opportunity to learn – and have fun – together.”**

I had already discovered there was NO funding provided in our baseline budget for education, training and orientation. None. Imagine.

Thank goodness we had a foundation who believed that learning for the MSJ team should become an initiative it supports. Sister Marie was elated with this news; her order became a generous donor of the Foundation as have so many others in our community.

Through the Foundation, MSJ sends strong delegations to the CHAS Convention. When it's in Saskatoon or Regina, we average 12-14 individuals who represent our governance, support service, care, volunteer and leadership.

At the 2019 convention in Prince Albert, we sent 52 delegates--including our Elders--where

they listened to speakers present on what has always been CHAS' focus: mission, values, ethics and compassion.

Annually, the convention is simply one of the best gatherings a health care provider could attend. Registrants leave the annual event with a renewed commitment to serve. Their hearts are filled. There is a sense of companionship and trust.

Our MSJ family also has fun at the convention. We travel and room together. We build our library with the resource material available. We celebrate our faith. We learn about Jesus, the health care provider. The results are amazing and our multi-disciplinary teams learn about our history and culture as a faith-focused organization committed to those we serve.

These experiences reinforce the importance of learning opportunities for all disciplines within our organization if we truly aspire to live our mission.

Upon reflection, we appreciate even more the wisdom of Sister Marie who encouraged us, so many years ago, to create a culture of learning and fellowship. Thank-you, Sister Marie. Truly, we are blessed.

**Details about our 2020
Convention in Moose Jaw inside!**



Catholic Health
Association of Saskatchewan

The Compassion of Christ Compels Us

What distinguishes Catholic hospitals and care homes from their public partners?

What are the opportunities and challenges that arise when we embrace our Catholic identity?

Our keynote presenters will offer us ideas to help us discover how our day-to-day work can be enhanced when we understand what Pope Francis meant when he said that we should, “work and ask for the grace to build a culture of encounter”.

Brochures and promotional material will be mailed out and on-line by May 2020.

Our keynote presenters:



Sr. Teresita Kambeitz is an Ursuline of Prelate who teaches theology around the world. She received national recognition with the 2018 Higgins Award for Excellence in Canadian Catholic Education. She was a key member of the Sisters Legacy Project.



Dr. Megan Engel completed her doctorate at Oxford as a Rhodes Scholar. Her research explores biological self-assembly. She is now at Harvard on a Schmidt Science Fellowship researching the intersection of machine learning and biophysics.



Dr. Christopher De Bono is the Vice President of Mission, People and Ethics for Providence Health Care (PHC) in Vancouver. His research has been featured on CBC's IDEAS and he is passionate about why Catholic health care must be mission driven.



Dr. Gordon Self is the Chief Mission & Ethics Officer for Covenant Health in Alberta. He was a member of the team who developed the Health Ethics Guide. Gordon is a published author and novelist. You can find out more about his novels at www.drgordonself.com.

HEALTHY 2020 VISION

Seeing our Mission Clearly

Catholic Health Association of Saskatchewan
ANNUAL CONVENTION
OCTOBER 22 - 23, 2020
HERITAGE INN, MOOSE JAW, SK



For more information or with questions regarding registration:
Office Phone: 306-955-CHAS (2427) | Website: www.chassk.ca



Bishop Gerry Weisner and Archbishop Don Bolen (L.) bless the altar and chapel at Trinity Manor at Westerra in Regina.

Our Lady of the Prairies (R.) is an original rug-hooking donated to the chapel by Regina artist, Louise Tessier.



DIRECTOR'S CUT

Blake Sittler

During a training session I attended, we were given a sheet of paper with the numbers 1-100 scattered randomly over the page. We were given twenty seconds to circle as many numbers as we could in numerical order. Most of us only got to 8 or 9.

We were then told there was a pattern: the paper was divided into four equal sections and the numbers were written starting in the top left quadrant going clockwise.

When we did the same test with this new information, most of us got to 80 or 90. We were able to do this because we were taught what to look for and it was not as random and chaotic as we thought. We improved our efforts tenfold!

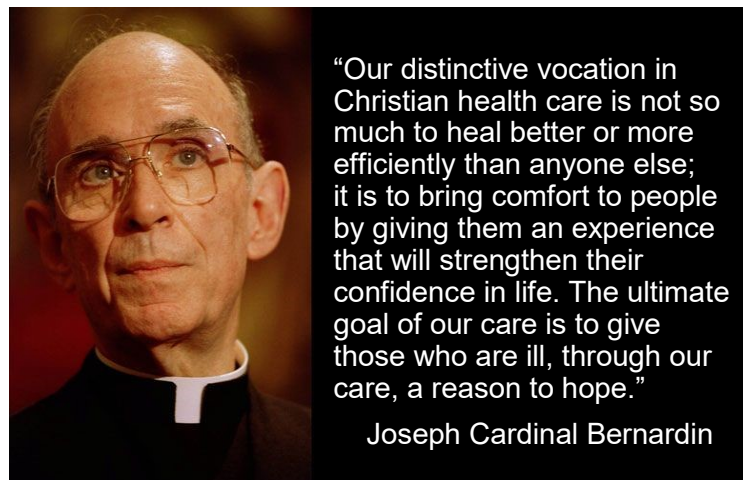
I have asked many people in Catholic health care, "What is the special character of our hospitals and care homes?"

Some who have come from the public health care system have said, "There is something special here but I can't put my finger on it."

Unfortunately, if we can't name and articulate what makes Catholic health care special, how do we measure it? How do we celebrate it? How do we promote it?

Our convention in October 2020 is an opportunity to gather together and celebrate and grow what makes our organizations places that are truly mission-driven; places where respect, dignity, and healing happens everyday. In short, how do we nurture what Pope Francis calls a "culture of encounter" in our work?

We may know great Catholic healthcare when we see it but we will see more of it when we know how to celebrate and promote it!



A Farewell Message from Retiring President of CHAC, Michael Shea

It has been a privilege to be involved with Catholic health care for almost forty years. My work in Catholic health care began in rural Alberta when a Sister of Providence of St. Vincent de Paul called me to leave my career path in public accounting to work in their hospital. The Sisters' mentorship formed me in the mission and values of Catholic health care.

I quickly realized that the care the Sisters offered was profound in its intention, compassion, and unequivocal desire to heal. **They saw each patient as an individual, someone sacred, created in the image of God.**

As we all well know, there are very few Sisters involved in our work today. While the type of formation I enjoyed at that time no longer exists, the ministry thrives! Lay leadership in Catholic health care, such as Emmanuel Care, continue to be purpose driven, guided by the unwavering, deeply faithful commitment of the legacy of the Sisters and the healing ministry of Jesus Christ.

The CHAC is a network of Sponsor organizations, a collective of entities that have the over-arching responsibility to steward the healing ministry of Christ across Canada. Together, the Sponsors ensure effective stewardship and accountability of Catholic health organizations, coordinate initiatives that create a national impact, provide leadership in our Canadian health care system, and facilitate generative thinking about what is possible for the future.

As I prepare to leave the role of President of CHAC, I look back on my 40 years of working in local, provincial, and national communities of Catholic health care, I have seen tremendous transition: from helping the Sisters with their work to leading health care in the Church; from an association of member organizations that simply had a common purpose to a collective of sponsors/agents of the Church working together to further the healing ministry; from being defensive and fearful about our existence to being confident of our value and impact as strategic partners within the Canadian health care system.

One of our most recent initiatives in CHAC was crafting the Awaken message—four pillars that characterize Catholic health care. We believe in a calling to serve that recognizes the whole person and the fundamental link between spirituality and healing. We cultivate a culture of encounter that honours those receiving care and those providing care are on a healing journey together.

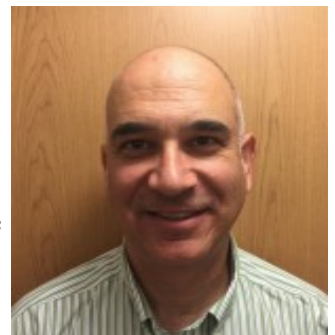
We believe in social justice where people's voices are heard and every person has the ability to thrive in community. We are leaders, pioneers, and innovators, strengthening the Canadian health care system to be more responsive and sustainable.



We have not just survived—we have thrived—through huge challenges over our 400-year history. Working together in the CHAC, in tandem with our provincial and local partners, will enable us, as our Awaken message proclaims, to “be courageous, resourceful, and confident in taking risks to meet needs.” **God bless our mission!**

CHAS is happy to announce that **Gary Goldsand** has been hired to step in for Dr. Mary Heilman during her maternity leave.

Gary comes to us from the John Dossetor Health Ethics Centre in Edmonton where he was a Clinical Ethicist and an Assistant Clinical Professor.



He is an award-winning and highly respected teacher and has published dozens of articles. He will start in March 2020.

Welcome aboard, Gary!