

Wholeness ~Wellness

# Wisconsin Parish Nurse Coalition

Special Interest Group of the Wisconsin Nurses Association



Volume 8 Issue 2: May 2009

## Salutations from the WPNC Chair

As I contemplate what I will write about for my contribution to our WPNC newsletter, I want to take a moment and wish each and every one of you a Happy & Blessed Nurses Week. National Nurses Week has been designated as May 6th – May 12<sup>th</sup> in 2009.

When I think of Parish Nurses (Faith Community Nurses) celebrating National Nurses Week I think about what it is, that we do. Our roles of health educator, health advocate, health counselor, referral agent, integrator of faith and health, developer of support groups and trainer of volunteers reminds me of the importance and continued need for this special practice area of professional nursing for the physical, emotional and most importantly spiritual well being of those we serve.

When I reflect on Jesus' call to service and ministry in the Sermon on the Mount, (Matthew 5 1:12) I am reminded about our call as Registered Nurses to parish (faith community) nursing. I believe that we truly represent the call of Matthew's Sermon on the Mount.

Sister Mary Elizabeth O'Brien in her book, Spirituality in Nursing – Standing on Holy Ground discusses spirituality and the roles of the parish nurse in the chapter, Parish Nursing: Caregiving within a Faith Community. It is here that the I

found the Beatitudes for Parish Nurses as follows:

### Beatitudes for Parish Nurses

Blessed are parish nurses who care for the poor, for theirs is The Kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are parish nurses who mourn for parishioners lost, they will

Be comforted.

Blessed are parish nurses who visit the isolated and elderly, For they will inherit the land.

Blessed are parish nurses who advocate for marginalized clients, For they will be satisfied.

Blessed are parish nurses who minister to those in pain and suffering,

For they will be shown mercy. Blessed are parish nurses who bring peace to patients who are anxious

And afraid, for they will be called children of God

Blessed are parish nurses who suffer misunderstanding for the sake of

Their ministry, for they will see God.

Blessed are parish nurses who comfort and care in the Lord's name, for

Their reward will be great in heaven.

(Courtesy of Mary Elizabeth O'Brien, Spirituality in Nursing Standing on Holy Ground Second Edition, 2003 Jones and Bartlett – Publishers)

### THANK YOU!!!

Waukesha Memorial Hospital ProHealth Care for funding the printing, labels and mailing of the 2009 WPNC Newsletter!!

### Inside this Issue:

Welcome WPNC Steering Committee Chairs: Jennifer, Mary, Peggy.....	2-3
Celebrating The Joy in Journey..	3
Education Opportunities.....	4
There Is A Season.....	4
The Lord Has Called Me.....	5
Get My People Moving.....	6
Parish Nurses Case Manage ED High Utilization Patients....	6
WPNC Mission, Vision, Goals.....	8

### WNA Celebrates 100 Years 1909 - 2009

#### Rich Past, Bright Future

**Kick off:** The Pfister Hotel, Milwaukee, WI

**Date:** October 22-24, 2009

**Grand finale:** The Monona Terrace, Madison, WI

**Date:** October 7-9, 2010



Wisconsin Parish Nurse Coalition Newsletter Submissions Welcome!!!

This quarterly publication is made possible through the efforts of Publication and Communications Committee. It is written by, for, and in honor of Parish Nurses and those interested in Parish Nursing.

**PLEASE submit your articles, reflections, education opportunities by Saturday, July 26** to Dorothy Flees @ 9522 County Road T, Marshfield, 54449 or [dorothy.flees@tznet.com](mailto:dorothy.flees@tznet.com).



I have also included in this writing a picture of Florence Nightingale. Florence too felt the call to nursing, “Inspired by what she took as a [Christian divine](#)

[calling](#), experienced first in 1837, and later throughout her life, Florence announced her decision to enter nursing in 1845.” ([http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Florence\\_Nightingale](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Florence_Nightingale)) Florence continues to be an icon and role model. As we venture into the 21<sup>st</sup> century I think it is important to bring with us, those who have traveled before us.

With spring upon us, and summer to follow, I wish you all a blessed season of health and wellness as you continue in your professional practice of parish nursing.

~~Kris Wisniewski

*Editor's Note: Please welcome Jennifer Soika, Mary Mauer, and Peggy Weber to the WPNC Steering Committee. WPNC invited them to “tell their story”. Enjoy!!*

**Jennifer Soika**  
Co-Chair  
WPNC Conference  
Planning  
Committee



Hello, my name is Jennie Soika, and I have recently started working with Mary Mauer as the Conference Planners for the WNA Parish Nurse Pre-Conference on Thursday, October 22, 2009.

When I graduated from the Milwaukee County School of Nursing in 1979 I had never heard of Parish Nursing. My nursing career started out in the fast paced, adrenalin pumping areas of ICU, ER and Flight For Life at Milwaukee County General Hospital. I received my BSN in May 1986 from the

Medical College of Wisconsin's RN completion program. At some point I began to sense something missing in the midst of my work with families in crisis, dealing with trauma and death in a trauma center setting. So when my husband showed me an article he came across about Parish Nursing, a spark ignited. The realization began to take hold that there was a venue that allowed for spirituality as a dimension of nursing, and I wanted to be a part of that.

I attended Phase I of the Parish Nurse Prep Institute at Marquette in March 1999, and completed Phase II in May 2000. I started as a Parish Nurse at my home parish, Mother of Good Counsel for 10 hours/month with a small stipend. In April of 2001, I started as a Parish nurse for Waukesha Memorial Hospital at a large Catholic congregation, St. Leonard in Muskego. With a congregation of 5,000 members, 500 of them over the age of 65, my practice continues to grow.

Some of the highlights of my practice that have evolved and have been achieved with dedicated volunteers in the Health and Wellness Ministry are:

- Bereavement/ Prayer Shawl Ministry
- Visitation to the Homebound/ Sick
- Purchase of an AED with annual Healthsaver AED classes
- Annual Safety Sunday – Health fair for children/families centered around summer safety issues
- Annual Flu Clinic and Health Fair – focuses on Adult Health issues
- Education events: Advanced Directives, Healthy Lifestyle Classes

My previous conference involvement includes a presentation in La Crosse in October 2002 on “Cholesterol Counseling Using a Covenant Tool” and in 2006 in Appleton on “Application of DIARY documentation”. I also work on the Education Committee

Parish and Community Outreach Nursing Department with ProHealth Care.

I reside with my husband of 23 years in Milwaukee. We have 3 grown children who are in college and beyond finding their way in this world. We consider ourselves “free birds” as opposed to “empty nesters”, and are pursuing travel and hobbies such as photography and wine tasting.

It is a privilege to be in this leadership role with the WPNC as Conference Planner, and I look forward to working with Mary and organizing a pre-conference program that will be relevant to all of the parish nurses in Wisconsin. Though we are in various phases of parish nursing, we were all called to this ministry and it is important to take the time to reflect and remember why. We hope to address this in the pre-conference program.

So mark your calendars for Thursday October 22<sup>nd</sup>, in Milwaukee and read about the highlights of the conference in the accompanying article.



**Mary Mauer**  
Co-Chair  
WPNC  
Conference  
Planning  
Committee

Hello, my name is Mary Mauer. Jennie Soika and I are the Conference Planners for the WNA Parish Nurse Pre-Conference on October 22, 2009.

I graduated with my BSN from UW-Milwaukee in 1977. Initially I worked at St. Joseph Hospital in Marshfield in a step-down unit for the cardiac ICU, after which I worked at St. Joseph's Hospital in Chippewa Falls in their ICU. When my husband and I moved to Madison, I worked at University Hospital in the surgical cardiac ICU and then in the Emergency Department. We moved to rural

for a year where I worked at Morrison Community Hospital in their Skilled Care Unit and as the second shift Emergency Room nurse. We returned to Wisconsin in 1986 and I returned to ER Nursing at Waukesha Memorial Hospital. In 1998 I completed Phase I of the Parish Nurse Prep Institute at Marquette University in Milwaukee and in 1999 completed Phase II.

I accepted my first Parish Nurse position with Waukesha Memorial Hospital in a large Catholic Church and was there for seven years. Currently I am serving St. Bartholomew Episcopal Church in Pewaukee.

St. Bartholomew has a very active Refugee Ministry for whom I coordinate medical and dental care. Two other accomplishments at St. Bartholomew include the development of a community Senior Ministry that has been identified as "best in practice" by the Milwaukee Episcopal Diocese and the development of a Bereavement Ministry.

I presented at the WPNC Preconference Day in 2002 on the establishment of a Bereavement Ministry and in Texas at the Community of Hope International Conference on grief in 2008. I have facilitated retreat days for Parish Nurses, women's groups and lay pastoral caregivers.

On a personal note, I have been happily married to my husband, Ron, for 30 years. We live in Delafield, which is about 20 miles west of Milwaukee. God has blessed us with two sons, Adam and Eric. Adam is a sophomore at UW-Madison majoring in Biochemistry and is pursuing a career in medicine. Our youngest son, Eric, is graduating from high school in June and will also be going to UW-Madison in the fall, majoring in engineering. I enjoy reading and quilting in my free time.

I was a member of the WPNC Preconference Planning committee in 2000 and 2001 and am once again excited to be a part of the WPNC leadership team.



**Peg Weber**  
**Secretary**  
**WPNC**  
**Steering**  
**Committee**

I'm Peg Weber and can't believe I am going to be secretary! I got a D in English many years ago! But I love Parish Nursing and anything I can do to support us all is a primary concern for me right now. I am an old three year graduate from St. Mary's Nursing School in Madison, graduated from Edgewood Colleges Undergraduate and Masters in Nursing programs. In 1997 I took the Marquette's PN program and the Coordinators program from Viterbo College.

After volunteering for two years at my home parish, Father Runde decided to join St. Mary's and Meriter Hospitals Partnership Program. For six years I was able to parish nurse in two congregations four days a week. Then five years ago I moved into the Coordinator position here at St. Mary's and needed to end my position at St. Bernards. So today, I Coordinate for 16 hours per week, Parish Nurse at St. Pats for 16 hours a week and facilitate Children's Coping Groups the other eight hours a week.

What really stands out in my practice is my palliative care work and group work that I do in the parish. Having been a Psychiatric nurse for thirty years and facilitating cancer educational groups since 1985, I have been pulled to continue that work in the parish. Group work comes naturally to me and I love looking at the whole and working with the whole. I have had 14 student nurses with me over the years, doing their Community clinical from the University of Wisconsin school of nursing. These young students have had more than a few "aha" moments and have left with an

understanding of total patient care. I think we all have to have a vision of how we can get our parish nursing message out. We must be professionally responsible and take a leadership role for helping nurses to understand the value of treating the whole patient and family. Anytime we have the opportunity to teach others and share our passion about what makes a difference in our care, we need to do so. My vision for this committee is to keep us going strong... I just happen to have been a cheerleader for four years....so I hope to contribute my energy with out the cartwheels!

*Celebrating Joy In  
the Journey  
WNA Pre-Conference for  
Parish Nurses*

Mark your calendars for the WNA Pre-Conference for Parish Nurses on Thursday, October 22, 2009 at the Pfister Hotel in Milwaukee.

**Highlights of the day:**

- Rosemarie Matheus RN, MSN, will begin our morning with *Joy in the Journey*. Regardless of how long we have been a parish nurse, it's important to remember our calling to this ministry and to rekindle the passion.
- *Jest for the Health of It*, presented by Geri Heppe MS, Gerontologist, Director for Life Enrichment with Lutheran Homes of Oconomowoc will highlight the importance of humor in aging.
- Deb Ziebarth, RN, MSN, Coordinator of Community Benefit with ProHealth Care will give a short summary of the research *Parish Nurse perception of parish nurse training*.
- Claire Walchlie, TF CI, will lead us in Tai Chi after lunch.
- We working on speakers for a presentation on cultural diversity.
- We will end the day with a rededication and blessing with Rosemarie Matheus.

Please contact Mary Mauer or Jennie Soika for poster presentations.

And the Silent Auction items so far are: chocolate desires gift basket, pumpkin pie pan with lid, nature photo cards, waterford crystal candle holders, granny square afghan, small quilt, and a one night's stay at Isadora's Bed and Breakfast in West Bend.

For questions or contributions to the Silent Auction please contact Maryfran Crist at [mjcris@crtelco.com](mailto:mjcris@crtelco.com) or by mail at 132 S. Vermillion, Streator IL 61364.

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR  
2009 EDUCATION  
OPPORTUNITIES**

***Saved By Grace Freed To Serve  
The 17th Annual Concordia  
Conference for Parish Nurse &  
Congregational Health Ministries:***

May 27, 28, 29. Info: 262-243-4233 or [Carol.Lueders.Bolwerk@cuw.edu](mailto:Carol.Lueders.Bolwerk@cuw.edu)  
Concordia University Wisconsin.

***The Concept and Practice of  
Parish Nursing and  
Congregational Health:***

June 8-11 or September 8, 15, 22 & October 6  
(On-site & Off-site Opportunities).  
Info: 262-243-4233 or [Carol.Lueders.Bolwerk@cuw.edu](mailto:Carol.Lueders.Bolwerk@cuw.edu)  
Concordia University Wisconsin.

***Faith Community Nursing Basic  
Preparation Institute:***

Marquette University, Milwaukee. Info: Patrice Olin, 414-550-8519 or [patrice.olin@whfc.org](mailto:patrice.olin@whfc.org).

***Marion University Parish Nurse  
Program (Fond du Lac, WI):***

Info: Janet Wermes  
Parish Nurse Program Secretary  
1-800-2-MARIAN ext. 8094  
(920) 923-8094

[jwermes@marianuniversity.edu](mailto:jwermes@marianuniversity.edu)

Info: Louann Biddick  
Parish Nurse Program Director  
1-800-2-MARIAN ext. 6714  
(920) 926-6714

[lbiddick@marianuniversity.edu](mailto:lbiddick@marianuniversity.edu)

***Celebrating In The Joy of The***

***Journey:*** October 22 WNA Pre-Conference Parish Nurses. Pfister Hotel, Milwaukee. More Info: See related article in this issue!

**For Everything There  
Is a Season  
~A Day of Enrichment~**

On March 27, 2009 Viterbo University hosted a day of enrichment for parish nurses around the state. Rev. Dr. Deborah Patterson from the International Parish Nurse Resource Center (IPNRC) graced us with her presence and insight into the meaning of the statement: *For Everything There is a Season*. She revealed the connection between Florence Nightingale and Dr. Granger Westberg in their approach to wholistic care of the patient, the individual and the community as well. The historical review was inspiring. The very work set down by Florence Nightingale and Dr. Westberg continues to be carried out today through our work as parish nurses.

It was inspiring to hear the way in which Dr. Patterson supports parish nursing as an adjunct to the compassionate care of the church. Dr. Patterson is not a nurse, but she wanted to be sure that she communicated to us her strong affinity to nursing and her assessment of the deep connection in tending the spiritual needs of the patient as part of wholistic care. Dr. Patterson went on to help us define some of the major issues facing our congregations and its members through small group and large group discussions. The list is long, but not without commonality between congregations around the state. Some of the key issues listed were, economic crisis, mental health issues, access to healthcare, caregiver stress, loneliness, lack of resources and the list continued. In crisis or in response to the issues identified, Dr. Patterson helped us to see that we each have the ability to plant seeds of hope and healing through our ministry in every season and she

opened up ways in which we could continue and expand the use of scripture with our patients in every season.

After a lovely luncheon hosted by the Franciscan Sisters, we were given the opportunity to experience NIA (Neuromuscular Integrative Action) as directed by Randi Friedl. She explained the 13 joints of NIA and the positive energy present in our movement. Freedom of movement and support of the individual experience enhanced this activity. Randi is a great resource for information and instruction of NIA.

Dr. Patterson concluded the day with a report about the work being done through the IPNRC. Helen Wordsworth, Annette Stixrud, and Marabel Kersey, parish nurse educators, have been educating parish nurses abroad in Albania, United Kingdom, India, Pakistan and Guatemala. Parish nursing programs are growing in these countries with 30-35 nurses in attendance for the educational programs. In Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific Islands, parish nurses travel in vans serving the rural community. Currently, South Korea has 5 colleges teaching parish nursing. There are 60 parish nurses in the Bahamas. During the holidays the IPNRC sends cards out around the world and she was delighted in the positive response they received. She reported that Canada is updating their program and implementing a strong mentoring program. Parish nursing is strong and growing worldwide.

Recently the World Health Organization has proposed adding spirituality to their definition of health, which is very positive. Dr. Andy West will be taking over the research and education arm of the IPNRC. Mary Slutts is currently linking programs with churches in need of a particular program so that parish nurses will not have to re-invent programming. She will continue to develop programs for

in multiple congregations and is taking suggestions for program development. In regard to funding, she encouraged parish nurses to partner with their local health departments to formulate assessments of community need in preparation for grant allocations from the state.

The update from Viterbo in regard to the resource center development is that there has been an advisory board formulated and they have met to identify goals for bringing the resource center into reality. Currently they are in the process of developing a link from the Viterbo website directly to the IPNRC and hope to also create a list of events that might be of interest to parish nurses.

It was a day filled with information and inspiration. As parish nurses we have an opportunity to make a positive impact not only on individuals within our congregations, but with our communities locally, nationally, and internationally. We can begin to improve the healthcare system through every encounter. The message was clear; we must continue the great work of Florence Nightingale and Dr. Granger Westberg through parish nursing and the IPNRC is there to support us.

Tammy Koenecke, RN, BSN, PN  
Reedsburg Area Medical Center

**Recounting Stories:  
“The Lord has called me  
to be a Parish Nurse”**

First let me introduce myself to you. My name is Verna Benner Carson. I am a certified clinical specialist in psychiatric nursing. I have a Ph.D. in human development. I have a long time interest in the importance of spirituality in nursing. To that end I have worked since the 1980's to publish books and articles that address and integrate spirituality in nursing and have given over 100 seminars on various topics related to spirituality and nursing, i.e.,

forgiveness; faith and ethics; building depth in spiritual care; the spiritual journey of the elderly, just to name a few. My interest in parish nursing also goes back quite a few years. In fact I contributed the module on communication skills to the curriculum developed by the International Parish Nurse Group.

Dr. Harold Koenig is a Professor of Psychiatry at Duke University in North Carolina. Dr. Koenig has probably contributed the greatest amount of research on religion and health available to the health care community and beyond. He has written numerous textbooks on these topics and also speaks nationally on his work. As a faculty member and a clinician he actively promotes the integration of religion and health and is instrumental in the growing trend for medical schools to incorporate course work addressing religion, spirituality and health in their curricula.

Dr. Koenig and I are collaborating on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition of *Parish Nursing: Stories of Service and Care*. Our goal in this endeavor is to tell your stories and to convey the power of your experiences to churches and the health care community. We believe that you are pioneers in creating a role that may be a pivotal one in literally saving the health care system as we move into the new millennium. Health care costs and health care needs are skyrocketing; people are living longer; the number of individuals able to work and support a burgeoning health care system is shrinking dramatically. Currently there are five productive workers for every person receiving Medicare. By 2040 that ratio will shrink to 2 to 1! This is a pretty frightening picture.

Who will provide the care? Where will the elderly go? Will we see frail, sick elderly dying alone in their homes without care? Will people be turned away from nursing homes and hospitals? Will overwhelmed physicians fill the

gap in services? Or, will the church, represented by you, reclaim its role as an essential part of a wholistic healing ministry? Dr. Koenig and I believe that you and other nurses like you will be able to fill the gap in care. You have access to large numbers of potential volunteers who give generously of their time. They are motivated by their faith, a desire to serve God and others. With your broad background in assessment of health needs, provision of direct care, and teaching you have the necessary skills to train and mobilize these volunteers to provide meals, assist others in medication management, get to physician's appointments, and to provide the necessary link that completes the continuum that includes the church, the community & health care system.

We are requesting your participation as we undertake this project by completing a questionnaire. If you would prefer you can provide me with an audio tape of your answers or I can interview you by telephone. Please do not feel you are limited to the questions if there is additional information that you wish to share. You are participating in a valuable endeavor and we value your contributions. Upon publication you will receive a complimentary copy as our thank you for your assistance.

If you have any questions, I can be reached at:

Verna Benner Carson, PhD,  
CNSPMH, BC, 2612 Gunpowder  
Farms Road, Fallston, MD 21047  
410-803-1022 (Home Office);  
410-336-5408 (Cell-best number)  
E: [vcars10@comcast.net](mailto:vcars10@comcast.net)

Thank you for your consideration of our request. I look forward to hearing from you. Blessings!!

**Editor's Note:** Ruth Williams, Viterbo University, forwarded an e-mail with a request to consider participating in this project. Verna gave permission to print "the letter" she sends to parish nurses. **PLEASE PARTICPATE!!**



## Get My People Moving

This has been the third year that St. Bartholomew has participated in a church-wide program to enhance the physical, emotional, social, and spiritual health of the congregation. We began in 2007 with the six-week "Walk to Jerusalem" program that was from St. John Health System. The second year, 2008, our program was an eight-week "Walk to Ireland." (Ireland was chosen as this was the destination for the Youth Group Pilgrimage that year.) This year, 2009, we adapted our healthy lifestyle "walk" into a 12-week program that began the end of January at the Annual Parish Meeting and was concluded on Easter Sunday. This year's program was a hybrid of "Walk to Jerusalem" and "Get My People Going" from the International Parish Nurse Resource Center.

Each participant, adult and child, was given a booklet in which to "log" their miles. Miles were earned by making a variety of healthy lifestyle choices, such as drinking eight glasses of water per day, eating 6 to 8 servings of vegetables, eating appropriate serving sizes, getting adequate sleep, and exercising. Emotional healthy lifestyle choices such working toward family reconciliation and healing past hurts were worthy of "miles." Social "miles" were awarded for volunteer opportunities, working in food pantries, and visiting in nursing homes, the hospital or homebound. Spiritual "miles" were earned by participation in any number of small group studies at the church, attending church services, and time spent in prayer – individually and with family.

Each year these programs have been adapted in order to include our very youngest members. Parents are encouraged to award "miles" for children doing chores around the house such as making their bed,

walking the dog, taking out the garbage, helping with meal preparation, or setting the table. Children also could earn "miles" for doing homework without reminders, practicing piano, playing peacefully with siblings, and saying their bedtime prayers.

It was a pleasure to see the excitement of parishioners, especially the children as they logged their miles on a weekly basis. These miles were then collectively marked on a map that showed the distance the congregation collectively walked on their healthy lifestyle journey. There was some friendly competition between parishioners and between several of the church families. It was a fun and wonderful way to work together to encourage healthy lifestyles in our St. Bartholomew parish.

For more information about:

1. The Walk to Jerusalem – [www.stjohn.org/walktojerusalem](http://www.stjohn.org/walktojerusalem)
2. Get My People GOING – [www.parishnurses.org](http://www.parishnurses.org)

Mary Mauer R.N., Parish Nurse  
St. Bartholomew Episcopal Church  
Pewaukee, WI 53072

### **Parish Nursing used in a Multidisciplinary Team Approach to Case Manage Emergency Department's High Utilization Patients.**

Hospitals are challenged with patients that have inappropriate high utilization rates of the emergency department. A description of these patients fall into familiar financial categories: Medicare patients, Medicaid (Title 19) recipients who qualify because they fall below the Federal Poverty Guidelines, working poor, and self payers. "Working Poor" are at risk for homelessness because they live from pay day to pay day. They may have access to commercial health insurance but the high deductibles create avoidance of regular health care access. Self payers may be immigrants who do

not qualify for federal assisted healthcare for five years. Many of these patients cite the same reasons for visits, the lack of basic care sources. They may use the emergency department simply for routine care or when symptoms are acute due to lack of routine or regular care. Patients may complain that they do not have easy access to a primary care source for necessary regular chronic disease managed physician visits, which includes access to medications. Studies show that the patient with a chronic disease responds favorably to case management when more frequent visits with primary providers are facilitated and a multidisciplinary approach is used (*The Health Commons, Annals of Family Medicine, 2006*).

Mental illness is still another category. Due to the neediness of this population and coupled with state funding cuts, many individuals with emotional, behavioral health issues and chronic abuse problems find it easier to seek primary care services in the emergency department. Some patients simply lack the knowledge of where to find available and affordable health care services. Others are challenged with access barriers such as child care services, transportation, language, mobility, and financial.

In an effort to decrease inappropriate use of the emergency department, Waukesha Memorial Hospital identified emergency department high utilization patients through IS case finding and staff referrals. Care plans and a case management program were initiated during monthly patient review meetings. As expected, primary financial classes of these patients represented Medicare (37%), Medicaid (22%), commercial (15%), and self pay (20%).

As part of the multidisciplinary team approach, a parish nurse was given additional hours to case manage patients collaboratively with a social worker. The parish nurse provided wholistic care and

empowerment, and assistance with decreasing barriers. This unique nursing role is fluid and moved easily in and out of formal paradigms such as the hospital system, clinic or physician office, and home or social environments. Regular and frequent physician visits were encouraged and facilitated for patients with chronic disease. Other efforts included treatment standards among physicians and social service supports.

Outcomes:

- 64% of patients no longer had frequent visits after six months of the intervention.
- 40% were assisted in securing behavioral health and addiction services
- 36% were supported accessing more appropriate source of care, more frequently, and sustained (primary physician, pain management, dental care, physical therapy...etc.)
- 14% were referred for diabetes support
- 9% were assisted with skilled nursing facility placement
- 22% received medication assistance
- 14% received support in End of Life Care and transplant options
- 32% received assistance in securing insurance and/or income

Program Strengths included the multidisciplinary approach in providing individualized care and social supports which accessed internal and external health resources, working directly with primary care givers, and shared record keeping between the parish nurse, social worker, and clinics. Program challenges were the willingness of patients to accept interventions and change ED utilization and working with patients who had simply exhausted their resources or had untreated mental illness.

Deborah Ziebarth, RN, MSN

Community Benefit Manager/Parish Nurses/

Outreach Nurses and Hispanic Community HealthResource Center

Waukesha Memorial Hospital

**~~~~SAVE THE DATE~~~~**

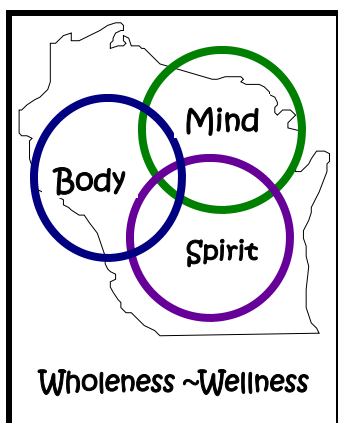
**WNA PRE-CONFERENCE FOR PARISH NURSES**  
***"CELEBRATING JOY IN THE JOURNEY"***

**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2009**  
**PFISTER HOTEL, MILWAUKEE**

**REDEDICATION & BLESSING WITH ROSEMARIE MATHEUS**  
**NETWORK WITH LONG-TIME & NEWLY-FOUND FRIENDS**  
**POSTER PRESENTATIONS**  
**GREAT SPEAKERS**  
**SILENT AUCTION**

**WATCH FOR REGISTRATION INFORMATION IN THE**  
**AUGUST ISSUE OF THE WPNC NEWSLETTER**

Wisconsin Nurses Association  
Wisconsin Parish Nurse Coalition  
6117 Monona Drive  
Madison, WI 53716-3995



## WISCONSIN PARISH NURSE COALITION

**Mission:** The WPNC will communicate a *caring* presence - locally, regionally, and statewide - while *preserving, supporting, and advancing* the professional practice of parish nursing.

**Vision:** The WPNC *unites and nurtures* the professional development and practice of parish nursing within Wisconsin.

**Goals:**

1. Facilitate connections between Parish Nurses throughout WI.
2. Promote high standards of practice among Parish Nurses.
3. Support collaboration/cooperation between and among Parish Nurses and other nursing colleagues
4. Provide a vehicle for communication of issues, education, and concerns of interest to Parish Nurses throughout WI.

### Wisconsin Parish Nurse Coalition Leadership\*

Kris Wisnefske, RN (Chairperson)  
Peg Weber, RN (Secretary)  
Sue Schaus, RN (Treasurer)  
Jennifer Soika, RN / Mary Mauer, RN (Conference Planning)  
Deborah Ziebarth, RN (Educational Development)  
Dorothy Flees, RN (Communications / Publications)  
Patti Varga, RN (Nominations)  
Katie Dykes, RN (Professional Development)

\* Elected every 2 years

### Information. . .

Contact Wisconsin Nurses Association: 608-221-0383 or 800-362-3959

Visit WPNC on the Web @ [www.wisconsinnurses.org](http://www.wisconsinnurses.org)

We welcome your comments and encourage contributions