



# Different faiths, one mission

“Show **mercy**  
and compassion  
[each person to all others].”

(Jewish faith)

“*Blessed are the merciful, for  
they will be shown **mercy.***”

(Christian faith)

“[One] who is not merciful to others,  
will not be treated **mercifully.**”

(Islamic faith)



## Heritage Celebration 2014

# Dedication

## **Dear Mercy Health colleagues,**

This week, the entire Mercy Health family will celebrate our first system-wide Heritage Celebration, acknowledging the contributions of our founders and remembering again all of the hard work that has built our ministry.

This is our first Heritage Celebration as a unified team with a common purpose and one name — Mercy Health. But there are many things about us that have never changed since our five founding religious communities embraced a healing ministry at the end of the 19th century grounded in their faith. We are unified behind values of excellence and compassion. We respect diversity and honor each market's special legacies and traditions, while recommitting to our common purpose to heal, ease suffering, care for those on society's margins and to make lives better — mind, body and spirit.

This Heritage booklet, a tradition in some markets, gives us an opportunity to understand our unity and celebrate our diversity.

We often allow differences to define us. We come from different backgrounds, go to work in different places, offer a wide variety of services. Different people come to us looking for care, comfort or healing. But we know that a mother having a baby or an adult needing a heart operation need the same thing — the healing, caring and compassionate touch that we have provided for centuries.

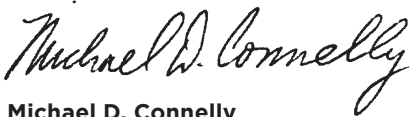
Consider a quilt. It's beautiful and provides welcome comfort. It's made from different fabrics. But concentrating on those differences risks losing the appreciation of the whole. In the same way, focusing on one market can obscure the beautiful patchwork of our system.

Human dignity and the sacredness of life are at the heart of what we do. We bind patients, residents, families, communities and caregivers with a common humanity. It is those shared moments and interactions in healthcare that unite us: The smile you get when you dab a cool cloth to a hot forehead, the call to an estranged family member who shows up for a dying patient's final goodbye, the deafening silence between a baby's first moments out of the womb and her first cries, or the colleague who assumes your shift so you can see your niece's volleyball game. The prayers and stories here are meant to capture those moments.

Please read and share this booklet. The stories and prayers here represent a variety of markets, those who come from a faith-based background and those who do not, and a wealth of life experiences.

Thank you for what you do each and every day.

In appreciation,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael D. Connelly". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a small dot above the letter 'i' in "Michael".

**Michael D. Connelly**

President and Chief Executive Officer, Mercy Health

# Our Values, Our Prayer

**COMPASSION** — O, God, the Compassionate One, help me to care for those in my care with a heart full of compassion and an attitude of love and concern for their well-being. Help me to use my gifts and skills to heal each person I meet this day in a caring and compassionate way.

**EXCELLENCE** — O, God, teach me what excellence means these days as I do my best in my work as part of a healthcare team. Help me to want to continue to learn new and better ways to do my work and help me to be willing to go the extra mile when necessary.

**HUMAN DIGNITY** — O, God, please give me the grace to see You in every person in my care this day. Help me to treat them in such a way that they will feel as if You are ministering to them. Help them to see You in my eyes, hear You in my voice, feel You in my touch and be healed as You use me as an instrument of healing.

**JUSTICE** — O, God, give me the wisdom to know when to exercise the justice You desire in my dealings with others. I pray that I may be a peacemaker who bases my decisions on a merciful and just way of treating others.

**SACREDNESS OF LIFE** — O, God, help me to really believe in the sacredness of life from its beginning to the end. Help me to be concerned for the life of all people no matter their race, age, culture, social standing and religion. Help me to appreciate the sacredness of my own life as I work to help heal the brokenness of others.

**SERVICE** — O, God, I want to be of service to all those You place in my path each day. Help me to serve others as You did, without demanding or expecting anything in return. Help me to serve others because in doing so I become more and more like You. Amen.

*Written by:*

**Sister Mary Thill, OSF**

Mercy St. Vincent Medical Center

# A Wedding

Our patient in our critical care unit was going to be transferred to hospice. The patient had a wish to see her son get married before she died. The plan was that when she arrived in hospice the next day, we would provide a ceremony for the woman with food and family around her.

After several hours, the family called the chaplains to say we had better get this wedding going...they were concerned our patient was not going to make it through the night. So our chaplain was called, rushed over to the critical care unit where our patient remained. Our Chaplain performed a beautiful ceremony at the bedside of our patient. Dietary provided food and a wedding cake and our dying patient had her final wish come true...to see her son married to the love of his life.

*Submitted by:*

**Sister Alex Justavic**

Mercy (Lorain)

# Our Non-understanding?

Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding. (Proverbs 3:5)

One night while on call for our family practice, I was awakened by our 4-year-old daughter with a “belly ache.” My exam revealed no urgent surgical issue, so I attempted some vocal analgesia and gentle paternal massage.

“Can’t you do anything else to help with this pain?” she cried. There went my pain management score with my most important patient.

“You’ll be fine,” I uttered as an attempt at comfort and empathy.

“God, He is a good dad, but I need your help right now!” she cried.

That night we both learned about trusting the Lord and the limits of our own understanding. May God always be your partner in life and healthcare.

*Submitted by:*

**Herbert A. Schumm, MD**

St. Rita’s Professional Services

# A Prayer for Caregivers

“Comfort, O comfort my people,”  
says your God. (Isaiah 40:1)

Here we are, Lord.

We seek your vision and strength.

We call upon your steadfast love.

For you are with us in our desire  
to care for and comfort your people.

Open our eyes to see distress.

Open our ears to hear sorrow.

Open our hearts to love patiently.

Open our lips to speak kindly.

Walk with us, Lord, and guide us.

Renew our spirits and bless our work.

Strengthen us to care for the sick.

Inspire us to see new horizons.

Fill our hearts with hope.

You have heard our prayer.

Amen.

*Written by:*

**Sandra Lucas**

Mercy Health (formerly Humility of Mary Health Partners)

# An Overdue Bill Paid 46 Years Later

I am privileged to serve as the president of St. Joseph Health Center and I am always honored to know that we are making a difference in the lives of those we serve. In April 2014, I received a check in the mail for \$1,000.00 for payment for a date of service 46 years earlier. Here is the letter we received.

## **To St. Joseph Hospital:**

In the 1968 summer I became sick driving west on the Ohio Pike in the vicinity of Warren. I pulled to the shoulder and stopped because I lost my equilibrium and couldn't drive. Fell unconscious asleep in the car until a state patrol car came and called an ambulance and took me to St. Joseph. The bill of my stay and medical attention came to \$750 but I could not pay it. Of course it has bothered me greatly and now that I have some \$ I am paying it much belated but better late than never and adding \$250 interest and in appreciation. Thanks infinitely with being patient with me. The Lord Jesus Christ bless St. Joseph especially and every one of you, likewise. Blessings and the very best.

We as healthcare professionals are often not aware of the impact we have on people whom we care for. This letter demonstrates how the legacy continues over the years. This is what we were meant to do and we are thankful.

*Submitted by:*

**Kathy Cook**

St. Joseph Health Center



# Bless Us

Lord,

Bless us with the wisdom and strength to live life  
with passion and reverence for all living things  
and with the gratitude for the gifts God  
has bestowed upon us so that neither are  
squandered or fleeting.

Not one moment wasted;

Not one breath void of awareness;

Not one thought without reflection.

May we hold these pursuits and all that life  
presents close to our heart and those  
we love closer still.

With great privilege and humility may our souls  
be revealed to inspire others to fulfill life's  
potential and the uniqueness of our humanity.

Amen.

*Written by:*

**Debbie Bloomfield**

Mercy Health

# Caring for One Another — Mind, Body and Spirit

I am a nurse at Humility House and I wanted to share a story about one of the residents here and my interactions with her. “Rose” lived here on the unit when I started working and I was fortunate enough to be her nurse regularly. About two years ago, Rose lost her sight.

On a weekly basis, Rose would go to the beauty shop and often I was the one to transport her back from getting her hair done. Whenever I would pick her up, I would remark about how nice her hair looked and what a good job the beautician had done. Then I would say, “Give me your hand, Rose, and I will let you feel your hair.” I would kneel down beside her wheelchair and when she gave me her hand I would put it on my head. I am bald. Rose would always laugh at my ruse, and say something like “You big kidder!” Week after week I would share some fun with Rose and week after week she would laugh.

About a year ago, Rose’s time on earth and at Humility House came to an end. A few months later, our spiritual care leader was preparing for our annual memorial service for the residents who have passed on and I shared my story about Rose and my bald head with him. At the memorial service, he shared the story with all the family members and guests in attendance. It brought tears to my eyes as Rose and I shared one last laugh with those around us. And it brought joy to my heart that, every day, we have the opportunity to make lives better – mind, body and spirit.

*Submitted by:*

**Jason McNeas, LPN**

Humility House

# Promise Prayer

Lord, God,

May your Spirit of Love nourish us as we make lives better — mind, body and spirit.

May your Spirit of Gratitude cheer us as we genuinely enjoy being of service.

And may your Spirit of Wisdom support us as we make healthcare easier.

Amen.

*Written by:*

**Mark H. Desmond**

Lourdes Hospital

# Another Day at the Office

I am a volunteer at Mercy Health — West Hospital and I love my job. Everyone I meet greets me with a smile and stops to say hello. I wear my Mercy Health — West Hospital badge and red vest with honor and pride. I connect with all people of all ages and from all walks of life. I do not see color, nor disability and I know no prejudice. My name is Gauge. I am a border collie and I am the Mercy Health — West Hospital therapy dog.

My day started by visiting an elderly lady. I heard the nurse say she had had a stroke. She couldn't move well but there was no need to tell me that, or that she lost her husband six months ago. I could already sense it the moment I met her. As I walked closer to her I could feel her sadness and her loneliness. The moment she saw me I could feel her yearning for my comfort. I placed my head on her lap, closest to the one hand she could move, and she gently touched my head. We sat together for a while, and I could feel her heart lifting with each steady caress. I knew she was unable to speak, but there was no need for words.

Although effortless, spreading joy is a full-time job. To ensure I'm at my best, I always make sure I get at least 12-14 hours of sleep a day, not to mention an occasional nap or two. In between patient visits, I continue to make a lot of new friends with my Mercy Health — West Hospital co-workers. I'm excited about being part of a team that provides the finest care to all of our patients here at Mercy Health — West Hospital. When you see me in the hallway, please be sure to say hello!

*Written by:*

**Diane Cucinotta, RN**

Mercy Health — West Hospital

# Prayer of Guidance

Holy, gracious God, we come before You today to bless, honor and thank you for all You have given us as healthcare workers in these busy and changeable times.

We honor and bless those who have come before us and have labored so hard and so long sharing in the healing ministry of Jesus.

We ask for continued guidance as we too minister to those broken in mind and body. Help us to do so with hearts full of love and respect for the least of our brothers and sisters.

Help us to use the gifts and talents You have given us to reach out to all those in need and give us the health, wisdom and knowledge to always serve those in our care with compassion, respect and dignity.

We ask this in Jesus name. Amen.

*Submitted by:*

**Sister Mary Thill, OSF**

Mercy St. Vincent Medical Center

# It's Not a Job; It's a Ministry

We are truly God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to lead a life of good deeds which God prepared for us in advance. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them. (Ephesians 2:10)

## **Dear Lord God,**

You have put your trust in us. Help us to use our hands as yours, offering comfort, love and support to your children. Help us to use our mouths to give words of encouragement and assurance in your heavenly peace. Help our eyes to see the hurt and confusion that a terminal illness can cause, and our hearts to know how to ease these hurts. Help our ears to hear the cries for help and our minds to know what is needed. Help us to treat your children as our own, caring for them as you do, until it is time for them to go home to your loving arms. Amen.

*Submitted by:*

**Theresa Medlin, RN**

Lourdes Hospital

# In Loving Memory

My father loved to volunteer here at Mercy McAuley Center. He found such joy in helping others and in helping me whenever I needed him. Dad became really good friends with one of our residents named Polly. When he would come in he would always check on Polly first. When I got married a group of my residents came to my wedding and I will never forget how happy Polly was to get to dance with my dad. There was such a strong loving friendship there.

In January of 2012 my dad was told he had leukemia and had only a short time to live. I remember he kept telling us all he needed to get better so he could get back to volunteering. He was such an amazing man, so strong. He fought for six weeks before he lost his battle and he went home to heaven.

A month after my father's passing Polly's health declined and she became a hospice patient. One evening I heard her from the activity office yelling for me. I made my way to her bedside. "There you are!" she said. "Your father was just here, he's such a nice man. He told me everything was going to be Ok." I couldn't say anything but rub her arm and smile while tears built up in my eyes.

I believe my dad was there that evening, checking in on his special friend and in a way letting me know through Polly that everything was Ok. Polly didn't know my dad had passed. I felt it would be too much for her to take as her health was declining.

Polly passed away not too long after that experience. I believe in my heart my dad with his huge loving heart was one of the first to greet her in heaven. I can hear them laughing together when I think about them.

That's why I am so thankful for our many volunteers who come and make a difference in the lives of our wonderful residents. Thankful for the blessings, love, and most of all the memories.

In loving memory of Donald White and his special friend Polly.

*Submitted by:*

**Jennifer Winert**

Mercy McAuley Center

# We Are One

Opening the cabinet door the chaplain looked at the stack of quilts, each one carefully pieced together with different colors, patterns and textures. Each one made for someone the quilter will never know. At The Jewish Hospital — Mercy Health these quilts are called comfort quilts. When patients near the end of life while in the hospital, a quilt is selected from the cabinet and offered as a gift to the patient. This is an offering of compassion and care, bringing a measure of home into the sterility of a hospital room. The scenes can be quite tender when a nurse or housekeeper or chaplain offers the quilt, unfolding it with the family, together smoothing the fabric and tucking in the edges over their loved one in the bed. This tenderness is filled with miracle, for each quilt seems to find its way to the person who was meant to have it. “These are the colors of my mother’s kitchen,” one daughter remarked. For a World War II veteran, there was a quilt with American flags. For the matriarch of four generations, there was a quilt in royal purple and gold. There may not be much mystery in this miracle after all. Although the quilter and patient are strangers, they are also connected in each stitch of love, compassion and prayer.

This is a story unfolding even before the fabric gets to a sewing machine. This is a quilting circle that does not meet. Mary leads the team, as she gathers the fabric, cuts the squares and purchases the soft fleece that will lay closest to the patient’s skin. She is the connecting point in a sewing circle, keeping everyone updated and equipped with what is needed to complete this labor of love. Each crafter works at home, making car and telephone as vital to their mission as a needle and thread. Those who can drive bring the materials to those who cannot. Those able to carry the finished quilts make the delivery to the hospital.

One woman prepares the blocks. Another sews the squares into a 45 x 63 quilt top. The top is matched to the fleece backing by another set of hands. One woman machine binds the quilt. Another ties the quilt together by hand. Each step holds a meaning and purpose both simple and profound. In the giving of the quilts there is also receiving a large measure of meaning, purpose and gratitude. For in the sewing and the choosing and the unfolding of a single quilt is an offering that gives back in larger measure. With each quilt is an offering of compassion and dignity for a patient, and an offering of meaning and purpose in the privilege of service. In all of this is miracle. We are one.

*Submitted by:*

**Bea Broder-Oldach**

The Jewish Hospital — Mercy Health



# Daily Prayer for Compassion

Dear Lord,

Look in my heart and help me to be,  
The kind of person You want me to be.  
Kind and caring, compassionate too.  
Help me Lord the whole day through.

*Written by:*

**Deann Moore, LPN**

Healthspan (Kent/North Canton)

# Letter From a Patient's Family

I want to thank you for being such a blessing to my father and me on Christmas Day. My dad died in the ICU on Christmas Day.

You were the lab tech sent to get his blood when the first tech had difficulty. I was literally thinking of you when you came to his door. You woke my dad and I up every morning to get his blood. You were always upbeat, cheerful and made his day brighter. As I sat in the ICU on Christmas morning, I was trying to think of your name. My thoughts were...I know that one girl would be able to get his blood.

When my dad saw you, being a big football fan, he threw up his hands to signal as a referee would...TOUCHDOWN!

I laughed and said "Oh thank God. Dad look who is here. Is that the touchdown you are signaling because you remember her?" He smiled so big. That was the only and last smile I saw on my dad's face. God bless you for making it happen. And as you know...you got his blood. First stick.

Thank you for being you and making losing my dad easier. Please accept this angel to remember us by. As you were such an angel to us.

*Letter from a patient's family:*

**Mercy Health — Anderson Hospital**

# A Prayer for Vision

There is joy and promise in new endeavors. Acts of creation and innovation inspire and excite us, propel us forward, and often give meaning and hope to the work that we do.

The value-based network that we seek across the state is more than just another strategic direction. It's more than just another business model. It is a creative vision, an innovative endeavor that operationalizes the philosophy of Mercy Health's founders in a unique way, a vision of radical access to human dignity and total commitment to sacredness of life.

We have to start with that vision. Because if we do, then the human person is always the beginning, the middle and the end of all that we do. With that vision, being patient centered is the only way we can be.

So Lord, we ask for your blessing upon our organization and the promise of access that it holds for so many. Bless us and all of the people who are touched daily by the great works of healing occurring in our midst.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Written by:*  
**Jim Armour**  
HealthSpan

# The Gift Shop

Early one evening, one of our gift shop clerks received a call from a patient, asking if we had eyeglasses for sale in the shop. She replied that we had “readers,” and asked what strength she would need. The patient did not know. The clerk, Kim, told her that she could come to the shop and try on all of them to see what strength she needed. The patient said that she was not able to leave her bed, or her room.

Kim waited on the remaining customers in the shop, hurriedly closed it and carried all of the different types and strengths of reader glasses up to the patient’s room for her to try. The patient picked out what she needed and was so very delighted!

I know that we probably lost some revenue in the shop during that time, but Kim’s compassion for the patient was priceless!

*Submitted by:*

**Lynn White**

Community Mercy Health Partners

# Be With Us on the Journey

Loving God, be with us on this journey as we recognize that You are our constant companion and support.

Keep us from taking ourselves too seriously so that we may energize others and be examples of joyful service.

Help us to be mindful that our work on Your behalf is not a particular destination but rather a lifelong journey in which we each contribute our individual gifts, talents and attitude.

Keep us on task so that we may contribute to the greater good rather than squandering our gifts and talents on petty self-interest.

Help each of us to be a servant leader so that we may model this leadership style for those who work with us.

Enable us to transcend ourselves so that we may better serve others. Let us set aside our personal interests to serve Your ministry which is our collective greater purpose.

Allow us to immerse ourselves in this world and in particular in this healthcare ministry, recognizing that we are immeasurably interconnected with all those providing healthcare to Your people.

Encourage each of us to also disconnect, to set aside sacred time each day to reflect, pray and simply be mindful of all we have to be grateful for.

Lead us to live in the present, knowing that all we really have is the current moment in which to live our lives. Keep us from wasting that moment by rehashing what is past and cannot be changed.

## ALL

Guide us, O God, to accept Your call to leadership, to look forward to our journey together, and to lead with faith and optimism so that we may be wise stewards of the healing ministry of Jesus.

Prayer inspired by the book: *Pope Francis: Why He Leads the Way He Leads*

**Michael Bezney**

Mercy Health

# Up the Hill

An elderly woman came to Mercy Health — Anderson Hospital via taxi cab. Just looking at her, you got the sense that she was pretty alone and somewhat apprehensive. The woman explained to one of the volunteers at the front desk that she had come in for a colonoscopy. The volunteer called the Ambulatory Surgery Center to verify her appointment. The center informed the volunteer that, unfortunately, through some scheduling issue, the woman's appointment had been cancelled. Upon hearing this news, the patient became visibly distraught and tears started flowing down her cheeks. She said, "I live alone and I have no one to help me. I took all the medicine to be ready for my procedure today and I took a cab all the way over here. I can't imagine having to do this all over again. I don't know what I'm going to do."

Recognizing that she couldn't just send this needy woman back home in another taxi, the volunteer quickly called the Ambulatory Surgery Center to explain that the woman was elderly, alone and in great personal distress, and could they please accommodate her somehow today? Even though it was inconvenient, the physician on duty kindly offered to perform the procedure if the woman could come over immediately. The volunteer was not able to transport the patient, so she called for assistance — but it could not be provided immediately. At that precise moment, an employee from the volunteer office was walking by and recognized the situation as urgent. She instantly stepped forward and offered to transport the woman "up the hill" to the Ambulatory Surgery Center. Extra, compassionate effort at three critical points — by the information desk volunteer, by the physician on duty and by an observant employee — combined to implement the heart of our Mercy Health Mission. The woman, as you can well imagine, was extremely grateful that Mercy was able to take care of her that day.

*Submitted by:*

**Diane Stone**

Mercy Health — Anderson Hospital

# Prayer for Healthcare Workers

May I be dedicated and caring today, Lord.

May my HANDS be competent and soothing.

May my SMILE be sincere and understanding.

May my MANNER be warm and professional.

May my HEART be compassionate and giving,

and may my SPIRIT be hopeful and uplifting.

*Submitted by:*

***The Link***

St. Rita's Medical Center nursing newsletter

[www.nursingpower.net](http://www.nursingpower.net)

# A Very Humbling Experience

I'm a busy mom to five amazing children, running a farm with my husband, who is currently experiencing some health issues. It's canning season and county fair week and I'm potty training the last of my crew. And let's not forget the amazing work I am a part of at the hospital.

I was walking down the inpatient corridor after seeking out the coffee pot for refueling, and a call light went off. Abiding by the 3 foot rule, I went in the room to see what the patient needed. We shared light conversation and as I was putting the patient back to bed I noticed her scripture book open with an inspirational message. The message really moved me and allowed me to reflect and find within myself God's blessing and peace. I believe I received more out of going into the room and helping this patient than I could ever imagine.

May God bless you in the midst of tension and stress, when nerves are taut and pressure to succeed is high. May you stop and experience the key of God's peace ever so gently unwinding and releasing the tightness and pressures of the day. May you rest in the knowledge that God receives you just as you are and invites you to do the same! God loves you beyond telling! May this realization bring you into a place of tranquility and self-care. May the God of all Peace bless you.

*Silver Linings blessings for SHADOW TIMES* by Maxine Shonk, OP

*Submitted by:*

**Holly McGowen, RN, BSN**

Mercy Memorial Hospital



# Mercy Well Child Pediatrics Welcome

Dear God, our Creator and Protector:

Please welcome our newest team member!

Protect her/him and all of us as we go about completing our duties.

Help us to preach by our actions and teach by our lives.

Help us to live with faith and not to blame You for the children who suffer.

Teach us to use our hands, feet, voices and votes that You have given us to help the little ones entrusted into our care.

We ask this in Your name as we “officially” welcome our newest team member!

Amen.

*Written by:*

**Deb Dunham**

Mercy Well Child Pediatrics

# A New Day

Each day offers a new opportunity to welcome our patients into the hospitals and outpatient services that form their healthcare home.

Each time we open the doors at The Jewish Hospital — Mercy Health, we stand on the shoulders of Jewish laymen, Joseph Alexander, Hyman Moses and M.E. Moehring. The year was 1850 when these first responders opened the doors to the healthcare needs of indigent poor of the Jewish faith, the first Jewish hospital in the United States.

Each time we open the doors of Mercy Health, we stand on the shoulders of women religious, Sister of Mercy Catherine McAuley and Franciscan Sister Frances Schevier. These pioneering women brought healthcare to immigrants and the poor, where there had been none.

Today, we stand together shoulder to shoulder — doctors, nurses, first responders, technicians of all kinds. We are pharmacist and social worker, caregiver and supplier, maintenance worker and driver. We are links in a chain of tradition, grounded in our common purpose and mission to reveal God's love for all, especially the poor and vulnerable, through compassionate healthcare.

Holy and Gracious God, You are the Great Healer, Holy Shalom, Source of our wellbeing. May our doors open wide in welcome of all who come in need of compassionate care.

Help us extend Your care through the skillful hands and compassionate hearts of those You call to serve, that within these walls, healthcare with compassion may be the balm of your mercy and love for the sick and injured.

Barukh Atah Adonai Eloheinu Melekh ha'olam shehekheyanu vekiyemanu vehigi'anu lazeman hazeh

You are blessed, O God, sovereign of the world, for granting us life, for sustaining us, and for bringing us to this day. Amen

*Submitted by:*

**Volunteer and Spiritual Care Services**

The Jewish Hospital — Mercy Health

# Forever Grateful

My beautiful mother was a nursing assistant at Mercy Memorial Hospital for many years. She dedicated her life to making a difference in the lives of others and serving compassionately. She fought many years through heart problems. At the end of her journey, three weeks before she passed, she was admitted to Community Mercy Hospice. On the wall by her room, my family and I were touched by this prayer that hung and we saw it several times a day through the stay. Each time we walked in, we each stopped and read this prayer. This prayer along with the staff who helped take care of her so passionately was read out loud at her passing in the hospital. This prayer became so powerful that it was read at the eulogy. I now have a print of it in my office and I start my work day reading it. My family and I will be forever grateful for how consistently my mother's life was treated with sacredness. That compassion allowed her to spread her wings and make her journey to heaven. This beautiful prayer has become one of our daily blessings.

God didn't promise days without Pain,  
Laughter without Sorrow,  
Nor Sun without Rain.  
But he did promise  
Strength for the day,  
Comfort for the tears and  
Light for the way.

*Submitted by:*

**Tonya West**

Mercy McAuley Center

In memory of my mom, Jo Ropp

# Story of Healing

Here is a story I would like to share.

She was a 36-year-old patient of ours with a husband and two small daughters. She had brain cancer. Each time she would come to our cancer center, she seemed to be getting thinner and more frail. She was ending her radiation treatments and was running out of options. On her last day of radiation, she came to the center with her husband to talk to the doctors about options and review her scans.

Diane, the nurse, noticed that the patient was weepy and was feeling hopeless. She decided to offer to pray with the patient and her husband and welcomed others in the department to pray with them. Most all our staff including secretaries and even the medical oncologist laid a hand on her and prayed over her, asking for The Great Physician to bring healing and comfort. It was a day I will never forget. A day I was, and continue to be, so proud to work for Mercy Health. In that moment, I knew I was working right where I belonged. Working with coworkers who care as much as I do, who care about treating the patient...mind, body and spirit.

*Submitted by:*

**Jen Henkle, RN**

Mercy St. Charles Hospital and Mercy St. Anne Hospital

# Fill up, Positively!

Lord, please help us fill our minds with  
positive thinking.

We sometimes get bogged down by gossip,  
politics and emotions.

We sometimes get angry and cry.

We sometimes forget to say sorry.

We sometimes forget to show gratitude.

We sometimes forget to be understanding.

We sometimes forget to be human.

Fill our minds with positive thinking.

Fill our hearts with warmth.

Fill our hands with kindness.

Fill our souls with love.

Let us be contagious in our positive thinking.

Let us be contagious in our warmth  
and compassion.

Let us be contagious in our generosity.

Let us be contagious in our love.

## Fill up, positively!

*Written by:*

**Tasha Turner**

Mercy Health

# A Celebration of Oneness

Good and Gracious God,

We gather as One Team, One Vision with grateful hearts  
for You have done great things for us throughout  
our history.

May we remain faithful to our call to extend the healing  
ministry of Jesus as our founders demonstrated with  
courage, strength and risk taking, serving You with  
faith and trust.

May we remain steadfast in our promise to make lives  
better — mind, body and spirit.

May we genuinely enjoy being of service.

May we uphold the dignity of each person we are  
privileged to serve,

To be a place of healing and hope,

To witness compassionate and tender care,

To serve all in justice and charity,

To do all things with integrity,

In our promise to make healthcare easier.

May we offer the communities we serve a future full of  
hope.

We offer our praise and thanks for all that has been and for  
all that is yet to come.

Amen.

*Written by:*

**Sister Marie Ruegg**

Mercy Health (formerly Humility of Mary Health Partners)



## HERITAGE CELEBRATION 2014

EDITION 15: DIFFERENT FAITHS, ONE MISSION

### Our Mission

We extend the healing ministry of Jesus by improving the health of our communities with emphasis on people who are poor and under-served.

### Our Values

Compassion, Excellence, Human Dignity, Justice, Sacredness of Life and Service.

### Our Promise

To make lives better—mind, body and spirit.  
To genuinely enjoy being of service.  
To make healthcare easier.



**MERCYHEALTH**

A Catholic healthcare ministry  
serving Ohio and Kentucky