



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**PITTSBURGH MERCY PARISH NURSE & HEALTH MINISTRY PROGRAM’S DINNER
& GATHERING FOCUSES ON FRUITFUL HEALTH MINISTRIES IN TRI-STATE AREA**
Attendees will define ways that faith communities can address vital health and wellness needs

PITTSBURGH (September 27, 2018) – The [Pittsburgh Mercy Parish Nurse & Health Ministry Program](#), part of [Pittsburgh Mercy](#) and [Trinity Health](#), serving in the tradition of the Sisters of Mercy, will host a **Dinner & Gathering, “Health Ministry: Success in Church and Community,”** on **Friday, November 9**, in the Sister M. Ferdinand Clark Auditorium, UPMC Mercy, 1400 Locust Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15219 (Uptown).

Registration starts at 5 p.m. The dinner begins at 6 p.m., followed by the program. The event is scheduled to conclude by 8 p.m.

The event will provide continuing education, resources, and networking opportunities to individuals who are interested in starting or enhancing health ministries in their faith communities, as well as in the general public. Attendees will consider what is working and not working within their ministries, how they can acquire needed resources and people, how they can rejuvenate an established health ministry, and what established programs can help them care for people in need within their faith communities.

The gathering is expected to draw parish and faith community nurses, registered nurses, licensed practical nurses, certified registered nurse practitioners, health ministers, clergy, pastoral and social ministers, physicians, health and social service professionals, licensed professional counselors, health care educators, nursing students, seminarians, and others interested in promoting whole-person health.

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Speakers for the event are:

- Kathy Conrad, MSN, MA, RN-BC, Faith Community Nurse, Zion Lutheran Church, Penn Hills
- Consuelo Cruz-Martinez, BA, Health Minister, with a philosophy and theology background, St. Catherine of Siena Parish, Pittsburgh (Beechview)
- Joyce Ott, DNP, CNS, SSHC, RN-BC, Faith Community Nurse, St. Francis Cabrini Parish, Aliquippa
- Kelly Rupp, BSBA, RN, Faith Community Nurse, Ingomar United Presbyterian Church, Franklin Park.

Speakers have no relevant financial or nonfinancial relationships to disclose in regard to Pittsburgh Mercy Parish Nurse & Health Ministry Program.

Upon completion of the symposium, participants will be able to:

- Describe ways to approach pastors, congregants, and community members in need and to serve as a resource to them.
- Identify strategies to develop, encourage, and sustain a positive health ministry team.
- Define ways the church/faith community can identify and address vital needs of those within the surrounding community.
- Explore practical examples of volunteer team recruitment to provide whole-person health and wellness.

The cost is \$40 for registered nurses who wish to receive continuing education credits* and \$30 for those who do not want credits. The cost for undergraduate nursing students, seminarians, religious, and clergy is \$20. Dinner and free parking in UPMC Mercy's Locust Street Parking Garage will be provided to all participants.

Overnight accommodations are available at the Martina Renewal Center, 5244 Clarwin Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15229 (West View) at a reasonable cost. For details, contact Sister Donna Smith at 412-931-9766 or at <http://martinacenter.com/contact-us/>.

Registration is accepted by U.S. mail only. Seating capacity is limited. Early registration is encouraged. Registration ends **Friday, October 26, 2018**. To register, visit <https://www.pittsburghmercy.org/faith-communities/education/#dinner-and-gathering>. For more information, contact the [Pittsburgh Mercy Parish Nurse & Health Ministry Program](#) at 412-232-5815 or email ParishNurse@pittsburghmercy.org.

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**The University of Pittsburgh Medical Center (UPMC) is accredited as a provider of continuing nursing education by the American Nurses Credentialing Center's Commission on Accreditation (ANCC). Participants who attend the entire session and complete an evaluation form will be awarded a certificate and 1.5 CEs. UPMC and ANCC do not endorse any commercial products as a result of the CE activity.*

About the Pittsburgh Mercy Parish Nurse & Health Ministry Program

Established in 1991, the [Pittsburgh Mercy Parish Nurse & Health Ministry Program](#), part of [Pittsburgh Mercy](#) and [Trinity Health](#), serving in the tradition of the Sisters of Mercy, was the first parish nurse program in Southwestern Pennsylvania. The program integrates faith and health, has served more than 4,000 health care professionals and laypersons who volunteer in their faith communities, and has commissioned more than 400 faith community nurses and health ministers through the "Foundations of Faith Community Nursing" Preparation Course. To learn more about the Pittsburgh Mercy Parish Nurse & Health Ministry Program, or to make a donation in support of its important work in the community, visit www.pittsburghmercy.org.

About Pittsburgh Mercy

[Pittsburgh Mercy](#), a member of [Trinity Health](#), serving in the tradition of the Sisters of Mercy, is a person-centered, population-based, trauma-informed community health and wellness provider. Pittsburgh Mercy is one of the largest employers and the only Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic in Southwestern Pennsylvania. Pittsburgh Mercy includes Bethlehem Haven, McAuley Ministries, Pittsburgh Mercy Behavioral Health, Pittsburgh Mercy Community Health, Pittsburgh Mercy Intellectual Disabilities Services, Pittsburgh Mercy Parish Nurse & Health Ministry Program, Pittsburgh Mercy's Operation Safety Net®, and Pittsburgh Mercy Family Health Center. Together, these Pittsburgh Mercy programs and their 1,700 employees serve more than 33,000 individuals annually at more than 60 locations in Southwestern Pennsylvania. To learn more about Pittsburgh Mercy or to make a donation in support of its important work in the community, visit www.pittsburghmercy.org.

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