FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 17, 2017

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CELEBRATING THE PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE OF FAITH COMMUNITY NURSING AND HEALTH MINISTRY
25th Annual Mercy Parish Nurse and Health Ministry Symposium

PITTSBURGH (August 17, 2017) – The Mercy Parish Nurse and Health Ministry Program, a part of Pittsburgh Mercy and Trinity Health, serving in the tradition of the Sisters of Mercy, invites persons interested in promoting whole-person health to attend the 25th Annual Mercy Parish Nurse and Health Ministry Symposium, “Celebrating Health Ministry – Our Past, Present, and Future,” which will be held on Saturday, October 28, 2017, from 9 a.m. to 1:45 p.m., in the Sister M. Ferdinand Clark Auditorium, Level 2, at UPMC Mercy, 1400 Locust Street, Pittsburgh, Pa. 15219 (Uptown).

Parish and faith community nurses; registered nurses; clergy; health, 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 are encouraged to attend.

The symposium provides continuing education, resources, and networking opportunities to individuals who are interested in starting or enhancing health ministries in their faith communities, as well as the general public.

This symposium will focus on the history and legacy of the faith community nursing and health ministry movement, the present and how faith community nurses and health ministers serve important roles in their faith communities, and how the future will shape the opportunities for those involved in faith community nursing and health ministry. Discussion will be facilitated regarding the roots of health ministry, the rewards of service, and the dynamic

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vision for the future of health ministry. Faith community nursing and health ministry stands on the frontline of well-being and healing for many at risk in today’s health care environment.

The symposium will explore important health care trends of wholistic care, cultural competency, diversity appreciation, complex community needs, addiction, pain management and behavioral health. Health ministry is an integral avenue for providing education, resources, networking, and support. Due to various societal challenges, people are turning to faith community nurses and health ministers to learn more about spiritual health and whole-person care.

The symposium’s goals are to focus on past history of health ministries, describe strategies for positive outcomes in health ministry, explore current trends of health ministry, and explore the vision for future health ministries and spiritual care practices. Upon completion of the symposium, participants will be able to describe three historical mileposts of the faith-health movement, explain events that have positively influenced Health Ministries and the Faith Community Nursing practice, and identify emerging trends in health ministry and spiritual care.

Marlene Feagan, president of Health Ministries Association Inc., is the guest speaker. Her topic will be “Celebrating Health Ministry – Our Past, Present, and Future.” As her credentials indicate, she has worked in the past, been involved in the present, and is preparing for the future of health ministry.

Feagan is the health ministries coordinator for St. Elizabeth Healthcare in Northern Kentucky, where she has worked for more than 30 years. In 1997, she developed and implemented the Parish Nursing/Health Ministries Program to establish a wholistic wellness and prevention program serving area faith communities. In 2006, she extended the program to provide health ministry services in several community-based sites to provide care to the underserved.

A native of Northern Kentucky, Feagan earned a master’s degree in pastoral studies from the College of Mount St. Joseph in 1998. She completed a certificate in gerontology from the University of Kentucky’s Sanders-Brown School on Aging in 2001. She developed the Community Based Geriatric Care Management Program, a unique faith-based, medical model program, for St. Elizabeth in 2002.

She has served the Health Ministries Association, Inc. – both locally and nationally – in a number of positions. Feagan is serving a second term as president of the organization and is co-chair for the 2017 Health Ministries Conference. She has served on the work group of the Scope and Standards of Practice for Faith Community Nursing for the last two publications.

Feagan has also served as a local, regional and national speaker and writer on topics that include interest for the faith and health movement, spirituality, spirituality in nursing, older
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adult issues, diversity, collaborative approaches to meeting community health needs, and the specialty of Faith Community Nursing.

Three continuing education (CE) credits will be provided to registered nurses who attend.

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 three continuing education credits. UPMC and ANCC do not endorse any commercial products as a result of the CE activity.

The cost is $40 for registered nurses who wish to receive continuing education credits, $30 for those who do not wish to receive continuing education credits, and $20 for undergraduate nursing students, seminarians and religious clergy. Brunch and free parking in the UPMC Mercy’s Locust Street Parking Garage (entrance located at Locust and Stevenson streets) will be provided to all participants.

Registration is accepted by U.S. mail only. Seating capacity is limited. Early registration is encouraged. The deadline to register is Friday, October 13, 2017. To register, visit http://ow.ly/uBl830etVci.

For more information, contact the Mercy Parish Nurse and Health Ministry Program at 412-232-5815 or email ParishNurse@pittsburghmercy.org.

About the Mercy Parish Nurse and Health Ministry Program
Established in 1991, the Mercy Parish Nurse and Health Ministry Program, part of Pittsburgh Mercy and 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 others who volunteer in their faith communities, and has commissioned nearly 400 faith community nurses and health ministers through its faith community nurse preparation course. To learn more about the Mercy Parish Nurse and Health Ministry Program, or to make a donation in support of its important work in our 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 one of the region’s largest health and social service nonprofits and also one of its largest employers. Pittsburgh Mercy includes Bethlehem Haven, McAuley Ministries, Mercy Behavioral Health, Mercy Community Health, Mercy Intellectual Disabilities Services, Mercy Parish Nurse and Health Ministry Program, Operation Safety Net®, and Pittsburgh Mercy Family Health

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Center. Together, these Pittsburgh Mercy programs and their 1,700 employees serve more than 33,000 individuals annually at 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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