

**Remarks at Holy Cross Hospital's  
50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Reception  
January 9, 2013**

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Area Coordinator of North America, Sisters of the Holy Cross**

This is the day the Lord has made, let us rejoice, and give thanks to our God for Holy Cross Hospital's first fifty years.

As a community, we look back on Holy Cross Hospital's yesterdays with pride for all that has been accomplished and the lives that have been touched. We remember and we give thanks.

Today, Holy Cross Hospital is a respected community institution, recognized for its commitment to quality healthcare, cutting-edge technology and responding to community needs. We celebrate and we give thanks.

The tomorrows hold hope as we witness the expansion of Holy Cross that is underway to serve the health needs of the people who look to Holy Cross for quality and compassionate care. We trust in You, O God, to guide the works of our hands, minds and hearts into the future.

Our yesterdays and today's have been made possible by the providence of God and the thousands of persons, past and present, who have dedicated their time, talents and life to building up Holy Cross. By their commitment to the mission, Holy Cross Hospital has an impressive edifice today and a heart that beats with love, compassion and a commitment to excellence in service. Bless all the dedicated men and women who have been part of making today possible, O God.

At this 50th celebration, we look to the persons whose shoulders we stand on and remember and give thanks that they are part of Holy Cross' history. The vision and leadership of Mother Constantine immediately comes to mind. She and her cohort of community leaders were united in their determination and courage to build the hospital and together laid the foundation for this celebration. Then, there is Sister Laurencita, Holy Cross' first administrator. She overcame many start-up challenges in the first five years. Sister would always give credit to the band of physicians, who supported her and the friends of Holy Cross who opened so many doors.

Over these 50 years, many Sisters of the Holy Cross have served in various positions, and continue on today, committed to the healing ministry. By their lives and intentional commitment to the mission, the sisters have inspired and infused the core values into the organization and a spirit of community that unites us in this ministry today and which will accompany us into the tomorrows.

As sisters, we came to Holy Cross Hospital with a long history in hospitals and healthcare ministry. It goes back to the Civil War, when the sisters were asked to respond to the needs of the wounded soldiers in Cairo, Illinois. They prayed, and within 24 hours eight sisters were on their way. They responded to the needs, putting aside their fear and placing their trust in God to

accompany them, for they were teachers and domestics. In time more sisters joined them. When the first hospital ship, Red Rover, docked in Paducah, Kentucky they responded again when asked to board to care for the wounded, unknowingly they became the predecessor to the first Navy Nurses.

The sisters went on to found and serve in hospitals across the United States. In 2000 the Sisters of the Holy Cross joined with the Sisters of Mercy, Detroit Region, to form Trinity Health, today it is one of the largest, and still growing, Catholic health systems in the country.

The Sisters were founded in France in 1841 with the intended ministry to manage the boarding needs of the students in the Holy Cross Fathers' schools. The Sisters arrived in Notre Dame, Indiana to do this work in 1843. However, very soon after their arrival, they responded to the great need for schools and teachers in the Midwest. So, the Sisters opened a school. They went on to be recognized as outstanding teachers and educators in grade schools, high schools and colleges across the country.

Mother Constantine was standing on the shoulders of the women who went before her when she responded to the need for a hospital in Silver Spring and thought the sisters could help to make it a reality.

Let us pray:

O gracious and loving God we ask you to walk with Kevin Sexton and his able and dedicated executive team, and especially, Judith Rogers as she assumes her new role as President of Holy Cross Hospital. Give them clarity in visioning the needs of the future and discerning minds on how to respond to the needs of these times and grow Holy Cross for the future.

From the Beltway, Holy Cross Hospital shines like a beacon on the hill, welcoming those in need of health care and ready to be of service in the community. Bless the men and women, the physicians, nurses, professional and technical associates and board of trustees, all who bring to life daily this noble ministry, who touch lives with respect and compassion while contributing their talents and commitment to excellence. Give them the courage and the strength to live the mission into its second fifty years. Bless the friends in the community who support Holy Cross Hospital in so many ways and think of Holy Cross as their hospital.

To quote Dag Hammarskjöld, "For all that has been, thanks and for all that will be, Yes!"

Amen