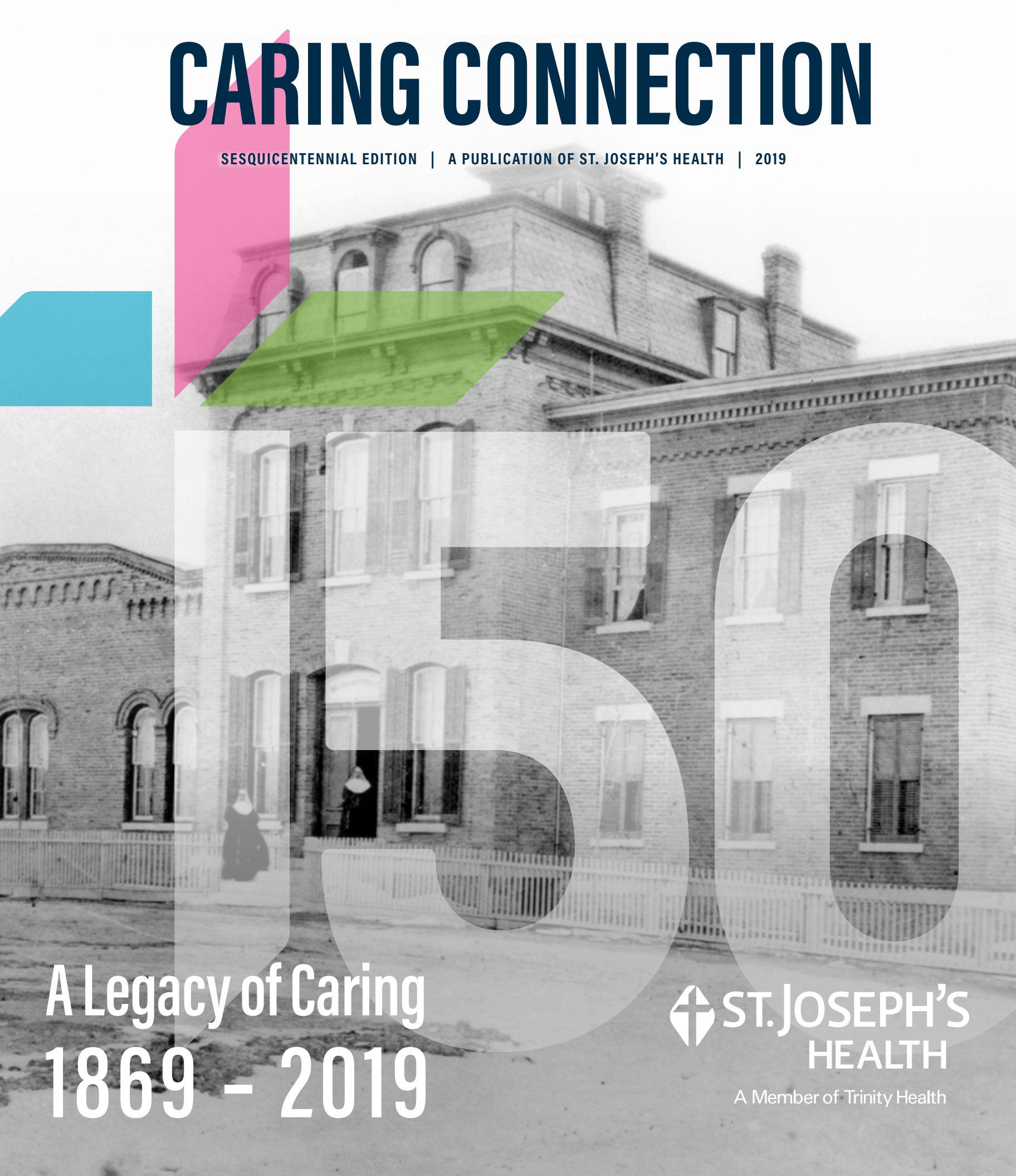


# CARING CONNECTION

SESQUICENTENNIAL EDITION | A PUBLICATION OF ST. JOSEPH'S HEALTH | 2019



A Legacy of Caring  
1869 - 2019

 ST. JOSEPH'S  
HEALTH

A Member of Trinity Health





## LIFESAVING SYNERGY

Experience world-class care at the St. Joseph's Health Cardiovascular Institute, as we bring together nationally acclaimed specialists from all facets of cardiovascular medicine to provide the widest range of treatment options in the region. Our commitment to constant self-improvement is evident with our new helipad which allows us to airlift emergent cardiac and stroke patients directly to St. Joseph's Health Hospital – significantly reducing transit time, and improving outcomes, because to us... **EVERY BEAT MATTERS.**

A HIGHER LEVEL OF CARE | visit every [beatmatters.sjh.org](https://www.beatmatters.sjh.org)

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# A LETTER FROM THE CEO



On May 6, 1869, St. Joseph's Hospital opened its doors in Syracuse, NY. The Sisters of St. Francis of the Neumann Communities had come to the area to minister to the growing immigrant population and it was soon realized that Syracuse needed an organized health care facility—the idea for St. Joseph's Hospital was born.

The Sisters would see that everyone crossing the threshold were welcomed with dignity and compassion, treating all in need of care regardless of race, ethnicity, religion, or economic means.

St. Joseph's mission has continued with unwavering commitment over the past 150 years – as evidenced by our true patient and family centered care, our many community focused programs and initiatives, and the continued number of innovations and “firsts” in health care that happen right here at St. Joseph's Health.

Excellence in care continues to be a hallmark of St. Joseph's in the 21st century. St. Joseph's Health is focused on advancing a healthier local community – which, in turn, supports the local economy. Our vision for the next 150 years is to continue to provide a higher level of care to our patients, always improve the quality of that care, expand our services to our community by growing our system, and as we do that, provide as many career and economic opportunities as possible.

St. Joseph's Hospital was founded as a community resource—one that has clearly experienced immense growth in its first 150 years. The 15-bed hospital the Sisters opened in 1869 has grown to a 451-bed hospital and expansive health system serving over 650,000 patients annually.

Together, St. Joseph's Health and Trinity Health are committed to preserving St. Marianne Cope's vision and mission to care for our community and deliver the best care possible.

This mission established in 1869 is not only upheld today, it also reflects the model of health care that is currently unfolding: collaborative, community-based and inclusive treatment of the whole person through primary care, social services, and overall wellness. The Sisters were ahead of their time.

I am grateful to be a part of this organization and to have the opportunity to work with all the members of the St. Joseph's Health family whose dedication to excellence ensures that the founding principles of the Sisters continue to enhance the quality of life and well-being in Central New York as much today as they did in 1869.

Thank you to Saint Marianne and the Sisters of St. Francis for their commitment to and compassion for our community. And, thank you to the members of our community for being a part of our 150th Anniversary celebration this year and for your continued support of St. Joseph's Health.

I hope you enjoy the following pages that look back at just a handful of the impressive people and accomplishments that make St. Joseph's Health the apex of people-centered health care in Central New York.

  
Leslie Paul Luke, President and CEO





**YOUR INNER CHILD IS AGELESS.**

Imagine if your joints were, too. We perform more knee replacement, hip replacement and spine surgeries than any other hospital in our region.\* More experience leads to better clinical outcomes— just ask the thousands of orthopedic patients who've trusted us to help them keep playing.

HANYS Market Report, 2016



A Member of Trinity Health

A HIGHER LEVEL OF CARE | [orthopedicssjh.org](http://orthopedicssjh.org)

# CONTENTS

Our History	6	1960 – 1969 Timeline	28
A Legacy is Born	10	A Legacy of Caring for Women and Children	30
1870 – 1887 Timeline	12	1970 – 1976 Timeline	31
A Legacy of Growth	13	1985 – 1988 Timeline	32
St. Joseph's School of Nursing	14	A Legacy of Behavioral Health	34
1897 – 1907 Timeline	15	St. Joseph's: A Model of Excellence in Primary Care	35
A Legacy of Images	16	Magnet Designation	36
1905 – 1918 Timeline	17	2002 – 2009 Timeline	38
Innovations in Medical Transport	19	A Legacy of Healing and Miracles	40
Hospital Raises More Than \$500K	20	2010 – 2018 Timeline	42
1922 – 1932 Timeline	21	Orthopedics	45
A Legacy of Caring for Community	22	150th Anniversary Celebration	46
1944 – 1955 Timeline	24	Sesquicentennial Gala	48
A Legacy of Cardiovascular Care	26	150th Legacy of Caring Campaign	49
1958 – 1959 Timeline	27	A Family Legacy: The Thortons	50

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# OUR HISTORY

1869

Sisters of St. Francis, including St. Marianne Cope, open St. Joseph's Hospital - Syracuse's first hospital - on Prospect Hill

1878

St. Joseph's Hospital Aid Society Forms (forerunner to board of directors)

1900

First Radiograph (X-ray) at St. Joseph's

1898

Training school for nurses opens

1915

St. Joseph's Hospital unveils Syracuse's first motorized ambulance

1926

New 240-bed hospital building opens

1932

Ladies Auxiliary Junior Guild established

1947

St. Joseph's School of Nursing hosts Syracuse's first nurse recruiting conference

1950

Five-story south wing built, adding 170 beds, new operating room, lab, X-ray, pediatrics and outpatient departments

1951

Volunteer program introduced

1952

Auxiliary gift shop opens

1969

St. Joseph's celebrates 100 years; Name changed to St. Joseph's Hospital Health Center

1975

School of Nursing partners with Le Moyne College

1991

St. Joseph's performs first directional coronary atherectomy procedure in Central New York

1991

1000th Baby born at St. Joseph's Hospital

1990

Obstetric Center opens and moves off site

2001

St. Joseph's is named one of the nation's top 100 hospitals for orthopedic services

2009

St. Joseph's Celebrates 140 years; New Mission Statement and Values are unveiled

2007

St. Joseph's is designated a Magnet for Nursing Excellence

2005

Surgical Services add a Davinci Robotic Surgical System

1872

St. Joseph's becomes the first teaching hospital in Syracuse

1888

Women's Auxiliary forms; Hospital expands to 120 beds

1890

St. Joseph's School of Nursing opens

1897

Four-story surgical pavilion opens; Bed capacity increases to 125; Hospital chapel dedicated

1907

Medical Clinic opens in St. Joseph's Hospital and is staffed with St. Joseph's physicians

1909

St. Francis Hall built for student nurses

1924

Cornerstone laid for new hospital building

1930

Romanesque Chapel and Auditorium open

1944

Diamond Jubilee praises Sisters' devotion to duty

1949

Thirty-nine students become the largest class to enter the St. Joseph's School of Nursing

1959

Newborn footprinting begins

1958

St. Joseph's performs the first open heart surgery in Central New York

1968

Outpatient Primary Care Center opens

1975

Addition adds 140 beds, making it 428 total

1989

North Surgery Center opens

1988

100th Anniversary of Auxiliary

1987

St. Joseph's Certified Home Care Agency opens

1986

School of Nursing begins two-year associate degree program

2002

St. Joseph's is designated a Magnet for Nursing Excellence

1998

School of Nursing celebrates 100 years

2005

St. Joseph's College of Nursing and Le Moyne College collaborate to offer dual degree partnership in nursing



# 2010

2010  
Sculpture of Blessed Mother Marianne, Principal founder of St. Joseph's, dedicated at hospital

2010  
Renovations to Mother-Baby Unit make it the first in Syracuse with all private patient rooms

2010  
Kathryn H. Ruscitto appointed 13th President and CEO of St. Joseph's Hospital Health Center, becoming the first lay female president

2012  
St. Joseph's Hospital Health Center earns a three-year term of accreditation of its entire nuclear medicine program by the American College of Radiology (ACR)

2012  
New 16-bed oncology unit dedicated to the care of cancer patients opens

# 2012

2012  
St. Joseph's principal founder, Marianne Cope, declared a Saint

2012  
Women and Children's service line established

2012  
Therapeutic music program introduced at the hospital

# 2014

2014  
St. Joseph's Hospital Health Center is the only hospital in Syracuse to achieve Magnet Recognition

2014  
Pet Therapy program launches in the hospital

2014  
Consumer Reports ranked St. Joseph's Hospital Health Center among the highest in the United States when it comes to heart surgery

2014  
Christina M. Nappi Surgical Tower opens

# 2015

2015  
St. Joseph's Hospital Health Center is re-designated by Baby Friendly USA, INC. as a Baby Friendly hospital

2015  
St. Joseph's Hospital Health Center joins Trinity Health

2015  
St. Joseph's Hospital Health Center is ranked as the "Best Regional Hospital" in New York State by U.S. News and World Report

2015  
Cardiologists Dr. Iskander and Dr. Caputo are the first surgeons to perform the MitraClip cases in Central New York

# 2017

2017  
Leslie Paul Luke named 14th President and CEO

2017  
The DaVinci Surgical Robot became available for outpatient services, becoming the first robotic outpatient surgery available in Upstate New York

2017  
St. Joseph's Health Hospital received the highest rating of all Onondaga County hospitals in the latest Leapfrog Hospital Safety Grade

# 2019

2019  
St. Joseph's Health attains Magnet Recognition

2019  
St. Joseph's Health Hospital is the 8th hospital in the nation to be awarded the American Heart Association's Cardiovascular Center of Excellence Accreditation

2019  
St. Joseph's Health Hospital is named as one of America's Best Hospitals for Obstetrics and one of America's Best Hospitals for Orthopedics by the Women's Choice Award

2019  
On May 6, 2019, St. Joseph's Health celebrates its 150th Anniversary

# 2011

2011  
Vascular Surgery Program named No. 1 in New York State by Healthgrades

2011  
President and CEO Kathryn H. Ruscitto included among the top women leaders in the hospital and healthcare industry when Becker's Hospital Review released its annual list, "52 Women Hospital & Healthcare Leaders"

2013  
St. Joseph's Hospital Health Center Office of Patient Experience launched

2013  
New, state-of-the-art surgical suite opens that includes 15 operating rooms, with each suite being 50% larger than the previous suites

2013  
St. Joseph's Hospital Health Center announces intention to join with CHE Trinity Health

2013  
Excellus Bluecross Blueshield recognizes St. Joseph's Hospital Health Center as one of the first hospitals in the nation to receive a Blue Distinction Center + Designation in the area of cardiac care

# 2011

# 2013

# 2016

2016  
St. Joseph's Hospital Health Center receives the 2016 Women's Choice Award as one of America's Best Hospitals for Obstetrics

2016  
St. Joseph's Health Foundation hosts its 25th annual Gala Dinner Dance, netting over \$303,000 to support breast care and surgery

2016  
St. Joseph's College of Nursing earns the National League for Nursing's prestigious designation as a Center of Excellence in Nursing Education for the years 2016-2019

# 2016

2018  
St. Joseph's Health Hospital opens Care Flight Medical Helipad

2018  
St. Joseph's Health Hospital has been named one of the nation's 50 top cardiovascular hospitals by IBM Watson Health in the recently released 50 top Cardiovascular Hospitals

2018  
St. Joseph's Health Hospital named a 5-star recipient for Total Knee Replacement for the 13th year in a row by Healthgrades

2018  
St. Joseph's Health opens the new A. John Merola, M.D. Cardiovascular Care Center

2018  
St. Joseph's Health receives national certification as a primary stroke center by DNV GL Healthcare

# 2018





St. Joseph's Hospital-1869

## A LEGACY IS BORN

In 1869, Syracuse had only been a city for 20 years and sits at the midpoint of a newly enlarged Erie Canal. Within sight of that canal stand Sister Mary Dominica Cummings, Sister Mary Mechtilidies Goggin, Sister Mary Veronica Gosse, Sister Mary Johanna Kaiser, and Sister Mary Hyacintha Eagan. They are five women of faith and perseverance. They are the five Sisters of St. Francis whose compassion and enthusiasm will compel them to tenaciously climb Prospect Hill to transform a saloon and dance hall into our city's first hospital. They would begin the history of St. Joseph's with only 15 beds, a deep commitment to their faith, a quiet patience, and a determined will to heal the sick and injured.

The Sisters were not only determined, they would also prove inventive. By hanging a bell in front of the hospital, they pioneered the 911 call system. They gathered the young boys of the surrounding neighborhoods and explained that the first one to fetch them a doctor at the sound of their bell would receive a quarter. The system would prove extremely effective with a squad of eager young runners continuously stationed outside their door.

### St. Joseph's first doctor

In 1869, Roger Williams Pease was an accomplished physician and surgeon who left his home in Cazenovia, NY in 1861 to serve in the field hospitals of the Civil War.

He served as a military surgeon and as chief medical inspector for the Cavalry Corps for the Army of the Potomac. Dr. Pease had seen the horror of battle in Pennsylvania at Gettysburg, Maryland and Fredricksburg, and he followed General Sheridan's march on Richmond. After the Battle of Trevillion in Virginia, he organized and transported more than 500 wounded soldiers more than 200 miles to Washington, D.C. using the White House as a temporary hospital. The journey covered eight arduous days in the heat of June. Despite the lack of adequate wagons and litters, he insisted his men pick up and care for any soldier, Union or Confederate, along the battle-scarred fields of Virginia and Maryland.

Dr. Pease organized and led one of the largest U.S. Army hospitals in Patterson Park, Md., a site that would later become College Park, the home of the University of Maryland.

At the end of the war, Dr. Pease returned to Syracuse, and when our five Sisters rang their bell sending a flurry of neighborhood boys in search of a doctor to attend to the first patients of their 15-bed hospital, Dr. Pease would be the first to answer that call. As a stone tablet that hangs on the second-floor wall at the top of the hospital's main lobby stairs compels us to remember, Dr. Pease would continue to "serve as surgeon to St. Joseph's from its inception until his death called him from service in 1886."

### Mother Marianne at the helm

In 1869, our five Sisters and Dr. Pease were led by another remarkable woman - Mother Marianne Cope. At the time she was only 31 years old, but she was already an accomplished administrator and woman of healing who was an innovator of excellence. She led with a deep spirit and enthusiasm and possesses a vision rooted in compassion. Mother Marianne's life was devoted to caring for the suffering of others, and her vision for St. Joseph's declared that no distinction would be made in the admittance and treatment of patients no distinction of race, color, creed, or ability to pay - a vision that said everyone deserves health care. It's a vision that endures to this day. Mother Marianne was honored by Kings and celebrated in poetry and verse.

St. Joseph's first patient, D. W. Daley, was admitted on May 13, 1869. The hospital would see 123 patients in its first year. Mother Marianne Cope, Sister Mary Dominica Cummings, Sister Mary Mechtilidies Goggin, Sister Mary Veronica Gosse, Sister Mary Johanna Kaiser, and Sister Mary Hyacintha Eagan and Dr. Roger Pease, together, formed a medical alliance that helped transform a community. They battled and conquered an outbreak of deadly cholera, became founding members and leaders of the Onondaga County Medical Society, and pioneered medical excellence. They dedicated their whole lives to healing and caring for the people of our community - a dedication and enthusiasm that is carried on 150 years later by the people who serve at St. Joseph's today. They were seven remarkable people whose legacy endures.

The original charter for St. Joseph's Hospital stated, "In the admittance and treatment of patients no distinctions shall ever be made because of theological belief, nationality or color." These words have remained sacred to the institution throughout its existence as root beliefs of inclusion and equal access to excellent health care, and they drive the mission and people of St. Joseph's Health to this day.





# 1870

## Ladies Aid Society

On May 6, 1870, St. Joseph's Hospital Ladies Aid Society was born when Mrs. Hannah Pease, wife of Dr. Roger Williams Pease, gathered 45 women in her home on Montgomery Street to serve the hospital. The women donated their time and talent, sewing much needed towels and linens that were used throughout the hospital and in patient's homes. The group would continue to work together in fellowship and service to St. Joseph's with Mrs. Pease as the Society's inaugural president. Mrs. Pease would set the tone for how and what volunteers must do to assist in the founding and operation of the hospital.

# 1887

## Ladies Aid Society Becomes Auxiliary

The St. Joseph's Hospital Auxiliary was officially founded in 1887. The Auxiliary formed as an outgrowth of the Ladies Aid Society. Over its lifetime, the Auxiliary has been of significant assistance to the hospital and health system. From coordinating drives for funds and goods to hosting events benefiting St. Joseph's, their support of the people, patients and mission continues to be an integral part of St. Joseph's success.

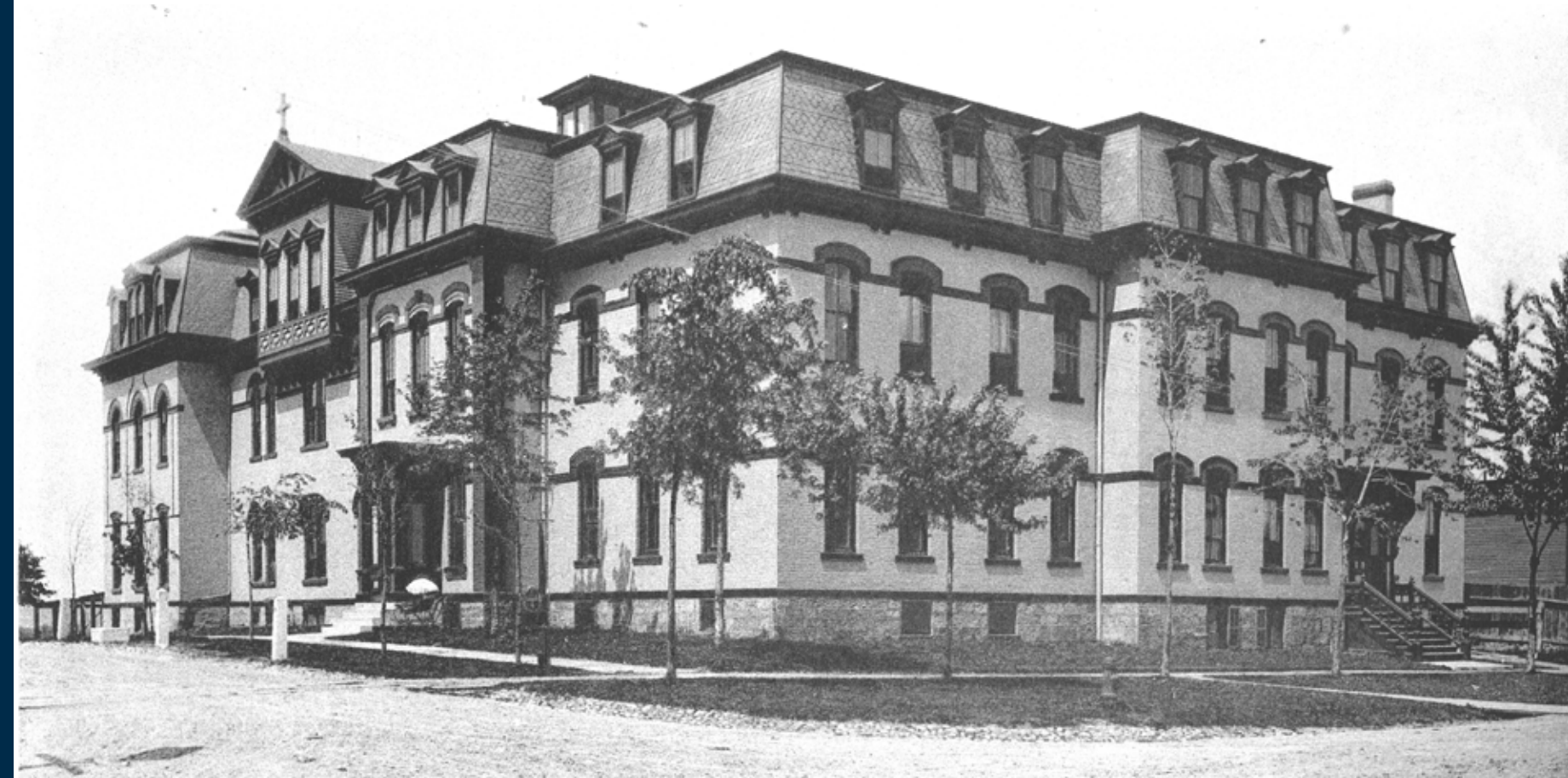
# 1872

## The First Teaching Hospital in Central New York

In 1872, the Geneva Medical College moved to Syracuse to affiliate with St. Joseph's Hospital, enabling access for students of the college to adequate training facilities. Upon relocating to the Salt City, the school became Syracuse University School of Medicine. Dean of the school, Dr. Henry D. Didama, together with Dr. Roger W. Pease, St. Joseph's surgeon-in-chief, organized the first medical staff and introduced the medical education program at St. Joseph's, ensuring formal, hands on training for future physicians and beginning a legacy of a loyal corps of highly competent medical practitioners.



# A LEGACY OF GROWTH



St. Joseph's Hospital circa 1926

St. Joseph's opened its doors in 1869 with only 15 beds and, by the latter part of the nineteenth century, the City of Syracuse was growing rapidly. In 1884, St. Joseph's added two new wings to accommodate the demand for hospital services, increasing bed capacity to 75. As the city and neighboring communities grew, there would soon enough be a need for even more beds.

In 1922 the hospital's board of managers, led by Burns Lyman Smith, voted in favor of building a new structure for the hospital. This decision was made not only due to increased need for excellent medical facilities for the growing community, but also because the field of medicine was advancing rapidly. These innovations in health care would require more space to house new equipment and technologies and to provide enhanced, on-site patient services.

The Board enlisted the architectural firm of Gaggin & Gaggin to design the new facility. The firm was well known regionally, having designed multiple buildings for Syracuse University and Syracuse businesses, and known internationally for their design of the famed Smith Tower in Seattle, Washington just a decade

earlier. The new structure would increase capacity to 231-beds and make room for additional operating rooms and spaces for women and children's services. Construction began in 1924 and was completed in 1926.

Central New York continued to grow throughout the first half of the 20th Century, and the hospital grew in line with increased demand for services and innovations in health care. In 1950, an addition to the hospital was constructed at a cost of more than \$2 million, increasing bed capacity to 340.

St. Joseph's Hospital, and the services offered, expanded throughout the 1900's and continue to grow today. As the region's demand for access to excellent health care services increased, St. Joseph's Hospital transitioned to the regional health system serving 16 counties that we are familiar with in 2019. Significant expansions post-1950 are explored throughout this magazine, and stand as a testament to St. Joseph's continued commitment to providing a higher level of care region-wide while upholding the initial sentiments outlined in the hospital's charter of 1869.



# St. Joseph's School of Nursing

Nursing has always held a prominent place in the life of St. Joseph's Hospital. In 1898, the Sisters, after carrying the burden alone for 29 years, recognized the need for specifically trained lay women to share with them the nursing care of the sick.

Under the expert direction of Amy Higgins, and with Principal Miss Esther G. McCarty, the St. Joseph's School of Nursing opened in October 1898. The school was open to women ages 18-30 and trained them in the art of caring using the most modern techniques of the day. Miss McCarty would remain at the helm for 43 years.

In 1900, the initial class of 11 students graduated and became the first of more than 4,000 dedicated men and women to have graduated from what is today known as St. Joseph's College of Nursing.

On January 31, 1905, the school was registered by the Regents of the State of New York, and in October 1956, the school was fully accredited by the National League for Nursing. In 1951, the curriculum was expanded by

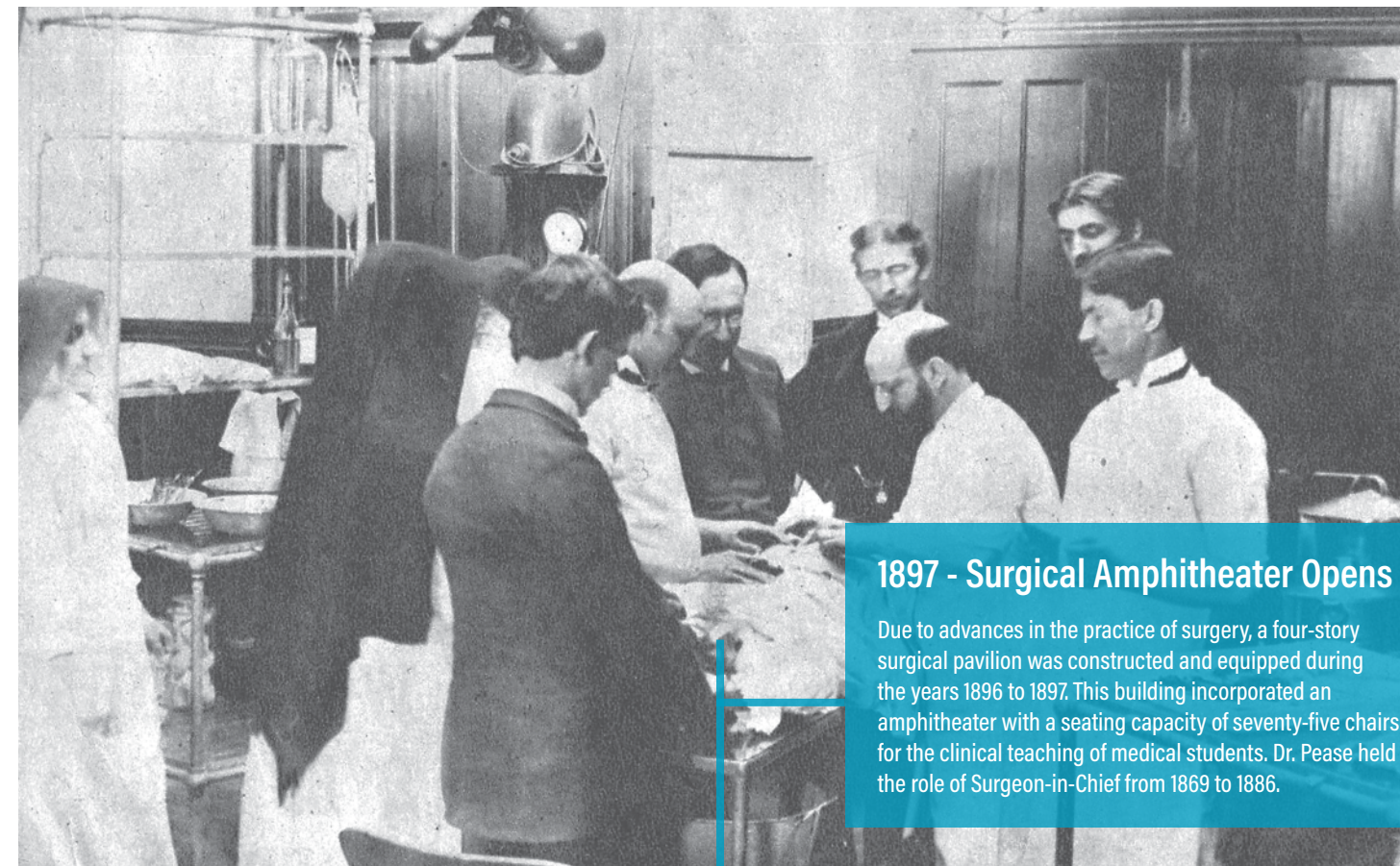
a "purchase of course" arrangement with Le Moyne College, enabling students to accumulate college credits while completing the nursing course.

In 1968, St. Joseph's employed 332 registered nurses to staff the hospital and the School of Nursing, demonstrating an increase of 675% over the course of 40 years from 1930 when 21 registered nurses were reported to have been employed.

St. Joseph's College of Nursing believes that nursing education is a lifelong process, and prepares students to adapt to advances in scientific theory, technology, health care and society, as they have since 1898. The College advocates a holistic approach to nursing, and the curriculum goes beyond scientific nursing courses to encompass communication, cultural sensitivity, ethical and legal issues, leadership, conflict resolution and decision-making.

Now, as in the beginning, students learn to practice nursing with compassion, reverence, excellence, vision, enthusiasm and integrity.

Nurses were needed to help St. Joseph's Hospital survive. The problem presented was whether to conduct a hospital staffed with personnel untrained in Catholic ethical principles, or to establish one of its own. Logically the school of nursing under religious auspices was the answer.

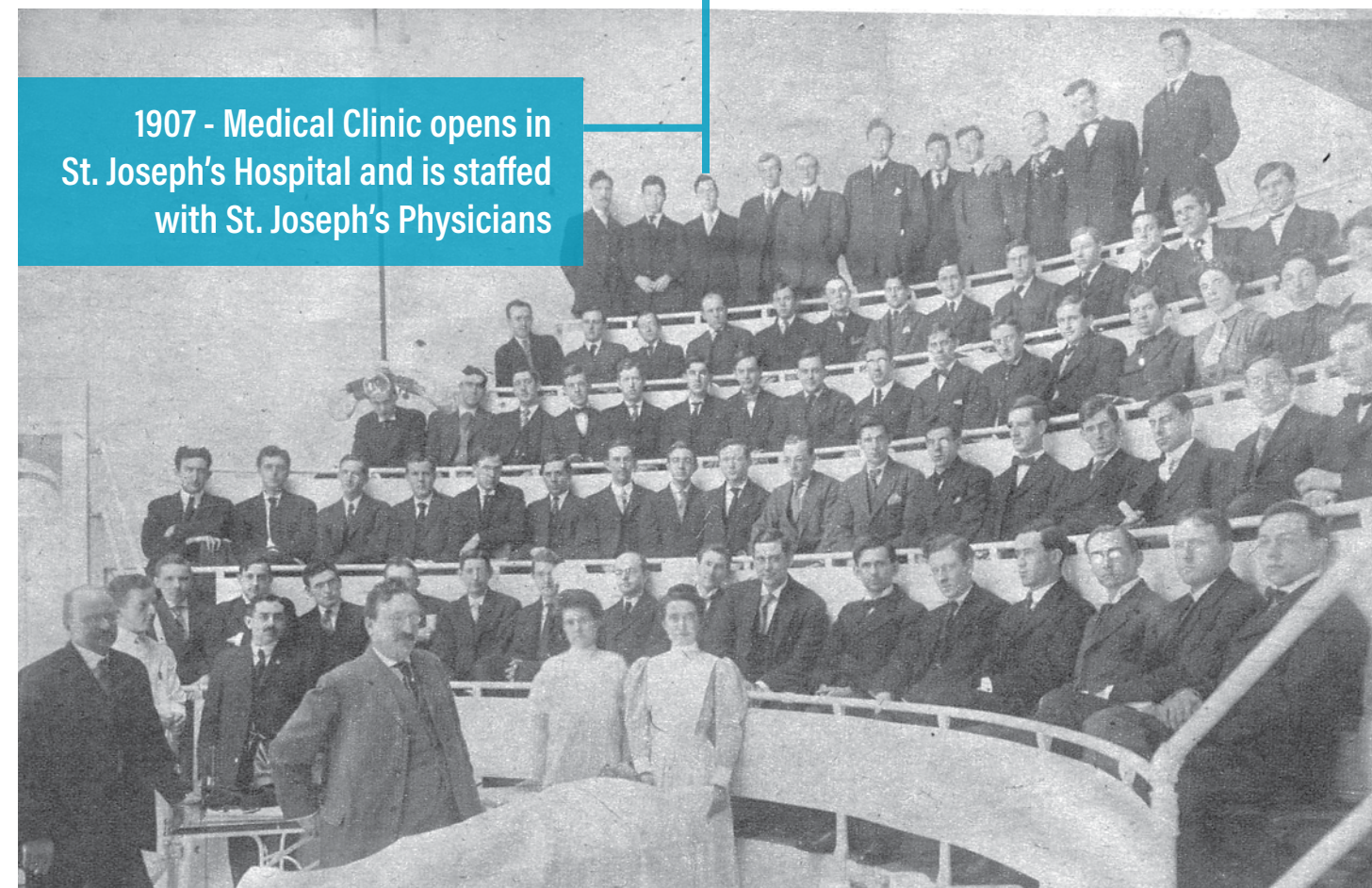


## 1897 - Surgical Amphitheater Opens

Due to advances in the practice of surgery, a four-story surgical pavilion was constructed and equipped during the years 1896 to 1897. This building incorporated an amphitheater with a seating capacity of seventy-five chairs for the clinical teaching of medical students. Dr. Pease held the role of Surgeon-in-Chief from 1869 to 1886.

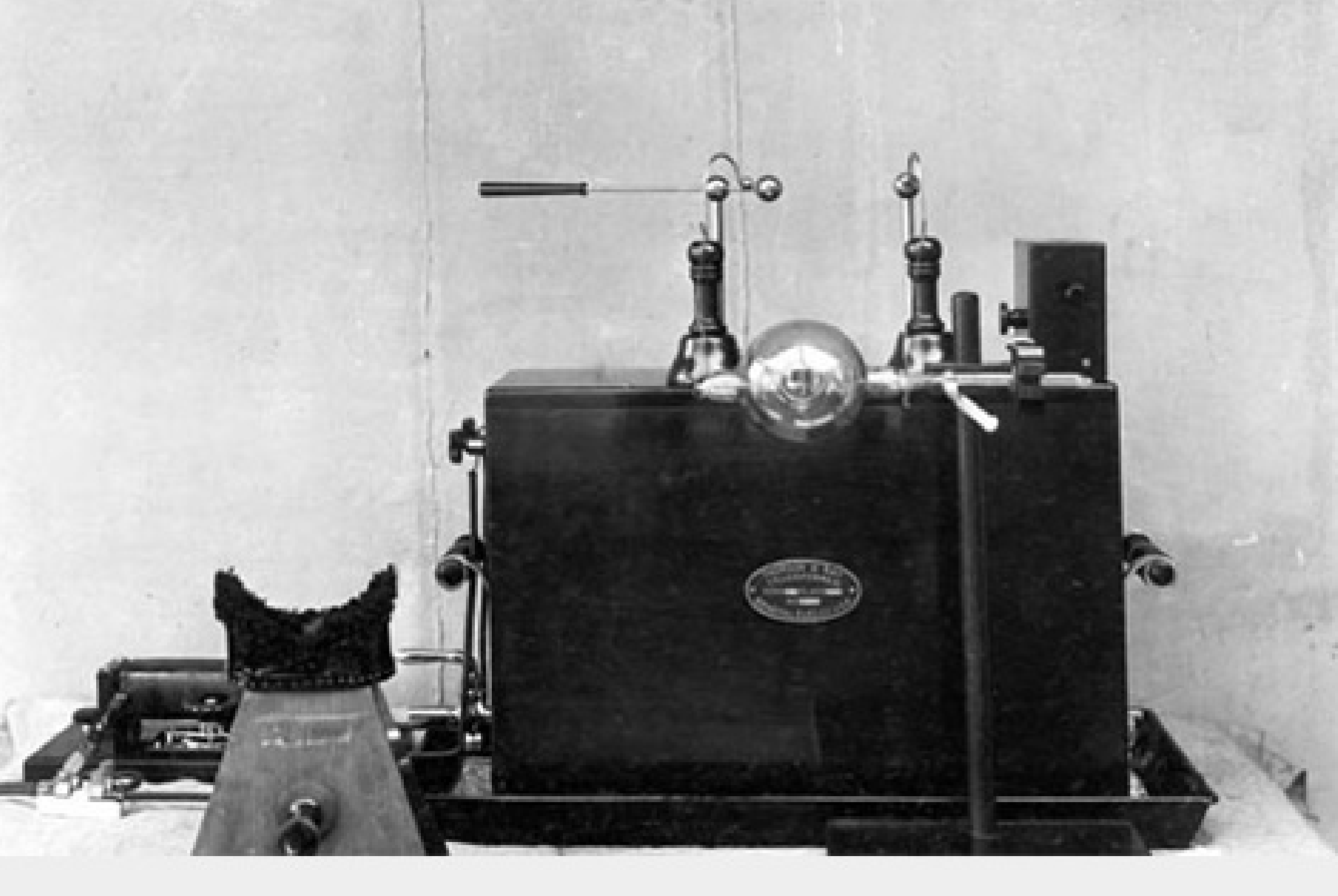


St. Joseph's Nurses leaving after a day of classes at the School of Nursing



## 1907 - Medical Clinic opens in St. Joseph's Hospital and is staffed with St. Joseph's Physicians





Wilhelm Conrad Roentgen's first radiograph "X-ray" machine

## A LEGACY OF IMAGES

In 1895, Wilhelm Conrad Roentgen, a German physicist, discovered the technology that became the radiograph or "X-ray." Radiography was monumental in the advancement of medical diagnostics and continues to be the most frequently used form of imaging.

St. Joseph's has always endeavored to provide employees and patients with cutting edge technologies. In 1900, St. Joseph's acquired its first radiograph, more commonly referred to as an X-ray machine, making the hospital an early adopter of the newest in diagnostic technology.

150 years later, St. Joseph's remains a leader in medical diagnostics. St. Joseph's Imaging Associates has been providing radiology services to the community since 1976. In 1986, they opened their first Imaging Center in The North

Medical Building. Today, St. Joseph's Imaging operates out of eight Imaging Centers. The radiologists of St. Joseph's Imaging Associates have been the sole provider of radiology services at St. Joseph's Health Hospital for decades, and just as in 1900, the radiologists utilize state-of-the-art equipment to provide the highest quality diagnostic imaging services.

In addition to the standard radiologic procedures, many specialty procedures are provided, including ultrasound and stereotactic breast biopsy, ductography, discography, vertebroplasty, vascular MRI, and a wide variety of vascular and interventional procedures. The department is fully accredited by the American College of Radiology in diagnostic mammography, stereotactic biopsy, ultrasound, and MRI.

## 1905

### "Friday Volunteers" Sew Linens for the Hospital

By 1905, thousands of articles needed for the nursing care of hospital patients were sewn by the Ladies' Aid Society's Sewing Group. Prior to 1905, sewing groups met in the homes of designated women. After Dr. John Dunfee passed away in December 1904, his wife, the president of the Ladies Aid Society, recognized the need for longer bed sheets and other linens. Mrs. Dunfee brought her sewing machine into the hospital and recruited women who gathered their sewing groups inside the hospital, on Fridays, from October to June. After 60 years of sewing, the group was renamed the "Friday Volunteers."

## 1909

### Francis Hall Built as Residence for Student Nurses

Francis Hall, then known as the "Nurse's Home," was erected to house students attending the School of Nursing. The residence was built at the southwest corner of Prospect Avenue and Laurel Street on land purchased by the hospital for \$15,000 using a legacy gift received from former Syracuse Mayor James Jerome Belden.

## 1918

### St. Joseph's Treats Those Injured in Split Rock Tragedy

On July 2, 1918 at approximately 9:30 p.m., Syracuse would be shaken to its core when TNT produced at the Semet-Solvay munitions plant exploded, destroying a large portion of the plant, injuring numerous employees and bystanders, and killing 50. The location is known today as the Split Rock Quarry. The Solvay Process Company used the quarry from 1881 to 1912 when the company moved to Jamesville, NY. St. Joseph's was one of many local hospitals providing emergency care to those injured by the explosion.



# 1915



## Innovations in Medical Transport

In the early 20th Century, Syracuse was bustling with technological innovations well beyond the field of medicine. The number of automobiles in Syracuse was increasing, and physicians began using cars as a more efficient means of reaching their patients. The advancements and access to the automobile also changed the face of emergency transport. In 1915, St. Joseph's Hospital unveiled Syracuse's first motorized ambulance.

This vehicle, a Studebaker, replaced the horse drawn ambulance and reduced the transport time to the hospital for community members experiencing health emergencies, ensuring they received care as quickly as possible. On Christmas Day 1915, the horse, known in the community as Old Bullhead, was officially retired.



# HOSPITAL DRIVE GOAL \$500,000

Campaign for New Building  
on Present Site Opens  
October 20.

PLAN FOR 300 ROOMS

Inadequacies of Structure  
Force Refusal of Many  
Patients.

With the goal set at \$500,000, backers of the project to put a new and modern hospital on the site of the present St. Joseph's will open a campaign October 20. The drive will continue for a week. An organization already has been formed and headquarters opened at 359 South Salina street. Store formerly occupied by Valentine Brothers.

Louis Will is chairman of the campaign committee, S. B. Groner, business manager. Edward Joy, George E. Hubbard and D. M. Edwards are vice-chairmen, Burns L. Smith chairman of finance and George L. Tickner, treasurer. The executive committee has for chairman, William H. Kelley with following members:

H. D. Burrill, Mrs. H. D. Burrill, Neal Brewster, Mrs. William F. Canough, John R. Clancy, Mrs. Donald S. Childs, William Cahill, Mrs. William Cahill, Donald Dey, Mrs. Marshall Durston, Mrs. John Dunfee, J. W. Dorsey, F. N. Decker, Mrs. Horace A. Eaton, D. M. Edwards, Dr. Frederick Flaherty, William P. Hart, Mrs. Clarence E. Hancock, Mrs. A. Webb Howe.

## Hospital Raises More Than \$500,000 in Three Days to Fund New Building

St. Joseph's Hospital experienced immense growth in its first 50 years. By the 1920's it was clear that to continue meeting the needs of the community, and to continue its legacy as a provider of high-quality, innovative health care, the hospital would need to build a new structure.

On December 9, 1922, the hospital's board of managers, now referred to as the board of trustees, voted in favor of building a new hospital, one that would be future-focused and provide the space needed to serve a growing community. Architects began designs for a building that would feature a new operating room and make space for departments including maternity and pediatrics, among others, ensuring access to care for the community.

To make the new building a reality, a massive fundraising drive was undertaken; under the guidance of Burns Lyman Smith, president of the board of trustees, a plan calling for \$500,000 to be raised over the course of seven days was conceived. To accomplish this feat, the campaign committee, led by Louis Will, opened its headquarters on Salina Street where organizers strategized and 40 teams comprised of mission-driven citizens would descend on the community asking for their support.

The campaign ignited a spirit of giving through the community. Major gifts from local leaders

and businesses poured in. Setting the pace were Solvay Process Company pledging \$25,000, and Burns Lyman Smith, who with his sister, contributed \$30,000. Donations were encouraged through advertising and publicity as well as activities such as luncheons and speeches. The committee even installed collection boxes on street cars throughout the city. Everyone was welcome to give whatever they could, and did so gladly. Community members donated their change and former patients and their families contributed in honor of the excellent experiences they had at St. Joseph's.

Hospital records and press clippings from the time state that \$233,000 was raised on the first day of the campaign, including the first walk-in gift of \$2.00 by Mr. Patrick Burns. When the cash and pledges were counted on the third day, the committee had exceeded its goal boasting a total of just over \$505,000.

At the close of this historic campaign, St. Joseph's had raised \$521,704.40 from more than 18,000 donors in Syracuse and beyond. Adjusted for inflation, in 2019, the total funds raised would be nearly \$7.8 million. The success of this campaign is a testament to St. Joseph's role as a vital community resource, and the generosity of the citizens and businesses in Syracuse who continue to support our shared vision for excellence in health care for any and all in need.

## 1922

### Local Businessman Bequeaths Fortune to Syracuse Organizations

George B. Doheny was born in Syracuse's fifth ward in 1844. He was educated in Syracuse public schools and had a long successful career at Hiscock, Doheny, Williams and Covie, and would eventually serve as the president of Syracuse Savings Bank.

At the time of his death, Doheny's fortune was estimated to be nearly \$1.6 million. The bulk of which was donated to nine institutions in Syracuse, including St. Joseph's Hospital. In recognition of the immense love he held for his wife, Doheny instructed through his will that \$100,000 be given to St. Joseph's Hospital for a ward or pavilion in memory of his wife, Mrs. Charlotte Taylor Doheny, who predeceased him in 1879. In 1925 a Maternity Department was established and dedicated to her memory.

The hospital would also receive \$150,000 that formed the Doheny Endowment Fund, making Doheny's total gift to St. Joseph's approximately \$250,000.

## 1924

### Cornerstone Laid for New Building

On October 18, 1924, the cornerstone was laid for the construction of the new hospital building designed by Gaggin & Gaggin Architects of Syracuse. The new building would replace the structure of the original hospital, as well as the additions made in 1882 and 1888.

## 1926

### New Hospital Building Opens

Following two years of construction and fundraising, the new St. Joseph's Hospital opened on June 1, 1926 with an increased capacity of 235 beds to include 56 private and 47 semi-private beds. Interior spaces featured modern hospital amenities for the time, incorporating spaces for maternity and pediatric departments.

## 1930

### Chapel and Auditorium Opened

1930 marked the opening of a new Romanesque-style chapel which housed an auditorium with a seating capacity of 300. Bishop Joseph Daniel Curley dedicated the chapel and placed the cornerstone at a ceremony held on November 19.

## 1932

### Ladies Auxiliary Junior Guild Established

St. Joseph's Junior Guild was established to encourage teenage girls to be involved in hospital volunteering and prepare them for future service to the organization. The young ladies assisted the Ladies Auxiliary with their sewing, including cutting and hemming fabric for linens. Junior Guild members also helped with the coordination of fundraising activities hosted by the Auxiliary.



# A LEGACY OF CARING FOR COMMUNITY

In the 1930's, over 60 years since St. Joseph's Hospital opened, the community and the health care landscape experienced many changes and the Sisters saw an increased need for post-hospitalization medical follow up and planning. The Sisters were ahead of their time as they understood that going above and beyond the procedures within the hospital and supporting the overall health of their patients was key to a healthier community.

The Sisters promoted home care and planning to ensure that each patient had suitable home facilities for a complete recovery and believed that hand in hand with the development of a hospital must be a Social Service Department to provide necessary supportive services to assure proper use of medical care. What began as a one-person department in 1931 would grow to nearly a dozen employees by 1969 and has since grown exponentially, including community collaborations and services.

Today's health care organizations recognize the relationship between what happens in outpatient and community-based care settings has a direct impact on acute care. This has led to a shift to community-centered care that acknowledges the significant benefits to population health management.

The work done by the Sisters built the foundation upon which today's population health initiatives are built.

As an agent of change, St. Joseph's Health understands that health care must start beyond hospital walls where collaborative work between community partners can focus on addressing the diverse mix of social factors that play a significant role in health outcomes. The goal is to eliminate health disparities and attain optimal health.

In 2012, St. Joseph's Health launched a population health management initiative, examining its health care delivery system utilizations and piloting new initiatives to better connect care for patients between system points of care, as well as to appropriately redirect patient utilizations when it was to the benefit of the patient's health. Health Homes, a program for Medicaid patients in which patients are provided a care manager to support them in addressing both clinical and nonclinical issues that keep them from being healthy, are one example of an integrated care delivery system that transcends traditional ideas of a health care setting. Through partnerships with organizations like Catholic Charities of Onondaga County, more community members are able to access Health Home services.

St. Joseph's Health Care Coordination Network is a piece of the larger movement that is integrating care delivery systems that transcend acute and clinical care settings and work within the community. These efforts are resulting in fewer Emergency Department visits and a decrease in medical admissions. Ongoing data tracking shows that the organization has seen about a 50 percent reduction in Emergency Department visits for Health Home members who have been actively enrolled for one year.

St. Joseph's Primary Care Centers and the Hospital's network of primary care physicians are family-focused and provide a "medical home" for patients of

all ages. St. Joseph's primary care settings offer patients access to a Health Coach that works to support the patient's individual medical plan and overall well-being. These clinics and their clinicians are an integral part of Central New York's health care system, helping to integrate and coordinate care, optimize patient outcomes and realize savings to the health care network. The Primary Care Centers collectively serve as a safety net for vulnerable patients. In Onondaga County alone, these clinics provide primary care for 17 percent of the county's total Medicaid-eligible population of nearly 87,000.

In 2016, St. Joseph's Health received a grant for \$500,000 per year over the next three years as part of Trinity Health's national "Transforming Communities Initiative" (TCI). Through this initiative, Trinity Health is investing in partnerships that address some of the root causes of poor health to encourage beneficial health care/community organization collaborations. The grant provides St. Joseph's Health and its community partners a platform from which to leverage several concurrent investments to improve community health. A diverse selection of programs benefiting community health were brought together to maximize resources, minimize duplicative efforts, remove barriers to healthy living, better manage chronic diseases, and capitalize on the developing benefits to community health. Partners include, but are not limited to: St. Joseph's Health, Onondaga County Health Department, Near Westside Initiative, Northside Urban Partnership, Lerner Center at Syracuse University, and HealthConnections.

In line with TCI's goal of passing Tobacco 21 (T21) at the county level, a T21 workgroup was created in September 2016 as an extension of the Tobacco Action Coalition of Onondaga County (TACO), and presented its first petition to the County legislature in November of the same year to encourage elected officials, community organizations, corporate decision makers and community members in Onondaga County to decrease the social acceptability and reduce the burden of tobacco usage in our community, especially among young adults. TACO members include American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network (ACS CAN), American Heart Association, St. Joseph's Health, TCI Syracuse, Upstate Medical University, Tobacco Free Network of CNY, New York State Department of Health and Community Advocates. On January 1, 2018 Onondaga County officially adopted a Tobacco 21 policy prohibiting the sale of tobacco products to anyone under the age of 21. Subsequently, the New York State governor signed Tobacco 21 legislation on July 16, 2019.

A lifetime of good health starts with educating our children. According to the American Heart Association, about 37 percent of kids and teens in Syracuse are overweight or obese. St. Joseph's Health responded by partnering with the American Heart Association to sponsor the Growing Healthy Hearts program in the Syracuse City School District. Reaching over 3,000 students during the 2018-2019 school year, the program gave students access to health activities and messages, and they received a "Heart Hero" to help teach healthy habits. Students also received a monthly newsletter to take home to their families, so the entire community could get involved.

St. Joseph's Nurses tend to newborns in the nursery



Physicians and nurses collaborate on patient care plans





**1944**

**Diamond Jubilee Praises Sisters' Devotion to Duty**

October 18, 1944 marked the celebration of St. Joseph's Hospital's Diamond Jubilee. The Most Reverend Walter A. Foery, D. D., Bishop of Syracuse would preside at the ceremony which highlighted the devotion of the Sisters of St. Francis to the ministry of St. Joseph's Hospital and their impact worldwide. Noted in the remarks of the day was the ability of the hospital to have doubled its capacity every five years since opening its doors and the thousands of doctors and nurses around the globe who received excellent training at the hospital and School of Nursing.

**1949**

**Largest Class to Enter School of Nursing**

St. Joseph's School of Nursing welcomes its largest class of student nurses. The 39 students who received their caps and capes on January 30, 1949 would bring the total number of students in the school to 117. Timing could not have been better as the hospital sought to expand capacity once again.

**1950**

**Outpatient Services Begin**

The 1950 addition of a new wing of the hospital allowed St. Joseph's to expand its range of services. The hospital would welcome patients to its outpatient department, which included a tumor and chest clinic as well as dental services. By 1969, the outpatient services department would include 18 clinics and offer EKG's and EEG's, and serve an average of 1,400 patients monthly.

**1947**

**School of Nursing Hosts Recruiting Conference**

St. Joseph's School of Nursing participated in the first "Student Nurse Day" in Syracuse. The Careers in Nursing Conference was held at the Syracuse University College of Medicine, providing prospective student nurses from local high schools the opportunity to explore opportunities for careers in nursing, and speak with current nursing students.

**1955**

**Future Nurses and Candy Striper Programs Encourage Volunteerism**

The hospital believed it was important to invite young high school women to volunteer in the hopes that they would eventually become nurses, and the Auxiliary Board was committed to assisting the Sisters. In 1955 both the Future Nurses Program and the Candy Striper Program, a volunteer program, were established by the Auxiliary. As members of the Future Nurses Program, the young women received special training to familiarize them with the hospital routine. Candy Stripers had varied roles including involvement in the cart and gift shop, supervised play, baby photos, sewing, laboratory duties and as hostesses in the waiting and emergency rooms. Candy Stripers would later be recognized with an award at the Spring Auxiliary Board Luncheon.



# A LEGACY OF CARDIOVASCULAR CARE



Sharon Melfi

## Syracuse's first open-heart surgery

Sharon Melfi was just eight years old when she became the first patient to undergo successful open heart surgery in Syracuse on November 12, 1958. Years prior to surgery, Sharon was diagnosed with a heart murmur the cause of which was later discovered to be a congenital defect to the pulmonic valve in her right ventricle, resulting in strain to the right side of her heart. The pulmonic valve allows blood to flow one way from the heart to the lungs—Sharon's valve narrowed to a point where blood flow was restricted.

St. Joseph's surgeons, Ernest Delmonico, M.D. and George Heitzman, M.D. would use a hibernation technique. By inducing hypothermia, bringing the body to a temperature of 88 degrees, and clamping the vessels to the heart, the surgeons were able to operate on Sharon's heart in a bloodless state. The inducement of hypothermia was first used by neurosurgeons in 1939, and in 1952 the first successful open heart surgery using induced hypothermia was completed.

Sharon's heart was open for approximately five minutes. She recovered well, able to get up from her bed a week post-surgery, and soon after she could sit up to watch television. Sharon was eventually moved from her private room to the hospital's children's unit, and would go on to enjoy a typical childhood and choose a career in nursing.

## Music of the heart

In 1959, Dr. Charles T. Dotter, professor and head of the Department of Radiology at Oregon Medical School and cardiac expert, was at St. Joseph's to lecture on a new diagnostic technique, to be implemented in the heart and lung program at the hospital. The technique, coronary arteriography or angiography, is a cardiac diagnostic procedure that uses a catheter threaded to the coronary arteries

where it releases a contrast dye visible on X-rays (angiograms). The procedure is still in use today.

Dr. Dotter learned of the procedure while lecturing in Europe and found that the G-string from a guitar was very much like the device currently in use overseas. In preparation for his visit to Syracuse, Dr. Dotter purchased a guitar string to be used as a visual aid during his lecture.

On the same day as the lecture, 44-year old Harriett Games was brought to St. Joseph's Hospital bleeding internally and in dire need of medical care. When doctors could not find the source of the bleeding, they decided to attempt Dr. Dotter's new procedure to diagnose the bleeding. Armed with the \$1.25 guitar string and the strength of the St. Joseph's cardiovascular team, Dr. Dotter used a needle to insert the string into Ms. Games' leg.

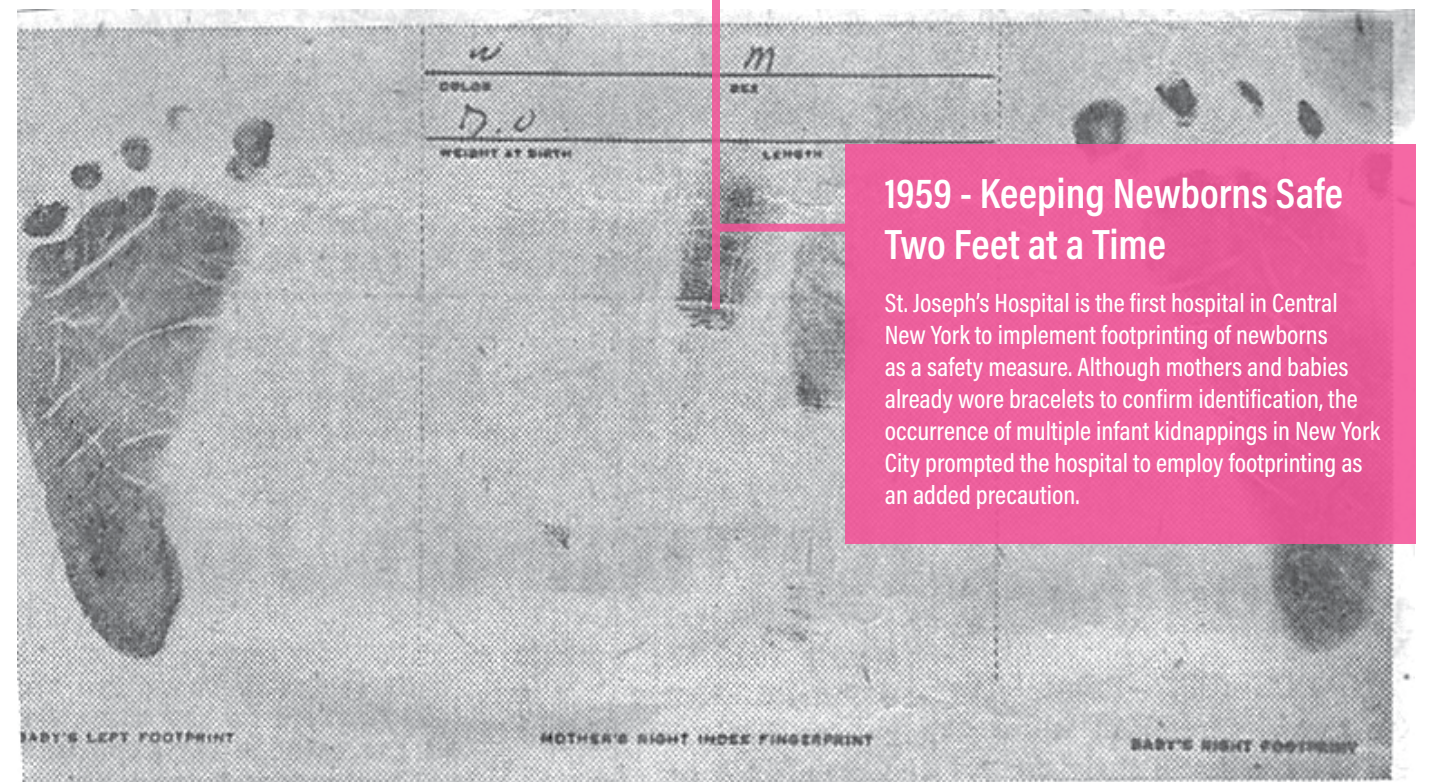
Primarily used to diagnose coronary artery disease, in the case of Ms. Games, coronary arteriography enabled the medical team to locate the origin of her internal bleeding - her right kidney - ultimately leading to the surgery that saved her life. According to Dr. Dotter, this was the first procedure of its kind performed in the northeast United States.

This surgery, and others, were made possible through the Rev. Msgr. Joseph B. Toomey Cardiovascular Research Laboratory Department at St. Joseph's Hospital. Within these walls existed the newest, most innovative technologies of the time and the beginnings of what continues to be a legacy of excellence in cardiovascular care. Dr. Goffredo Gensini, was named director of the Lab in December 1958. Today, the procedures aforementioned take place in St. Joseph's Health's Cardiovascular Institute, where the commitment to cutting-edge, effective patient care remains.



## 1958 - Sister's Novel Approach to Dosing Penicillin

Sister Mary Luke, R.N. develops a way to safely prepare 24-hour's worth of penicillin at once using intravenous tubing to extract a single dose. This innovation allowed nurses to save upwards of 10 hours per day preparing the antibiotic for single-dose usage. Sister Mary's device ensured a day's worth of medicine could be safely prepared in 10 minutes and using less equipment than previous methods, leaving more time for nurses to focus on direct patient care.



## 1959 - Keeping Newborns Safe Two Feet at a Time

St. Joseph's Hospital is the first hospital in Central New York to implement footprinting of newborns as a safety measure. Although mothers and babies already wore bracelets to confirm identification, the occurrence of multiple infant kidnappings in New York City prompted the hospital to employ footprinting as an added precaution.

This is how the hospital record looks.



## 1960

### Dental Care with Sedation

St. Joseph's Hospital began offering general dentistry services in 1950. In the latter part of the decade it became clear that a specialized form of dental care was needed, one enabling those experiencing disorders of the muscles to receive dental care. In 1959, St. Joseph's was first in the region to debut a dental clinic dedicated to providing dental care to those patients who were unable to control muscle movements. The clinic, which served 35 patients in 1959, performed dental services while patients were under anesthesia, making it possible to safely and effectively treat both adults and children. Patients were charged according to their ability to pay for the service.

## 1968

### St. Joseph's Family Medicine Accredited

St. Joseph's Hospital's Family Practice Residency Program began in 1967 and was accredited by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education in 1968, as one of five such programs in the United States. One of the longest running and most successful programs in New York State, the residency program trains physicians to treat the family as a unit. Family medicine physicians were in great demand at the time, much as they are today. The program now has nearly 600 graduates and a 98 percent pass rate on the American Board of Family Practice Certification Exam.

## 1961

### Seven-year-old Has Heart Surgery and First Communion in the Same Day

Carol Marie Noga of Auburn was born with a hole in her heart affecting her ability to enjoy a typical childhood. In 1961, when Carol was just seven years old, surgeons performed a heart catheterization which confirmed the need for open-heart surgery. As a second-grader, Carol was looking forward to her first communion; knowing the risk involved with the surgery, with the help of Father Gabriel Kohlbrenner, Carol would receive the sacrament an hour before her operation. As an inpatient, Carol spent two weeks recovering in St. Joseph's Hospital, followed by a few months of rest at home. Soon enough she was able to run and play along with her friends and classmates, and ultimately would play softball for Auburn High School.

## 1969

### St. Joseph's Hospital Becomes St. Joseph's Hospital Health Center

St. Joseph's Hospital changed its name to St. Joseph's Hospital Health Center on its 100th anniversary. The name change was made to reflect the progress made in its first century of serving the community. No longer only a hospital, St. Joseph's was well on its way to what we now know as a regional health system - St. Joseph's Health.

## 1969

### First Kidney Transplant in Syracuse

St. Joseph's physicians perform the first, live kidney transplant in Syracuse. Following four years on dialysis, 29-year-old Walter Wilcox, Jr. received a kidney from his father, Walter Wilcox, Sr. The surgery took three and a half hours.



Walter Wilcox Jr. and his dad chat about their history-making operations.





# A LEGACY OF EXCELLENCE IN CARING FOR WOMEN AND CHILDREN

Our services for women and their families have always focused on quality, safety and exceeding expectations. St. Joseph's family-centered maternity services focus on the physical, social and emotional well-being of mothers, infants and their families in balance with the technology and services required as a Level III Perinatal Center.

In 1970, St. Joseph's set the mark for excellence in neonatal care when it became the first hospital within 50 miles of Syracuse to offer a space dedicated to the specialty. The fourth floor of the hospital featured an eight room suite and a preemie care center for infants experiencing health challenges. Ensuring that the smallest of patients had the greatest opportunities to live healthy lives, St. Joseph's invested in state-of-the-art neonatal technologies including the renowned Amsterdam Infant Ventilator (AIV). Designed specifically for pediatric applications, the AIV was developed in the late 1960's and is known for its reliability and efficiency for infant mechanical ventilation in multiple hospital settings. The purchase of St. Joseph's AIV was funded by the local chapter of the March of Dimes.

Since that time, St. Joseph's continues to lead the way in defining excellence in care for our smallest most acute patients. Each year, sick or premature infants from 16 Central New York counties receive care in our Level III NICU (neonatal intensive care unit).

Whether facing the challenges of prematurity or illness, or experiencing a birth free from complications, St. Joseph's is designed as a place for babies and parents, it is as calming and nurturing as it is technologically advanced. In 2009, St. Joseph's Health Hospital was the first hospital in Central New York to be designated a Baby Friendly Hospital by the World Health Organization and remains the only hospital in the region to have received that designation.

The only one of its kind in Syracuse, the Birth Place, which opened in 1986, is the choice of low-risk pregnancies for families who want to have their baby in a comfortable, homelike setting where moms labor and give birth in a queen-sized bed in one of three private bedrooms. Following birth, babies are placed skin-to-skin with mom at delivery and (as long as the baby is healthy) the routine newborn exam is delayed, allowing parents time to bond with their new baby. Mothers who are breastfeeding are also provided the opportunity to give baby its first feeding.

St. Joseph's Health Hospital continues to be a leader in caring for women and their families throughout their lifespan, and is committed to its focus on their physical, social and emotional needs.

1970

## Onondaga County's First Methadone Clinic

St. Joseph's Hospital opened the first methadone treatment clinic with the aid of the Onondaga County Department of Mental Health and a grant awarded to the county by New York State. The clinic would give those persons addicted to heroin the opportunity to receive methadone treatment as well as necessary psychiatric counseling services, to assist them in recovering from addiction.

1971

## Abbott Appointed First Lay Administrator for Hospital

In 1971, James Abbott made St. Joseph's history when he would proceed Sr. M. Wilhelmina Fitzgerald to become the first lay hospital administrator of the organization. Abbott's tenure was prosperous and saw much growth: an eight-bed coronary unit was completed in 1974; 1975 saw the addition of a 140-bed wing including room for radiology, a clinical laboratory, ambulatory unit and emergency room. By the time he retired in 1989, projects completed under his guidance would include The Birth Place (1986); a 200-bed addition increasing the capacity for intensive care patients (1988); and a second operating room for heart surgery (1989). Abbott would also administer the creation of the Certified Home Health Care Agency and what we know today as the St. Joseph's Health Foundation, among numerous other accomplishments.

1975

## Addition Brings Total Number of Acute Care Beds to 428

In June 1975, St. Joseph's Hospital opened a new wing and extended care facility on its main campus. The new space would increase the number of beds to 428 acute care beds and 50 for extended care. The extended care portion of the addition was designed to provide skilled nursing and health care services to those patients not in need of acute care services. At the cost of \$17 million, the building connected to the existing structure, and included a parking garage and physician's offices.

1976

## Don Effler Joins St. Joseph's Hospital Health Center

St. Joseph's welcomed Dr. Donald B. Effler as an attending physician in January 1976. Hailing from the Cleveland Clinic, Effler was known internationally as an expert in the field of cardiac surgery and pioneered the arterial bypass. Dr. Effler was named chief cardiac surgeon at St. Joseph's, and would head the surgical team providing care to the Saudi Arabian King Khalid Ibn Abdul Aziz in Cleveland.

1970

## Dr. DeFuria Named Chief of Surgery

Dr. Albert C. DeFuria, a dedicated surgeon and decorated war hero, was appointed chief of surgery in 1970. Dr. DeFuria graduated from Syracuse University Medical School and would go on to serve with the 3rd Army 4th Auxiliary Surgical Group during World War II; he would receive the Bronze Star for his heroism during the Battle of the Bulge. Throughout his 40-year career at the hospital, Dr. DeFuria was known for always putting his patients' interests first as the founder of the vascular laboratory. In 2008, his wife Theresa and son Jay, memorialized him with a gift to the St. Joseph's Health Foundation, naming the hospital's educational conference room in his memory.

1975

## School of Nursing Expands Partnership with Le Moyne College

St. Joseph's School of Nursing debuted an expanded nursing program in cooperation with Le Moyne College. Through this program, any nurse who completes their requirements to become a Registered Nurse (RN) will have the opportunity to transfer 85 credits toward earning a Bachelor of Science (BS) at Le Moyne College. The expanded program allows those who successfully complete an additional 36 credit hours of coursework at Le Moyne to graduate with both their RN and BS, enhancing their ability to meet the changing needs in the field of nursing and to expand their career opportunities.





## 1988

### Hospital Lobby Mural Unveiled

June 1998 marked the dedication of a beautiful work of art, love and faith in the hospital's main lobby. Sister Francis Agnes Ryan, a Sister of St. Francis, was an artist at heart who worked tirelessly to design and create a mosaic reflecting the words of St. Francis of Assisi. The mural is still intact today and remains a fixture of beauty and faithful contemplation for all who visit St. Joseph's Health Hospital.

## 1985

### Franciscan Health Companies

Founded in 1985 by Frank L. Smith Jr. and Thomas Aiello, M.D., Franciscan Companies, an affiliate of St. Joseph's Health, has operated a network of health care services that allow people to live home and live well. Covering 24 counties in Central New York and three counties in Northern Pennsylvania, Franciscan's focus on patient-centered care improves the lives of thousands of people every day, benefiting from extensive investment in the latest technologies and services in the home health industry. Services provided include respiratory therapy and home medical equipment following hospital discharge.

## 1988

### Auxiliary Celebrates 100 Years of Service

In 1988, the St. Joseph's Hospital Auxiliary celebrated its 100th anniversary. An outgrowth of the Ladies' Aid Society founded in 1870, the Women's Auxiliary officially formed in 1888 and is today known as the Auxiliary of St. Joseph's Health Hospital.

To celebrate the momentous milestone, a gala was held in the Grand Ballroom of what was then the Hotel Syracuse. More than 300 people attended the event, and those present included many past leaders and members of both the Auxiliary and St. Joseph's, in addition to community leaders and members. At the time of the event, it was estimated that by their centennial celebration, the Auxiliary had donated more than \$1 million to St. Joseph's in the form of unrestricted gifts.

Now in existence for more than 130 years, the Auxiliary still exists to benefit St. Joseph's and has grown to include more than 600 women and men who are active on more than 30 committees and service projects. The Auxiliary has introduced many services to St. Joseph's over the years including the coffee bar, shopping cart, the gift shop, baby photo service, television/telephone rental, and vending machines. The Auxiliary works closely with the hospital's Volunteer Office, and many Auxiliary members serve as hospital volunteers.

Those interested in helping continue the tradition of giving to St. Joseph's Health and helping to provide needed services, are encouraged to join the Auxiliary. For membership information please contact the Auxiliary Office at 315.448.6100 or [www.sjhsyr.org/auxiliary](http://www.sjhsyr.org/auxiliary)





# A LEGACY OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

Caring for community members experiencing mental health challenges and illness has always been a focus for St. Joseph's. In 1950, the south wing opened to include a clinic space for mental health needs and, in 1942, the Bishop Foery Clinic on Almond St., became a part of St. Joseph's on a part-time basis. In 1955, a full-time psychiatrist was employed by St. Joseph's as the foundation to provide full-time community services. The new clinic grew in leaps and bounds, and, when the west wing was planned, Administrator Sister Wilhelmina saw that the hospital offered a short-term psychiatric in-patient unit for adults and adolescents, opening with a bed capacity of 18 patients. From that time, St. Joseph's has proved capable of keeping pace with advancements in mental health care.

In 1966, an open-door policy was implemented, making psychiatric hospitalization more acceptable to the general public. The former nursing residence for students transitioned to house the Foery clinic, staffed by psychiatrists, psychologists, social workers, nurses and psychiatric aides, and offering adult day care services. At the same time, special attention was given to meeting the needs of a large adolescent service with a variety of modes of therapy tailored to meet individual needs.

Another revolutionizing type of mental health care implemented by St. Joseph's in the 1960's was the Children's Day Treatment Service which in cooperation the Board of Education, served children who would have been excluded from school by reason of psychiatric disability.

In 1967, St. Joseph's initiated the Suicide Prevention Telephone Answering Service. This service offered brief limited-goal psychotherapy services, together with advice, when it is most needed in combating suicide.

Presently, St. Joseph's Health Hospital has a full range of inpatient and outpatient services for area residents of all ages with various needs. Funded and accredited in cooperation with the Onondaga County Department of Mental Health and the New York State Office of Mental Health, St. Joseph's subscribes to patients' continuity of treatment by teams of professionals through its comprehensive programs. It is a New York State designated Community Mental Health Center.

To fulfill the need for emergency psychiatric care in our community, St. Joseph's opened the first Comprehensive Psychiatric Emergency Program (CPEP) in the area in 1995. Located on the St. Joseph's Health Hospital campus, CPEP is a licensed Psychiatric Emergency room, serving individuals from Onondaga and Madison counties, and visitors in the Greater Syracuse area. Helping to ease overcrowding in the City's busy medical emergency departments, CPEP is fully staffed 24 hours a day, seven days per week.

CPEP provides evaluation and treatment for individuals of all ages who are suffering from an acute mental health crisis. In the CPEP Emergency Room individuals experiencing a crisis receive a complete psychiatric examination and the formulation of a treatment/disposition plan specific to the patient.

In addition to on-campus services, CPEP facilitates Mobile Crisis Outreach (MCO), which provides off-site initial screening for individuals in emotional crisis. Individuals who require a full psychiatric assessment by the physician will be transported to CPEP by 911 emergency services. The MCO team also performs home visits with patients who have been recently discharged from CPEP. The goal is to assist the patient in maintaining stability until the connection with an outpatient provider has been completed.

## St. Joseph's: A Model of Excellence in Primary Care

Primary care for adults, children and newborns has been a cornerstone of St. Joseph's Health since 1994, offering seamlessly integrated practice areas and complementary ancillary services with convenient locations across Central New York. As St. Joseph's Primary Care practices grow, the organization and the staff remain committed to a mission where patients can access advanced health care services and the expertise of specialists, right in their own neighborhoods and communities.

St. Joseph's has made great investments and strides in providing and expanding access to primary care. Affirming its commitment to its mission to serving the underserved, St. Joseph's opened an expanded facility on Syracuse's Near Westside in 2014. Primary Care Center-West (the Center), formerly known as the Westside Family Health Center which opened in 1994, features an integrated approach to patient care, increasing access to care and improving health

outcomes for low-income and vulnerable residents. In addition to primary care, obstetrical care and behavioral health services, patients are able to access onsite lab work, ultrasound and radiology services, as well as an onsite dietician and nutritional program with extended evening and weekend hours and increased clinical staff to meet the needs of the community.

The Center's patient population represents the diversity of the Near Westside neighborhood and it is estimated that more than 75% of patient visits are provided to patients with Medicaid, Medicare or no insurance. Additionally, the Center's staff is multilingual and offers translation services as approximately 40% of patients have little to no English proficiency.

In 2011, as part of a future-focused strategy, St. Joseph's acquired North Medical P.C., the largest private primary practice in Central New York. Founded in 1989 by Dr. A. John Merola, it is estimated that at the time, North Medical provided 30-45 percent of the

community with health care services. The acquisition would make St. Joseph's one of the state's largest health care networks. North Medical became St. Joseph's Medical, P.C., and has since been re-branded as St. Joseph's Physicians.

The partnership was a natural extension of North Medical's and St. Joseph's relationship and is consistent with a national trend of closer physician/hospital clinical integration. This expansion of services ensures St. Joseph's dedication to the mission of delivering quality, accessible healthcare for every patient and improve their care by offering them greater access to a variety of preventive, acute and rehabilitative care options throughout St. Joseph's network.

Health maintenance and prevention are effective ways to keep patients healthy and out of the hospital. St. Joseph's Health continues to enhance and expanded primary care offerings region-wide.

## School of Nursing Celebrates 100 Years

In 1998, the School of Nursing celebrated its centennial. It was during the 1990's that Marianne Markowitz, current vice president and dean, would be welcomed as director of the School of Nursing. The 90's also saw the addition of the Weekend Option programs, designed for students who wanted to pursue the training necessary for a career in nursing while continuing to work their full-time jobs.

## St. Joseph's is First to Use Pig Valves in Heart Surgery

It is hard to believe that aortic valve replacement is a relatively recent procedure that has advanced exponentially over the last 30 years. In 1998, St. Joseph's surgeons were the first in Syracuse to use a bioprosthetic valve, specifically, the heart valve harvested from a pig, to replace the aortic valve in a human patient. With a life span of 15-20 years, the animal valve makes an excellent replacement that spares the patient a lifetime use of blood thinners and does not make a "clicking" sound that is common in mechanical valve replacements.





## St. Joseph's Health Hospital Receives Magnet Designation

In 2002, for the first time, St. Joseph's Health Hospital attained Magnet recognition bestowed by The American Nurses Credentialing Center's Magnet Recognition Program®. This honor distinguishes health care organizations that meet rigorous standards for nursing excellence. This credential is the highest national honor for professional nursing practice.

To achieve initial Magnet recognition, organizations must pass a rigorous and lengthy process that demands widespread participation from leadership and staff, including an electronic application, written patient care documentation, an on-site visit, and a review by the Commission on Magnet Recognition.

The Magnet Model provides a framework for nursing practice, research, and measurement of outcomes. Through this framework, American Nurses Credentialing Center evaluates applicants across a number of components and dimensions to gauge an organization's nursing excellence. The foundation of this model comprises various elements deemed

essential to delivering superior patient care. These elements include the quality of nursing leadership and coordination and collaboration across specialties, as well as processes for measuring and improving the quality and delivery of care.

In 2019, St. Joseph's Health Hospital has once again attained Magnet recognition, a testament to its continued dedication to high-quality nursing practice.

Receiving Magnet recognition for the third time is a great achievement for St. Joseph's as it celebrates its 150th anniversary of providing a higher level of care to all members of its growing community. This designation places St. Joseph's among the top hospitals in the nation for quality outcomes, and both patient and nursing satisfaction. St. Joseph's is the only hospital in the greater Central New York region to meet the rigorous standards to receive Magnet recognition. In fact, just 8% of U.S. health care organizations have achieved Magnet recognition.

"Magnet recognition is a tremendous honor and reflects our commitment to delivering the highest quality of care to this community," said Chief Nursing Officer AnneMarie Czyz, RN, Ed.D., NEA-BC. "To earn Magnet recognition once was a great accomplishment and an incredible source of pride for our nurses. Repeating this achievement underscores the foundation of excellence and values that drive our entire staff to strive harder each day to meet the health care needs of the people we serve."

Health care organizations must reapply for Magnet recognition every four years based on adherence to Magnet concepts and demonstrated improvements in patient care and quality. An organization reapplying for Magnet recognition must provide documented evidence to demonstrate how staff members sustained and improved Magnet concepts, performance and quality over the four-year period since the organization received its most recent recognition.

Magnet recognition is the gold standard for nursing excellence and is a factor used when the public judges health care organizations. U.S. News &

World Report's annual showcase of "America's Best Hospitals" includes Magnet recognition in its ranking criteria for quality of inpatient care. St. Joseph's Health Hospital has been named a Best Regional Hospital by U.S. News and World Report for four consecutive years, recognition that St. Joseph's excels in caring for some of Central New York's sickest, most medically complex patients. St. Joseph's has also achieved multiple 5-star designations for heart care, orthopedics, and women's health from Healthgrades, the nation's leading independent health care ratings organization.

"We're a better organization today because of the Magnet recognition we first achieved years ago," said Leslie Paul Luke, president and CEO of St. Joseph's Health. "Magnet recognition is the benchmark for excellence that high-performing organizations strive for. It inspires every member of our team to achieve excellence every day. It is this commitment to providing our community with high-quality care that helped us become a Magnet-recognized organization, and it's why we continue to pursue and maintain Magnet recognition."

Research demonstrates that Magnet recognition provides specific benefits to health care organizations and their communities, such as:

- Higher patient satisfaction with nurse communication, availability of help and receipt of discharge information.
- Lower risk of 30-day mortality and lower failure to rescue rates.
- Higher job satisfaction among nurses.
- Lower nurse reports of intentions to leave their positions.
- Preference among physicians to work with Magnet-level nurses.



## 2004

### School of Nursing Incorporates and Changes Name

After more than 100 years as St. Joseph's School of Nursing, in 2004 the school incorporated and changed its name to St. Joseph's College of Nursing. This change occurred when the institution applied for accreditation by the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools. At the time, the school had 300 students who graduated with an associates in applied science with a major in nursing.



## 2002

### Dr. Silverman Advances the Pacemaker

In 2002, St. Joseph's Cardiologist Russell Silverman, M.D. played a prominent role in the advancing pacemaker technology and effectiveness. Silverman's co-authored articles in the New England Journal of Medicine, argued that a dual-chamber pacemaker is more effective than the traditional single-chamber. This research led to a clinical trial funded by the National Institutes of Health, of which St. Joseph's was the only hospital in New York to participate. Under Silverman's guidance, the trial found that the dual-chamber device more effectively decreased irregular heart rhythm, reduced signs and symptoms of heart failure and slightly improved quality of life for patients.



## 2005

### Introducing Robotic Surgery

The da Vinci® Robotic Surgical System debuted at St. Joseph's Health Hospital in 2005. The technology provides surgeons 3-D visualization and the ability to perform procedures through smaller incisions and to move surgical instruments at angles impossible for the human hand. Nearly a decade later, in 2017, the da Vinci® Surgical Robot became available for outpatient surgeries at St. Joseph's North Medical Center, marking the first time

robotic outpatient surgery was available in Upstate New York. "Moving surgeries appropriate for minimally invasive robot to an outpatient facility like North Medical Center will allow patients to have an easier and faster experience," said Dr. Balasubramaniam Sivakumar, a laproscopic/robotic surgeon at St. Joseph's. Known as Dr. Kumar by his patients, he was one of the first surgeons in the country to use robotics in general surgery more than a decade ago.



Dr. Balasubramaniam Sivakumar performing a robotic bilateral hernia surgery

## 2009

### Cool Therapy for Newborns

In 2009, St. Joseph's Health Hospital was the first hospital in Central New York to introduce cold therapy treatment for newborns. The process of labor and delivery is strenuous on mother and baby, sometimes resulting in complications to the infant's brain. Cold therapy involves placing an infant on an extremely cold blanket for 72 hours post-birth in an effort to minimize damage caused by brain swelling following lack of oxygen or blood flow. By inducing a state of controlled hypothermia, the risk of death and disability are reduced.



# A LEGACY OF HEALING AND MIRACLES

Saint Marianne Cope, formerly Barbara Koob (1838-1918), was born in Germany and grew up an hour east of Syracuse, in Utica, NY. Her family was a member of St. Joseph's Parish where she went to school and was confirmed Catholic. She joined the Sisters of Saint Francis in Syracuse in 1862 and was invested at the Church of the Assumption where she was given the name Sister Marianne. Nearly a century after her passing, Saint Marianne Cope was canonized by Pope Benedict XVI at the Vatican on October 21, 2012 in the greatest of tributes offered by the Roman Catholic Church.

## Leader in health care

In 1869, she became a founding leader of St. Joseph's Hospital, one of the first 50 general hospitals in the country, when she and other Sisters recognized the need for a hospital in the area; they saw opportunity in a saloon and dance hall upon Prospect Hill. It was Mother Marianne and the Sisters who established the unique charter of the hospital, one that continues in St. Joseph's mission today – St. Joseph's was open to caring for the sick without distinction as to a person's nationality, religion, color, or economic means.

Saint Marianne served as head administrator for six of St. Joseph's Hospital's first seven years. Her leadership in health care came about because of a need for someone with her unique abilities and talents. She was an innovator in hospital management and strove to provide better service to patients. Long before the importance of cleanliness measures were known or practiced in caring for the sick, she strictly advocated practices such as simply washing ones hands properly before ministering to the patients.

She was also far ahead of her time in furthering patients' rights. In a letter of negotiations with the Medical College, she stated that it was the right of the patient in each and every case to decide whether or not the patient wished to be seen by medical students. Often she was criticized for treating "outcast" patients such as those suffering from alcoholism, an affliction frowned upon at that time, for hospital admittance

by the medical profession. Unsurprisingly, she became known and loved in the Central New York area for her kindness, wisdom and down to earth practicality.

## Patron of lepers and outcasts

In 1883, Saint Marianne received a letter from the faraway Sandwich Islands (now known as Hawaii) with a request for a capable leader to take charge of "our hospitals and even our schools." She gave her complete affirmation to this request when she learned that the main work was to minister to people with Hansen's disease (leprosy). She took a week long train ride from Syracuse to San Francisco, CA and a seasick ridden week long ship ride on the Pacific Ocean to reach the Hawaiian Islands.

Saint Marianne witnessed the worst of humanity upon her arrival at the Oahu Branch Hospital for people with leprosy. The 19th century Hawaiian government sent men, women and children to the fenced in compound at the first sign of a lesion hinting at the epidemic illness. The people were scarred by open sores and disfigurement and the corrupt administration of the compound left few resources to properly care for the sick. Saint Marianne and five other Franciscan sisters did not flinch, however. They went to work cleaning the filthy compound and combating sexual abuse. They offered dignity and began to serve.

In 1888, Saint Marianne and the Sisters went on to care for those exiled to the island of Molokai. Although leprosy was known to be contagious, despite direct contact with persons suffering from the disease, neither Saint Marianne nor the Sisters contracted the disease as a result of stringent hand washing and other sanitary procedures.

## Sainthood

It took the miraculous cure of two women through the prayerful intercession of Saint Marianne for the church to elevate her from Venerable to Blessed to Sainthood.



In 1993, Syracuse, NY teenager, Kate Mahoney, had been in the hospital for months as multiple vital organs stopped working. Doctors thought she would die. Sister Mary Laurence Hanley visited Kate, touched her with a relic of the soon to be saint's, and prayed to Mother Marianne to heal Kate; she also requested prayers from others on her behalf. Kate's organs regained function and she made a full recovery that was determined to have no medical explanation. Following this miraculous event, Bishop Robert J. Cunningham officially opened a church inquiry which led to submission of evidence of a miracle to the Vatican. The miracle was authenticated in 2004.

The second miracle occurred in 2005 when Sharon Smith was suffering from severe pancreatitis and was near death. Sister Michaelleen Cabral visited Smith and they prayed to Mother Marianne and pinned a small bag of dirt from Mother Marianne's grave to Smith's gown. Soon, again, without any medical explanation, Smith was fully recovered and showed no signs of having been so ill, she had been in a coma for two and a half

months and doctors felt there was little they could do for her. Following inquiry and subsequent submission to the Vatican, the miracle was authenticated in 2011.

Mother Marianne was beatified in 2005 and canonized in 2012. Pilgrims from Hawaii and Central New York, including miracle recipient Sharon Smith, traveled to Rome, Italy in 2012 to bear witness to the glorious and historic event. Saint Marianne, beloved mother of outcasts, was the first Franciscan woman from North America to be canonized and only the eleventh American saint.

Saint Marianne Cope is remembered for her commitment to providing excellent care to those who were most underserved in the community, and 150 years later, the mission of St. Joseph's continues to uphold those values. To learn more about Saint Marianne's life and work visit [www.saintmariannecope.org](http://www.saintmariannecope.org) or visit the Saint Marianne Cope Shrine and Museum located at 601 N. Townsend St. in Syracuse, NY.



2010

### Grand opening of Nursing Excellence and Clinical Research Institute

September 27, 2010 marked the grand opening of the St. Joseph's Nursing Excellence and Clinical Research Institute. The Institute is focused on enhancing higher learning throughout the research process, beginning with providing mentors to those inexperienced with scientific research, and fueling the growth of research by providing support, grants, oversight, resources, leadership, additional findings, evaluations, and dissemination throughout the process. The knowledge gained will help increase patient safety, decrease costs and improve clinical outcomes.

2014

### Grand Opening of Christina M. Nappi Surgical Tower

Located on the north end of the hospital campus, on Syracuse's Northside, a 104,000 square-foot tower features spacious private rooms and corridors with plenty of natural light streaming in through large windows. State-of-the-art workspaces are located on each patient floor, fostering a collaborative environment for interdisciplinary clinical teams to enhance patient outcomes.

St. Joseph's Christina M. Nappi Surgical Tower is full of innovations in health care, from transformative patient and family care to technology and a "green" design. At the time, the project was the largest "green" health care construction project in the Northeast. The tower features a 4,000-square-foot surgical waiting room with an ample number of chairs, tables, charging stations, and a vending area that help make this a comfortable space for families to wait while their loved ones are in surgery.

Designed by King + King Architects, the construction was managed by The Hayner Hoyt Corporation and funded through the Generations Capital Campaign, with additional support and funding from the Regional Economic Development Council and Onondaga County. The tower itself cost \$63 million, and was completed on time, on budget.

2015

### St. Joseph's Health Joins Trinity Health System

At a celebratory event, Trinity Health and St. Joseph's Health executives, mission and governance leaders, sponsors and founders shared stories, and brought the two organizations together symbolically, weaving two ribbons together to form a heart as St. Joseph's Health officially joined Trinity Health's national system. St. Joseph's Health, as it is now known, continues to manage and operate its facilities, programs and local patient care. St. Joseph's physicians will continue to play key roles in clinical leadership, and nurses will continue to provide the highest level of quality care as Magnet-recognized professionals. St. Joseph's is now a member of a national system committed to the exchange of best-practices providing expanded opportunities to benefit patients and communities.



2018

### St. Joseph's Health Hospital Opens Helipad

After nearly six months of construction, St. Joseph's Health opened Care Flight, a medical helipad providing faster and easier access to St. Joseph's top-rated cardiovascular emergency care and certified primary stroke center. Care Flight is located on top of St. Joseph's 98-foot-tall building on North State Street. The helipad allows patients from surrounding counties who are facing life-threatening cardiac and stroke emergencies to be treated by our expert team much faster than if they were transported by ambulance. Reducing transit time not only provides patients the world-class care they need as early as possible, but also exponentially boosts their chances of favorable outcomes.







# ORTHOPEDICS

### Keeping CNY Out of Pain and In the Game

Thousands of patients have relied on St. Joseph's Health for their orthopedic surgery. Home to the multi-award winning Center for Orthopedic & Spine Care at St. Joseph's, the physicians and medical staff are leaders in clinical and surgical care, and have performed more knee replacement, hip replacement and spine surgeries than any other hospital in the region. Since 2010, approximately 10,000 procedures for patients from Central New York and beyond have been performed.

St. Joseph's is proud to have exceptionally talented and experienced surgeons, anesthesiologists and nurses who work in unison with the newest technology available to repeatedly produce the best outcomes, improving the quality of life for patients. Nationally recognized with the highest ratings for standards of excellence and exemplary performance, St. Joseph's orthopedics is ranked among the top five percent in the nation for joint replacement for three years in a row and has been accredited by DNV(Det Norske Vertias) Healthcare Inc. The weight of these awards is a testament to the fact that St. Joseph's Health Hospital will always deliver a higher level of care.

All of the surgeons on the Joint Replacement team and the Spine Surgery team are board certified and are fellowship trained, which is yet another year of training beyond a routine orthopedic residency. As studies show, more experience leads to better clinical outcomes.

St. Joseph's orthopedic services and surgeons are exceptional and have consistently been nationally recognized. Most recently, St. Joseph's is again the recipient of HealthGrades' America's 100 BEST for Joint Replacement and, for three years in a row, has received the Joint Replacement Excellence Award.

St. Joseph's is known for innovation in care and orthopedics is no exception. The state-of-the-art orthopedic surgical suites are ergonomically designed and use digitally integrated orthopedic operating rooms, adapted to the latest advancements in technology, including spacious design to accommodate large surgical teams, boom-mounted technology, and special ultraviolet lights, to aggressively kill infection-causing germs.

### Bringing a higher level of care across the globe

A group of top orthopedic surgeons extend their commitment to excellence in orthopedic care worldwide through Operation Walk. Founded by Co-directors Dr. Brett Greenky and Dr. Seth Greenky, Operation Walk New York is a nonprofit organization that brings joint-replacement treatment and education to patients in underdeveloped countries, as well as the United States, at no cost. Together with a staff of volunteers from Syracuse Orthopedic Specialists (SOS) and St. Joseph's Health, they bring the miracle of mobility to the most-impooverished populations around the world, including Russia, Cuba, Nepal, China, the Philippines, Peru, Nicaragua and Mexico. These patients suffer from debilitating bone and joint conditions, such as arthritis, and do not have access to medical care.





# 150TH ANNIVERSARY & INTERFAITH SERVICE

On May 6, St. Joseph's Health celebrated the 150th anniversary of the opening of St. Joseph's Health Hospital with an interfaith service followed by the debut and blessing of the St. John's Bible.

At the ceremony, Syracuse Mayor Ben Walsh read a joint proclamation from his office and the office of Onondaga County Executive, Ryan McMahan, proclaiming the day "St. Joseph's Health Hospital Day" in the City of Syracuse and Onondaga County.

Sr. MaryAnn Dillion, executive vice president for Mission and Sponsorship for Trinity Health, spoke to the strength of St. Joseph's commitment to community health and Trinity Health's resolve to support now and in the future.

Sister Barbara Jean Donovan, General Minister of the Sisters of St. Francis of the Neumann Communities, Rabbi Daniel Feldman from Temple Concord, Rev. Gracious Moyo, the director of interfaith initiatives at InterFaith Works, Imam

Mohammed Elfiki from the Islamic Society of Central New York, and several St. Joseph's Health colleagues joined in the celebration with remarks, readings and blessings acknowledging the good works and legacy of the organization. "St. Joseph's mission has continued with unwavering commitment over the past 150 years," said Leslie Paul Luke, president and CEO of St. Joseph's Health. "I am confident that I speak for the entire St. Joseph's Health team when I say how humbling it is to be entrusted to carry on this legacy of care and compassion."

In addition to celebrating the past, present and future of the organization and paying tribute to the founding Sisters, St. Joseph's Health unveiled the St. John's Bible. The Bible is the first completely handwritten and illuminated Bible commissioned by Benedictine Abbey since the invention of the printing press.

In 1998, Saint John's Abbey and University commissioned renowned calligrapher Donald Jackson to produce a hand-written,

hand-illuminated Bible. This work of art unites an ancient Benedictine tradition with the technology and vision of today, illuminating the Word of God for a new millennium.

St. Joseph's Health Chaplain Rev. Severine Yagaza, had the honor of providing the blessing of the Saint John's Bible.

"In this year as we celebrate, you have blessed us with the presence, provide us with the zeal to delve into the world and grow up into the wisdom and legacy of caring for years to come." - Excerpt from Yagaza's Saint John's Bible blessing.

The Bible will be on display and open to the public at St. Joseph's Health Hospital until December 2019.

St. Joseph's Health is truly blessed to have had the opportunity to serve community members throughout Central New York for the last 150 years and is committed to honoring and upholding the legacy well into the future.

**OUR MISSION: WE, ST. JOSEPH'S HEALTH AND TRINITY HEALTH, SERVE TOGETHER IN THE SPIRIT OF THE GOSPEL AS A COMPASSIONATE AND TRANSFORMING HEALING PRESENCE WITHIN OUR COMMUNITIES.**

**OUR VALUES: REVERENCE | COMMITMENT TO THOSE WHO ARE POOR | JUSTICE | STEWARDSHIP | INTEGRITY | EXCELLENCE**



# ST. JOSEPH'S HEALTH SESQUICENTENNIAL GALA

It was an evening 150 years in the making. The OnCenter in Syracuse, NY glowed as the St. Joseph's family and the Central New York community came together to celebrate St. Joseph's 150th Anniversary in support of St. Joseph's Health Foundation Sesquicentennial Gala.

Through the generosity of its supporters, this year's gala netted over \$250,000, which will support the expansion of St. Joseph's Health Hospital Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU). The Level III NICU—the first NICU in our region—provides specialized care for babies that are born prematurely.

"The Gala, St. Joseph's largest fundraising event, is something we look forward to every year. This year was especially significant as we are celebrating the 150th Anniversary of St. Joseph's we felt it was important to hold the event in our home community," said Leslie Paul Luke, president and CEO of St. Joseph's Health. "We are grateful for the 850+ Gala guests who came to celebrate our many milestones

including our keynote speaker Mike Slubowski, president and CEO of Trinity Health."

The Sesquicentennial Dinner Dance, held at the OnCenter, featured a classic silver, gold and periwinkle theme. The Gala guests enjoyed dining and dancing to the live music of Nik and the Nice Guys.

"It was a memorable night," said Pam Kleine, director of events and annual giving for the St. Joseph's Health Foundation. "It was amazing to see so many of our long time sponsors as well as many new faces that came to show their support. We are very grateful to the Gala's presenting sponsor CNY Infusion Services, LLC."

Along with dining and dancing, guests had the opportunity to bid on international travel packages and purchase raffle tickets for a chance to win a diamond bracelet donated by Bradley's Jewelers of Liverpool.

## IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO LEAVE YOUR LEGACY!

### St. Joseph's Health 150th Legacy of Caring Campaign

To date, 1,300 individuals and organizations have supported St. Joseph's Health 150th Anniversary Campaign which has raised over \$18 million towards its \$20 million goal. We are close to achieving this milestone. This is your opportunity to leave your legacy. All gifts, no matter the size, are critically needed and greatly appreciated. Contributions of \$150 or more will be recognized on a commemorative 150th Anniversary Campaign plaque to be installed in the hospital in January 2020.

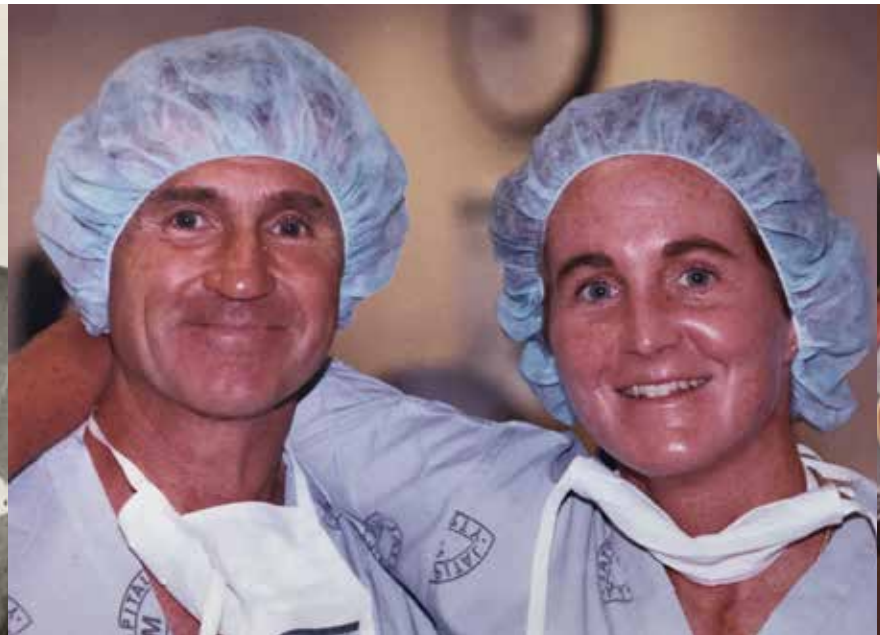
The overall success of this Campaign depends on the generosity of our donors. Thank you in advance for your compassionate support, ensuring St. Joseph's will continue to provide a higher level of care for our Central New York community for the next 150 years and beyond.

Please find a remittance envelope inside the magazine. For more information visit [sjh150campaign.org](http://sjh150campaign.org) or contact the Foundation at 315.703.2137 or [foundation@sjhsyr.org](mailto:foundation@sjhsyr.org).





Dr. JM Thornton



Dr. Joan E & Dr. Lester in OR



Dr. JT Thornton with newborn

ST. JOSEPH'S HEALTH  
**150**  
A Legacy  
of Caring

## A Family Legacy: The Thorntons

It's not every day that you come across a family that boasts three generations of physicians. And, if you happen to, it's not often that each of those physicians spent their careers at the same hospital – the Thorntons are that family. Three generations that committed their lives to compassionate care in the Syracuse community and to the St. Joseph's Health family.

A graduate of Niagara University and Georgetown University School of Medicine, Dr. Joseph Michael Thornton (Joseph) began his career in general practice on the westside of Syracuse working out of the family's home. He had the opportunity to train in anesthesiology at the Mayo Clinic, which resulted in his career as an anesthesiologist at St. Joseph's Hospital beginning in 1931. A father of five, Joseph was committed to his craft and his patients and held the role of president of the medical staff. Joseph worked at St. Joseph's until April 1963 when he was killed in an automobile accident while making a housecall.

Joseph's son, Dr. Joseph Thomas Thornton (Joe) followed in his father's footsteps attending Niagara University and Georgetown University School of Medicine where he met his wife of 62 years, Joan, a nursing student. Following graduation Joe completed his internship at St. Joseph's Hospital and was the first four-year medical resident at Upstate Medical Center.

Specializing in obstetrics and gynecology, Joe entered private practice in 1963 with two partners. The practice was affiliated with St. Joseph's Hospital, and although he did work at other local hospitals, for a part of his 30-year career, he was chairman of his department at St. Joseph's and participated on multiple committees.

"I think part of the reason I remained with St. Joseph's was my father's influence. That, and I had my internship there, so it was familiar. They had excellent support services and staff at St. Joseph's, so it was a good place to work," said Joe.

Joe retired from practice in 1993 and continues to support the organization through the St. Joseph's Health Foundation.

Joe and Joan Thornton's daughter, Joan E., was born while Joe was in his final year of medical school, little did they know she too would carry on the legacy of practicing medicine at St. Joseph's Health. Nicknamed "Jet" by her family, Joan's father describes her as a "bright and interested" child, though he didn't anticipate that she too would become a physician.

Like her father and grandfather before her, Joan attended Niagara University, where she was the first female to earn a basketball scholarship, and Georgetown University School of Medicine. Upon graduating from medical school Joan completed her internship at St. Joseph's and then with a nod to her grandfather, she specialized in anesthesiology, becoming an attending in the department at St. Joseph's from that point on, retiring in 2018.

Medicine seems to run through the veins of the Thornton family. In addition to the family members above, Joe's daughter Patricia is an enterostomal therapy nurse in the area, and his youngest daughter, Susan, worked as a lab tech at—you guessed it—St. Joseph's Health.

For the better part of 90 years there has been a Thornton on the medical staff at St. Joseph's Health. A heritage of family, excellent care and support. A true legacy of caring.

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- ✓ EXPERIENCE
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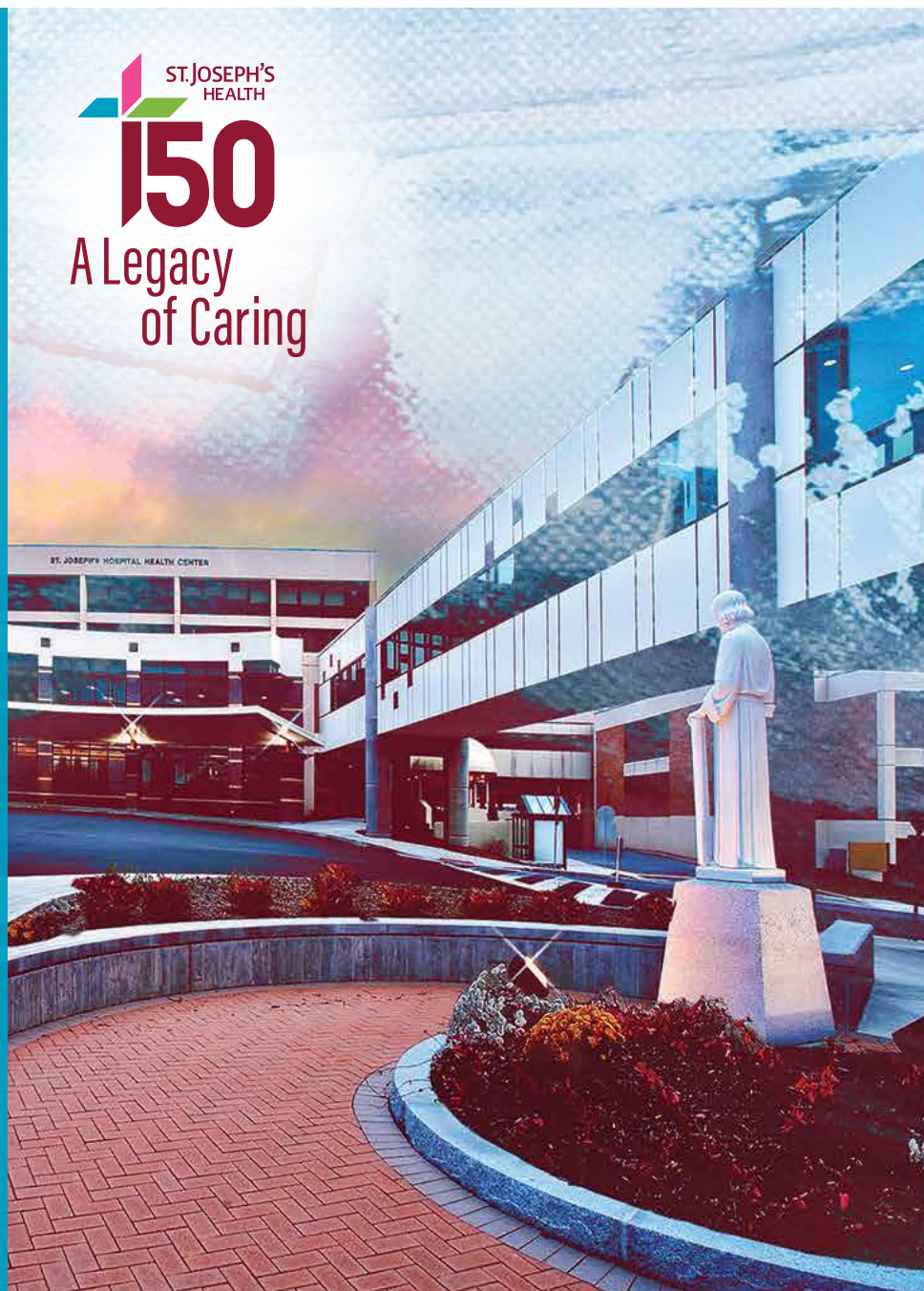


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