



Hospital Sisters
Health System

NEWS

Belleville, IL
St. Elizabeth's Hospital

Breese, IL
St. Joseph's Hospital

Decatur, IL
St. Mary's Hospital

Effingham, IL
*St. Anthony's
Memorial Hospital*

Highland, IL
St. Joseph's Hospital

Litchfield, IL
St. Francis Hospital

Springfield, IL
St. John's Hospital

Streator, IL
St. Mary's Hospital

Chippewa Falls, WI
St. Joseph's Hospital

Eau Claire, WI
Sacred Heart Hospital

Green Bay, WI
*St. Mary's Hospital
Medical Center
St. Vincent Hospital*

Sheboygan, WI
St. Nicholas Hospital

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ROBERT RITZ NAMED PRESIDENT / CEO AT ST. JOHN'S HOSPITAL

SPRINGFIELD – Robert P. Ritz, a Catholic healthcare executive with a quarter-century of experience in leading hospitals to new levels of quality and patient service, was named today President and Chief Executive Officer of St. John's Hospital, the largest ministry within the Hospital Sisters Health System.

Ritz, 47, will assume his new role in April. He replaces Richard J. Carlson, who retired this month after 17 years in top management positions at St. John's. In the meantime, Anna Lee Fenger, Associate Administrator at St. John's, will serve as interim President and CEO, effective immediately.

"Bob understands our mission, is a proven leader and is the right person at the right time to further the St. John's tradition of quality patient care, compassion and community service," said Stephanie S. McCutcheon, President and Chief Executive Officer of HSHS. "He puts the needs of patients, their families and his colleagues first while addressing the challenging environment of healthcare. We are very pleased that he has accepted our call to join the mission and ministry of the Hospital Sisters."

Ritz currently is the President and Chief Executive Officer of St. Mary's Health System in Waterbury, Connecticut, a 346-bed, non-profit hospital. During his six years leading St. Mary's, Ritz led the complete renovation of the hospital's Emergency Department and implemented new patient services, including an interventional cardiac care program, two outpatient sleep labs, a comprehensive wound center and three satellite facilities – walk-in clinics and centers dedicated to physical therapy occupational medicine.

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In addition, Ritz has led efforts on a comprehensive renovation of St. Mary's 100-year-old facility, recruited new physicians to the hospital and led an effort that successfully increased admissions and outpatient visits for three successive years.

"I am thrilled and blessed that I have been invited to join the mission and family at St. John's," Ritz said. "It is a great organization filled at every level with talented and dedicated professionals. I am confident that we can use our past successes as a guide and move this ministry successfully into the future. St. John's has a unique place in the fabric of Springfield and Central Illinois. It is vital that we continue to put the interests of our patients and their families first in the delivery of quality and compassionate care."

J. Michael Houston, chair of the St. John's Board of Directors, noted that Ritz's prior service in Catholic healthcare is an asset for St. John's. "All of us who participated in the search for a new president/CEO were greatly impressed with Bob's understanding of our ministry's role in the community, as well as his proven ability to diligently manage the present and plan accordingly for the future," Houston added.

"Bob Ritz is a good fit for St. John's," said Larry P. Schumacher, Chief Operating Officer of HSHS. "He fulfills the best tradition of the servant-leadership role in Catholic healthcare. He has proven to be a strong advocate for patients, for quality healthcare services and innovation."

Prior to joining St. Mary's Health System in 2002, Ritz served in various capacities at Monongalia General Hospital in Morgantown, West Virginia between 1987 and 2002; rising from Vice President to President and Chief Executive Officer. He began his professional career as an Administrative Resident at Highland Hospital in Rochester, New York.

Ritz holds a Master's degree in Health Administration from Cornell University in Ithaca, New York and a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration from Wheeling Jesuit University in Wheeling, West Virginia. Ritz and his wife Mary have three sons: Andrew, Michael and Christopher.

Interim CEO Fenger has been with St. John's since March of 2007. Previously, she served in various capacities for more than 30 years with OSF Healthcare System at both OSF St. Francis Medical Center in Peoria and OSF St. Joseph Medical Center in Bloomington.

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St. John's Hospital, founded in 1875 by the Hospital Sisters of the Third Order of St. Francis, has 730 licensed beds and is a primary teaching hospital for the Southern Illinois University School of Medicine. St. John's mission is to provide Central Illinois with value-based health services in the Catholic tradition of compassion, care, justice and reverence for all life.

The Hospital Sisters Health System is a Roman Catholic healthcare mission founded to continue the healing ministry of Jesus Christ. Sponsored by the Hospital Sisters of the Third Order of St. Francis, HSHS is dedicated to serving the poor, the sick and the needy at each of its 13 Local Systems in Illinois and Wisconsin. The Hospital Sisters Health System provides state-of-the-art medical care framed in traditional values taught by St. Francis and St. Clare of Assisi.

With \$1.4 billion in revenue and more than 14,900 staff, the HSHS hospitals in Wisconsin are located in Chippewa Falls, Eau Claire and Sheboygan, with two in Green Bay. In Illinois, the other HSHS hospitals are located in Belleville, Breese, Decatur, Effingham, Highland, Litchfield and Streator.

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