



# St. Francis Medical Center

July 25, 2024

Dear Ascension Illinois Associates,

I have been the Director of Spiritual Care and Ethics at St. Francis Medical Center in Lynwood, CA, in the Archdiocese of Los Angeles for the past 37 years. My experience during the transition from being a faith-based hospital sponsored by the Daughters of Charity to a community hospital under Prime Healthcare has been flawless.

I can honestly say that Prime has strengthened our holistic support of mind, body and SPIRIT since the acquisition, and for that we are a better, more compassionate and inclusive faith-filled medical center. We remain known in the community we serve as "The house where God lives..." providing hope and healing to every patient and family.

Prime has enriched our legacy of care, recognizing the work of physicians and staff as a calling and retaining our Spiritual Care staff of Chaplains, including priests, sisters, and me, a religious brother as the Director. Now, as a member of Prime Healthcare, our standard of practice and service to the community, poor, vulnerable, and all in need has not wavered.

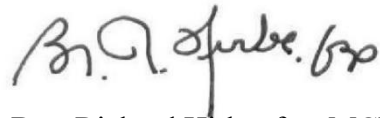
We continue our connection with the community through events such as Honor Walks for organ donors, our annual Sack Lunch celebration, when members of our healthcare team gather to bag and deliver healthy sack lunch lunches to area schools. In so doing, we continue to honor the legacy and heritage of our founders, St. Vincent de Paul and St. Francis of Assisi on their feast days. At our daily huddles, a Mission Moment is shared with the assembled Leadership, during which our values are demonstrated through actions at the bedside. We also extend our care into communities through outreach, including health screenings and education provided to local schools and senior centers.

Embracing all faiths, we provide a spiritual assessment and document each patient's spiritual and religious needs. We assure that every new admission is visited by a hospital chaplain. All Catholic patients are also anointed upon admission. Our daily Mass is open to patients, family members, staff and the community, and our schedule (seven days a week) has been uninterrupted. Similarly, our long-standing 75-year morning prayer is offered each day at 8 A.M. over the PA system and provides a moment of shared reflection and renewal for those who are giving and receiving care. Just off our main lobby, our Chapel stands open 24 hours a day, seven days a week, with the reservation of the Eucharist and for private and public prayer. And throughout our facility, Prime encouraged us to retain the religious and sacred art on the walls, which has meaning to our staff and the patients we serve. Prime was especially resolute in maintaining our outdoor shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe, which attracts daily visitors from the community and well as the families of our patients. We remain actively involved with the Archdiocese, participating in meetings, conferences, and retreats with the Archdiocesan Office for Health Affairs.



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We have been blessed to become a member of Prime and since joining the Prime Healthcare family, we have been able to continue our decades of service in our community and hospital, which stands as a beacon of light and hope for all, a sanctuary that is safe and trusted. If you have any hesitation about Prime's promise of retaining your tradition of honoring the spiritual and religious needs of your facilities - and service to the sick poor - put that to rest. You are in good hands.



Bro. Richard Hirbe, fsp, MCP, BC

