



Word from Amy & Norm

Co-directors and Founders of St. Luke's Mission of Mercy

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! We pray that the peace and joy found only through the Christ child will find a home in your hearts. Thank you to all who have helped in any way this Thanksgiving and Christmas season. Because of you we are helping even more people than ever. Please know that it is not too late to help with last minute purchases. We take donations right up to the very end and beyond.

In the New Year it is important for those of you who know about us to spread the word about St. Luke's Mission of Mercy. We have more people in need and now we need more people!!! Talk about us at the water cooler instead of the TV show you probably shouldn't be watching anyway! If you need brochures to hand out to friends and family call us and we will be happy to provide them to you. Bring a friend to our 10th anniversary concert celebrating a decade of the Voices of Mercy. This will be May 18th and details will be mailed at a later date.

Also you can look forward to events that we are planning in the year ahead that will introduce new people to our ministry. Don't keep us to yourself; share us with those you love! What a Christmas gift!

As always, we will keep you in our prayers. May God bless you and your family this Christmas and always.

In His Mercy,

Amy Betros and Norman Paolini

We believe.



www.believecatholic.org

The State Commission on Healthcare Facilities in the 21st Century has given its recommendation, and part of the plan presented to our governor and legislators is to close St. Joseph's Hospital in Cheektowaga, NY. There is a lot of misinformation circulating in the media.

Here are a few facts:

- St. Joseph's Hospital and the Catholic Health System (CHS) operate at a PROFIT, and those profits are directly returned to the facilities in the form of new equipment, education, and charity care, including St. Joseph's new ER, the most advanced in Western New York. All upgrade and construction costs have been paid for by fund-raisers and have not cost taxpayers a dime.

- St. Joseph's Hospital ER visits and admissions have gone up 11% last year and 6% as of October this year. St. Joseph's is growing, not shrinking.

- State officials have stated that the government cannot support Medicaid payments to hospitals at the present level. St. Joseph's Hospital served 200 Medicaid patients last year, a very small number. The primary patients served are sick, elderly low-income Medicare recipients.

- The Catholic Health System has been responsible for 91% of all bed closures in the past 16 years. Including the closure of OLV Hospital, St. Jerome Hospital, St. Francis Hospital, and several nursing homes; a total of 381 beds. All closing costs were paid for by the Catholic Health System, with no government handouts. All other hospitals combined have closed an insignificant total of 30 beds and have accepted huge government subsidies to maintain failing facilities.

The elderly residents of Buffalo's East side, Cheektowaga, Depew, Lancaster, Alden and the surrounding areas deserve better than what our politicians want for them.. How can you help? Go to www.believecatholic.org today, and sign the online petition. The site has many suggestions on how we as the Catholic community of WNY can respond. **St. Luke's supports St. Joseph's and the Catholic Health System!**



WLOF FM 101.7

Don't miss St. Luke's weekly spiritual "magazine" every Sunday from 3PM to 4PM with an encore presentation every Wednesday night from 9PM to 10PM. Hosted by Amy and Norm, the program consists of reflections, interviews, music, prayer, and more! And later in the week on WLOF don't miss:



While you're at it, be sure to catch Norm Paolini, Fr. Bill Quinlivan (Priest associate moderator for St. Luke's) and Gregg Prince, longtime Associate, in their weekly two-hour contemporary music program! Featuring the best in today's Christian music coupled with scripture and reflection, this program will light up your Saturday evenings. WLOF FM 101.7