

From the Desk of Nancy R. Hellyer

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Saying “YES” to the Dress

Starting a new year is always filled with hope for what the months ahead will bring. For my family, this year promises to bring us a new son-in-law as our eldest daughter, Jenny, will walk down the aisle.

For those of you who have walked this path before, you know the wedding details can be quiet overwhelming and yet very exciting for the bride to be. Earlier this month, I had the joy of accompanying my two daughters on a trip in search of the perfect dress.

My daughter collected pictures for weeks about the dress she thought would be perfect for her special day. But when we got there, after trying on dress after dress after dress, she was disappointed that her vision was not coming into reality. Fortunately for her, my other daughter Ally, knows her sister really well and quickly went to the rack and pulled two dresses she was confident would look beautiful on Jenny. It took some coaxing to get Jenny to try them on. But when



she stepped out of the dressing room, she had tears of joy running down her face. It was the perfect dress.

Sometimes what we envision turns out not to be what we end up with at all. It's something we would have never considered for ourselves, but through the eyes of others, we cautiously try it. And it turns out to work in our favor.

I couldn't help but think about how parallel this experience was in relationship to our New Year right here in Cenla. Some of us envisioned a different U.S. President; some envisioned a

balanced state budget; some hoped for expansion of services that haven't come to fruition and still others have personal desires that are not developing as quickly as hoped.

Do not lose heart if something has gotten in the way of your original vision. Like Jenny and Ally, we are all part of the family of God. And family always has each other's back and can help in ways perhaps we have not envisioned. I encourage you to be open to a new perspective. You never know, like my daughter Jenny, it might just get you the perfect wedding dress!

Nancy R. Hellyer

*Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.
2 Corinthians 5:17*



Sadly, Louisiana has the second highest breast cancer death rate in the country – mostly because women don't have access to screening. That's why we are proud to partner with the Louisiana Breast & Cervical Health Program to reach women in their most vulnerable needs. Together, we aim to prevent unnecessary disease, disability, and premature death by providing quality breast and cervical cancer screenings at no cost to uninsured and underinsured, lower-income women throughout Central Louisiana. If you'd like to learn more about these special screenings, please contact our cancer navigator, Cansas Verzwylt.



Antimicrobial Stewardship:

Educating senior leadership to ensure they are driven the important emphasis to Antimicrobial Stewardship.

We've also established formal Antimicrobial Stewardship Teams to monitor our progress and lead us in new ways to keep this on the forefront of our everyday work.

We've provided physicians, nurses, and pharmacists education about the significance of this effort and sought their feedback for success.

We have a team that provides oversight (including a review in 48 – 72 hours) of antimicrobials ordered so we can get real-time assessments.

We are currently working

to establish metrics to monitor the our Antimicrobial Stewardship Program so we cannot only track our success but also share with sister facilities in the future the best practices we've discovered.

You should have seen flyers and patient education materials in key areas throughout the hospital and should be discussing this in your staff meetings and huddles.

Thank you for your commitment to making this effort a priority.

In response to the rise in multi-drug resistant organisms, the Joint Commission has created a new standard requiring the development of an antimicrobial stewardship program for hospitals. Our pharmacy team is committed to bringing you the latest information as we work together to provide the highest quality care. Our pharmacists along with our staff are making sure our physicians and staff are actively engaged in assuring our compliance with this standard. Some of the things we've already implemented include:

"Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed, for His compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. I say to myself, "The Lord is my portion; therefore I will wait for Him"

Lamentations 3:22-24

Keeping the Pulse on Cardiac Care

We have a tremendous amount of exciting activity developing within our cardiac service line. Make sure to stop by the monitors this week to view our new cardiac commercials – you’ll have fun seeing who you can pick out from our own staff. Later this week you’ll see the Impella mobile learning unit on site. Make



sure to stop by and check out what’s happening. The Impella is the world’s smallest heart pump and we are the first to have it in Cenla! Also in the coming month, we will have more

announcements about our new pediatric cardiologists through our partnership with Ochsner. A lot to look forward to!

Upcoming Events to Note...

February 3:
National Wear Red Day

February 17:
Deadline for ordering Heart Walk **Camouflage Shirts**

February 18:
Community Heart Fair

February 24:
Taste of Mardi Gras benefiting CMN

February 25:
Alexandria’s Children’s Mardi Gras Parade – Come cheer on our CMN Children.

February 26:
Cabrini Family Tailgating party for the Alexandria Mardi Gras Parade.

March 4:
AHA Heart Walk

Watch for details on all these events on the digital screens, Facebook and flyers around the hospital.



Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Psalm 51:10

New Year, New You!



We kicked off the New Year with the Biggest Loser Team competition and had an astounding 40 teams participate! I’m very proud of my *Weapons of Mass Reduction Team* for all their encouragement of each other. We’re half way through the competition and I’m expecting big

results from all the teams. The highest percentage of weight lost will receive 8 hours PTO for each team member. Second place wins 2000 kudos points and Third place will win 1,000 kudos points to each team member respectively. Please encourage your colleagues to keep up the good work!

New DaVinci XI Robot

We are very excited about our new DaVinci XI Robot. Dr. Bass was our first physician to use the DaVinci Robot almost 10 years ago when our hospital first began robotic procedures. he's very excited about this newer model. To date, we have more than ten trained surgeons in the use of robotic technology and have seen more than 2000

successful procedures completed. This latest edition of the DaVinci robot is less invasive with smaller but longer instrument shafts designed to give surgeons greater operative reach and greater range of motion than ever before. This new technology is just one more way we are delivering on our promise to provide our community

with advanced smart medicine.



Legislative Rumors

As you may have seen in the news, the state is grappling with a \$600 million mid-year shortfall, of which about \$300 million has already been addressed. We anticipate most of those cuts will be to the Louisiana Department of Health and Human Services which as you know, funds the majority of our charity care services. Our team has

been working around the clock in conjunction with the leadership team at Rapides to ensure we keep our funding. Many of you have asked if we will sustain another significant cut. The truth is, I don't know at this point but we are working hard to ensure we don't. I will know more as we move further into February after we've had time to meet with every

representative personally. Please be on alert as I may need your assistance in the future to contact your legislators. Thank you for your support in this most pressing matter. I will update you as I know more.

Louisiana Drug Card

The Louisiana Drug Card has been working closely with Children's Miracle Network affiliated hospitals to distribute free discount prescription cards so that all Louisiana residents will have access

to discounted drugs. Thus far, it has helped residents save over \$47 million since its inception in 2009. It is accepted at over 68,000 participating regional and national pharmacies. You can help

raise funds for CMN by encouraging your patients to print a free Louisiana Drug Card at www.louisianadrugcard.com. Louisiana Drug Card is also available as an app for iPhone and Android.

Better Communication

As you know, social media is a very prevalent avenue for communication. In fact, research suggest seven-in-ten Americans use social media to connect with one another, engage with news content, share information and entertain themselves. Therefore it's worth us trying to connect with each other using this avenue. Thus, we would like to invite you to join our

private Facebook page. All you need to do is search through Facebook for *CHRISTUS Cabrini Associates* and ask to be a friend. You can always opt out if you don't like it but we're hoping it will be a great communications avenue for you.



Zero Harm Success

In October, we re-launched our commitment to our Zero Harm initiative. During that month, we had a total of 4 units meet our goal. For November and December, we had a total of 15 units to have ZERO Patient ID Errors! We hope as we collect January data, our trend will continue to

show improvement. Keep up the hard work and dedication to making our patients safe. If we continue along this course, we will be well on our way to becoming a highly reliable organization.



Welcome New Executives & Physicians

I'm very excited to welcome **Cathi Blise** as our new Chief Nursing Executive. Cathi comes to us from Byrnes Mill, MO and brings a wealth of experience in the nursing

industry. Please help welcome Cathi as you see her in the hall. I'd also like to extend a warm Louisiana welcome to our Interim VP Of Finance, **Gary Karg**. Gary will be with us while we search for a replacement for Suzette Fatula. In addition to new members of the Senior Leadership team, I'd like to welcome two new physicians:

Robert Rickman, M.D., a Critical Care Physician who will spend his time in the ICU and **Louis C. Benjamin, M.D.**, an Emergency Medicine physician who will play a vital role in our ER. I'm sure both these physicians will work very closely together to ensure the highest quality of care for our patients.

LORD my God, I called to you for help, and you healed me.

Psalms 30:2