



CONTACT: Linda K. Ross  
Director, PMHS Communications  
Pittsburgh Mercy Health System  
412.578.6224  
[LRoss@mercy.pmhs.org](mailto:LRoss@mercy.pmhs.org)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **MERCY PARISH NURSE AND HEALTH MINISTRY PROGRAM RECEIVES AWARD FOR ADVOCATING FOR SERVICES THAT ADDRESS UNMET NEEDS**

**PITTSBURGH (March 4, 2010)** — The American Cancer Society, Pennsylvania Division and the Greater Pittsburgh Chapter of the Oncology Nursing Society recently recognized the **Mercy Parish Nurse and Health Ministry Program**, part of the Pittsburgh Mercy Health System, with a Mission Impact Silver Award for being an “advocate for services that address unmet needs.”

Accepting the award on behalf of the Mercy Parish Nurse and Health Ministry Program were Dorothy Mayernik, RN, MSN, manager; Esther Gass, RN; and Joyce Schumm, RN, BS. Marie Watts, senior community cancer control specialist at the American Cancer Society, presented the award.

The Mercy Parish Nurse and Health Ministry Program was established in 1991 by the Sisters of Mercy and Pittsburgh Mercy Health System. As an educational partner of the International Parish Nurse Resource Center, the Mercy Parish Nurse and Health Ministry Program assists churches in starting volunteer health ministry programs that will thrive and serve the congregation. As a regional resource center for parish nurses and health ministers, the program provides consultation, support and mentoring, ideas and materials for health ministry, information about community resources, and continuing education. In addition to sponsoring an annual symposium, the program also sponsors several Parish Nurse Basic Preparation Courses annually and conducts health ministry workshops.

(MORE)

**Mission Impact Silver Award given to Mercy Parish Nurse and Health Ministry Program**  
**Page 2 of 2**

The Mercy Parish Nurse and Health Ministry Program recently collaborated with the American Cancer Society and the Oncology Nursing Society to present an educational program titled “Breaking down Barriers to Early Detection of Breast Cancer.” The event provided parish nurses with the latest information on the diagnosis and treatment of breast cancer, as well as with educational materials to encourage women in their parishes to receive yearly mammograms.

For more information about the Mercy Parish Nurse and Health Ministry Program, visit [www.pmhs.org](http://www.pmhs.org).

***About Pittsburgh Mercy Health System***

Pittsburgh Mercy Health System (PMHS) is an extension of the Catholic ministry to all people in southwestern Pennsylvania. A member of Catholic Health East and sponsored by the Sisters of Mercy, PMHS focuses on providing quality services that meet physical, mental and spiritual needs. Ministries include Mercy Behavioral Health, A Child’s Place at Mercy, Mercy Parish Nurse and Health Ministry Program, Operation Safety Net ®, St. Pius X Personal Care Home, PMHS Development, and McAuley Ministries. For more information, visit [www.pmhs.org](http://www.pmhs.org).

-###-

**Photo cutline:** Pictured with the American Cancer Society Mission Impact Silver Award, from left to right, are: Esther Gass, RN; Dorothy Mayernik, RN, MSN; Marie Watts of the American Cancer Society; and Joyce Schumm, RN, BS.