



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **MERCY PARISH NURSE AND HEALTH MINISTRY PROGRAM ANNOUNCES SUMMER SESSION FOR PARISH NURSE BASIC PREPARATION COURSE**

**PITTSBURGH (March 4, 2010)** — The Mercy Parish Nurse and Health Ministry Program announces the dates of the upcoming Parish Nurse Basic Preparation Course summer session. The four-day, summer session will be held **May 21, 2010, from 8:30 a.m. to 7 p.m.; May 22, 2010, from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. and June 11, 2010, from 8:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. and June 12, 2010, from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.** at Beulah Presbyterian Church, 2500 McCrady Road in Churchill (Pittsburgh, PA 15235).

Parish nursing is internationally recognized as a specialty nursing practice that combines professional nursing and health ministry. The practice of parish nursing emphasizes wholistic health and healing within the faith community as well as the community at-large. Parish nursing also embraces four major concepts: the spiritual dimension, professionalism, wholistic health, and community. Parish nurses and health ministers provide prevention and wellness education, and assist parishioners in accessing health care resources in their communities.

The course is open to registered nurses, other health care professionals, and lay persons who are interested in promoting wholistic health, wellness, and spirituality; coordinating volunteers; or in starting a visitation ministry in their parish or congregation.

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The Parish Nurse Basic Preparation course follows the International Parish Resource Center's newly revised curriculum. Modules offered include prayer; self care; healing and wholeness; ethics; documenting practice; legal aspects; communication and collaboration; family violence; suffering, grief and loss; advocacy; care coordination; and more. All of the modules are taught by parish nurse educators and other health care professionals who are considered subject matter experts in their respective fields of practice.

The cost to attend the four-day summer session is \$395 per person. Limited scholarship funds are available. The class size is limited to 20 participants.

The deadline to register for the summer session is May 7, 2010.

Thirty continuing education credits will be provided to registered nurses who attend the entire four-day session.\*

For additional information about the Parish Nurse Basic Preparation Course, contact Dorothy Mayernik at 412-232-7997 or e-mail [dmayernik@mercy.pmhs.org](mailto:dmayernik@mercy.pmhs.org). For more information about parish nursing, visit [www.pmhs.org](http://www.pmhs.org) and [www.ipnrc.org](http://www.ipnrc.org).

*\*UPMC Mercy designates this continuing education activity for 30 clock hours. UPMC Mercy is approved as a provider of continuing education in nursing by the Pennsylvania State Nurses Association, which is accredited as an approver of continuing education in nursing by the American Nurses Credentialing Center's Commission on Accreditation. UPMC Mercy, ANCC COAC and PSNA do not endorse any commercial products as a result of the CE activity.*

### ***About the Mercy Parish Nurse and Health Ministry Program***

The Mercy Parish Nurse and Health Ministry Program was established by the Sisters of Mercy and Pittsburgh Mercy Health System in 1991. 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.

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***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<sup>®</sup>, St. Pius X Personal Care Home, PMHS Development, and McAuley Ministries.

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