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## **NEW PRESIDENT & CEO APPOINTED TO PITTSBURGH MERCY HEALTH SYSTEM**

*Sister Susan Welsh brings experience in Mercy mission and finance*

**PITTSBURGH (December 20, 2007)** — Catholic Health East has appointed **Sister Susan Welsh**, a Sister of Mercy, as **president and CEO of Pittsburgh Mercy Health System (PMHS)** effective January 2008.

PMHS includes Mercy Behavioral Health (Allegheny County's largest provider of community-based mental health, mental retardation, alcohol, tobacco and other drug services, with over 50 neighborhood locations), the *SmartHealth* Bethel Park Outpatient Center, Mercy Senior Care: St. Pius X Residence (an assisted living facility in Brookline), the Pittsburgh Mercy Foundation, and LIFE Pittsburgh.

The former flagship hospital of PMHS, The Mercy Hospital of Pittsburgh, will merge with UPMC on January 1, 2008. The other PMHS hospital, Mercy Jeannette Hospital, is expected to merge with Excelsa Health in late spring 2008.

"I am honored to be a part of the continuation of the health care mission of the Sisters of Mercy in Pittsburgh. While UPMC Mercy will address acute care needs in our community, PMHS will meet new and on-going community concerns—as the Sisters of Mercy consistently have done since 1847. I am personally energized by the challenge of this endeavor," stated Sister Susan.

Sister Susan completed her Master's in Business Administration degree at Robert Morris University. She also holds a Master's degree in Education from Duquesne University. She has worked for 30 years as Chief Financial Officer of the Sisters of Mercy community in Pittsburgh, and she has served eight years as vice president of that community. Sister Susan is vice chair of the current PMHS Board of Trustees and she chairs the audit committee. She also serves as a trustee for Holy Cross Hospital, Ft. Lauderdale, Fla. where she chairs the finance committee.

Sister Susan succeeds Ken Eshak, who has served as president and CEO since September 2004. In November, Mr. Eshak announced to Mercy associates he would leave PMHS on December 31, 2007.

*About Catholic Health East*

Catholic Health East, a multi-institutional Catholic health system co-sponsored by 12 religious congregations and Hope Ministries, is based in Newtown Square, Pa. Catholic Health East provides the means to ensure the continuation of the Catholic identity and operational strength of

the sponsors' health ministries, which are located in 11 eastern states from Maine to Florida. The system includes 34 acute-care hospitals, four long-term acute-care hospitals, 36 freestanding and hospital-based long-term care facilities, 12 assisted-living facilities, five continuing-care retirement communities, seven behavioral-health and rehabilitation facilities, 25 home health/hospice agencies, and numerous ambulatory and community-based health services. More information is available online at [www.che.org](http://www.che.org).

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