Reaching New Heights in 2017
As the need for services for older adults continues to increase in Western New York, the Brothers of Mercy campus is continuing to evolve and grow to meet those needs.

In January, our new all-inclusive independent living apartments, Montabaur Heights, celebrated its first anniversary. This project has been very successful in adding a new niche to our campus, providing residents with a lifestyle that provides virtually everything from gourmet meals and transportation to a full schedule of events. The demand for these apartments has been so strong that we only have a handful of apartments left out of 111 total!

Very soon this Spring, we will begin the “quiet” phase of our very first Capital Campaign. The campaign is designed to support key components of the transformation that has been occurring on our campus for the past few years. This includes renovations to the rehabilitation floor, hospice rooms, and long-term care in our skilled nursing center. Additionally, this campaign will assist in the construction of a new assisted living residence, which will complement Montabaur Heights.

Early this Fall, we will be opening a brand new outpatient rehabilitation clinic. Construction is about ready to begin, thanks to a generous donation from Mr. Russ Salvatore. This new clinic will be nice for our rehab patients who finish their in-patient stays but who may need occasional rehab after they return home – in many cases being able to work with the same therapist they had while an inpatient. This will also be open to the entire WNY community.

This is reflected in our 5-STAR rating from New York State - the highest rating given by the state. We are the largest non-profit nursing home in Western New York (and one of only two) to attain this high level of distinction. This rating is given only to those organizations that have the highest quality of care, the best staffing and the best health inspections.

In our continuing quest to offer the latest in technology and care we work with universities and colleges in the area. Our recent work with the University at Buffalo’s School of Dentistry resulted in a study that was published in national journals. We also work with the D’Youville College School of Pharmacy where doctoral students work directly with our patients to ensure that their prescriptions, usually from multiple doctors, are all working together for the proper patient care. We are also now working with Daemen College, as part of their Health Care Strategic Alliance, to develop research specifically related to the care of older adults.

This is a time of many challenges and many opportunities for health care providers. Fortunately, the Brothers of Mercy has a tradition of meeting challenges with vision, creativity and sound management practices. At Brothers of Mercy, we view each new opportunity as a prospect to build on the excellence we have achieved so far. Our expansion and renovation projects will position Brothers of Mercy for a strong future and the ability to fulfill the promise of the many opportunities before us.

We are very proud of offering the most compassionate and also the best care to older adults in Western New York.
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Q. Tell us about your early years?
Born in Dunkirk and raised in Fredonia, I attended a number of grammar schools in Fredonia and went to high school at Cardinal Mindszenty in Dunkirk. Growing up, I played Little League Baseball, Midget Football and Youth Soccer. In High school, I played JV Football and was on the track team.

Q. What did you do before becoming a brother?
I was still 17 years old when I graduated from high school, but entered the USAF Active Duty a week after I graduated (my parents signed the forms for me to enter).

Q: When did you realize you had a religious vocation?
I believe I realized I had a religious vocation after spending about 9 years in the Air Force.

Q: Did you have a mentor in pursuing religious life?
Well, I guess you can say that I had a few different mentors of one type or another. During the end of my Air Force Career, I was fortunate enough to have the Retired Bishop of Fairbanks Alaska as my Spiritual Director. Just before I entered the Community here on campus, I consulted with a Marianist Priest in Dayton, Ohio where I was living at the time. Once I was approved to join the Brothers of Mercy Community, a Priest in Fredonia became my Spiritual Director. That arrangement lasted about 4 years. Brother Terrence was my Formation Director and I always considered Brother Jude to be a mentor as well as my Brother Superior.

Q. What is are your responsibilities at the Brothers of Mercy?
In August 2016, I was appointed as Convent Superior for the Brothers Community here on Campus. In this role I am responsible for the well being of all Brothers, and overall management of the Brothers assets. I have continued to serve in the Brothers of Mercy Campus Foundation, but in May will be leaving to help out part time in Spiritual Care.

"I think all the travelling I have done since 1978 has been the best education I could have had. I’ve been able to experience different cultures and meet all kinds of people."
The Brothers of Mercy, known for their health care facilities in Clarence, merged with a German order, known as the Brothers of Mercy of Mary Help of Christians, during a special Mass held at Our Lady of Peace Parish in Clarence last September.

The Clarence brothers, formally known as the Brothers of Mercy of Montabaur had been in talks with the Brothers of Mercy of Mary Help of Christians for some years now, discussing ways to strengthen the Clarence community. Both orders were founded in Germany during the 1850s and have similar missions in health care and care of the aged.

“The main idea was to merge with a larger organization that has more resources and leadership in place that will help the Clarence brothers continue their mission. The Brothers of Mercy of Mary Help of Christians (from Trier, Germany) is a very similar order. Even the name is the same in terms of the Brothers of Mercy. Their mission is providing health care for the elderly and sick. So, it was a natural change and merge” said Peter Eimer, chief executive officer for the Clarence Brothers.

“We basically approached them,” said Brother Kenneth Thomas, FMM, the newly appointed convent superior of Clarence. “I think it is good for our future as we move forward because our current community here in America is getting so much older, older brothers, and we’re getting smaller. Merging with the Trier brothers gives us a larger community to work with and many more younger brothers. Their leadership is younger than our past leadership, so it gives me more brothers that I can form a community with and deal with as peers.”

General council meetings will involve all communities, so they will be in contact to help each other and transfer knowledge from one part of the world to another. Brothers of Mercy of Mary Help of Christians also have brothers in Switzerland, Brazil, Malaysia and Singapore.

Bishop Richard J. Malone celebrated the special unification Mass, held on Sept. 1, calling it a “great honor” to aid in the work of consecrated religious. He spoke about corporate mergers and how Church entities, although spiritual ministries, are still corporations. The bishop himself is the CEO of the diocese. A reception followed the Mass at Samuel’s Grande Manor, with 400 invited guests.
During the past several months the Brothers of Mercy conducted a region-wide fundraising campaign feasibility study seeking the community’s response to our renovation and expansion plans. This fundraising campaign would assist the Brothers of Mercy in renovating the fourth floor in our Skilled Nursing and Rehabilitation Center and also generate preliminary funding for a new Assisted Living Facility on our campus.

The Brothers of Mercy Leadership Team has acted on this positive news by endorsing a campaign, which will start this spring. We are excited about moving forward with the campaign. If you have any questions regarding our campaign, please feel free to contact Nancy Gugino at 759-7622.

Did You Know?

The Brothers of Mercy Rehab Center has demonstrated best practice in clinical outcomes in the Greater Buffalo Market. We are among the highest ranked sub-acute rehab centers for Erie and Niagara Counties based on Length of Stay, Hospital Readmission Rate and CMS Star Rating System.
Q. Where did you grow up and go to school?
I grew up in the Delaware District of Buffalo across the street from Nardin Academy. I went to Nardin Academy from first through twelfth grade, so this was very convenient! For college, I attended Canisius College. Thirteen members of my family attended Canisius, so it was my first choice for college. I then went to the University at Buffalo for my medical degree and a Master's degree in Public Health.

Q. When did you realize you wanted to become a doctor?
I surprised my family when I said I was going to study pre-med at Canisius. Growing up, I wanted to be a fashion designer. I was preparing a portfolio and had the highest GPA in art of my high school class. I was also good at science and math. I think ultimately God decided what was right for me and inspired me to choose an entirely different path than what I, and my family, anticipated.

Q: What are your greatest accomplishments?
I am very proud of my medical degree and completing two residency programs - one in Family Medicine and the other in General Preventive Medicine. I look back and think my highlights were being named “Best Family Medicine Intern” in my Family Medicine program, serving as Chief Resident in my Preventive Medicine program, and being a Past President of the UB Medical School alumni board. I am proud that I have had several research articles published in leading scientific journals.

Q. What are your responsibilities at the Brothers of Mercy?
I am the Medical Director at Brothers of Mercy. Along with Amanda Cataldi, NP and Christine Hartnett, PA, I care for the people who live at the Brothers Nursing Home and Sacred Heart Home and also for the patients who come to Brothers to complete a course of rehab. I have been so impressed by the staff at both the Brothers Nursing and Rehabilitation Center and Sacred Heart Home. Everyone is committed to the Mission of the Brothers. This creates a wonderful atmosphere to work in.

“I have been quite fortunate that I have had so many opportunities to work with amazing people who helped me achieve things I may have never thought possible.”
BROTHER JUDE

His legacy will

By Peter C. Eimer, Brothers of Mercy CEO

After 64 years as a Brother, last September, Brother Jude Holzfoerster went to heaven and left behind a huge legacy. Over these years, the Brothers of Mercy and Brother Jude had become practically synonymous.

Charles Holzfoerster was born in Ludlow, Kentucky on September 11, 1934. His parents were Charles and Lillian and he was the youngest of 11 children. His father was an entrepreneur - owning an ice company on the Ohio River near Cincinnati. His mother, who from all accounts was quite the character and the one who “wore the pants” in the family, stayed home to raise the children.

When he was just a teenager he decided to join the Brothers of Mercy after listening to a Brother from Buffalo speak to high school students in his hometown of Ludlow. Br. Jude took his vows when he was only 18 years old and he chose the name “Jude” after his best friend who died at an early age.

Only 18 years old and living away from home for the first time, Br. Jude almost left the Brothers after only three days. But, the Superior at the time told him to “go pray about it in the chapel right now!” He said that he was so intimidated that he went to the chapel and never considered leaving again.

He often spoke fondly of his early days with the Brothers of Mercy, which was then located on Cottage Street in Allentown. In those days the Brothers did mostly home care in the city.

Many times when asked how he was doing, Brother Jude used to say:

“I'm old, fat and grouchy! What do you want?”
He told many stories of those days and one of the funniest regarded one of his new assignments to go to a senior citizen’s home to bathe the father. When he arrived at the house he quickly found out that the man did not speak English. Unable to walk, Br. Jude picked the man up to get him to the bath upstairs. Apparently the man was hollering quite a bit, but in a foreign language. Thinking that the man just didn’t want a bath, Br. Jude nevertheless did what he was assigned to do. Only later did he learn that the man he bathed was not the right person. Br. Jude said, “Now I know why that man was yelling so much!”

Inherited from his mother, Brother Jude had an amazing sense of humor!

Most of his 64 years as a Brother were spent in a leadership position. One of his first assignments was in Germany in the small town of Montabaur about a 45 minute drive from Frankfurt. It was there in the mid-1800’s that the order of the Brothers of Mercy was founded. He worked in the Brothers hospital there and it was then that he became fluent in German. In 1959, Br. Jude came back to the U.S. and was put in charge of the Brothers nursing home facility in Kansas City. In 1961, he came back to Buffalo and was the Superior of the Brothers house on Jewett Parkway in Buffalo.

Since 1991, Br. Jude was the provincial/regional superior in Clarence - running the ever growing campus that included a skilled nursing and rehabilitation center, an adult home and independent living for low-to-moderate income residents.

A few years ago, Br Jude - ever the visionary, decided that the Brothers should look into the possibility of merging with a larger order of Brothers. This process culminated only a week before he passed away, with the Brothers in Clarence merging with the Brothers of Mercy Mary Help of Christians, an order of Brothers headquartered in Trier, Germany. The new order has many more Brothers and has facilities in multiple countries around the world.

It is fitting that Br. Jude oversaw the building of the all inclusive independent living facility named Montabaur Heights that opened just last year.

Br. Jude left the campus and the Brothers in great shape for the future. His legacy will live on though the staff, patients - both past and present, and the many residents living on the campus.

He was one of a kind!
Russell J. Salvatore’s Major Gift to the Brothers of Mercy

Russell J. Salvatore, the WNY Philanthropist well known for his charitable giving, is back at it again! He started with donating TV’s to the Brothers of Mercy “Five Star” rated Skilled Nursing and Rehabilitation Center. As his relationship grew with us, he wanted to do more and help in a greater way.

After several months of discussions, Mr. Salvatore stepped forward with a major gift to help with building a brand new Outpatient Rehabilitation Clinic. This 2,600 square foot expansion will satisfy a high demand from those who have been treated inpatient and want to return for outpatient services. Calls also come in frequently from the community at large asking if these services are available, and now we will be able to meet these needs.

The Brothers of Mercy received approval from the New York State Health Department on April 10 to move forward with the expansion. We anticipate the clinic opening in the early Fall of 2017. This is very exciting for the campus and will increase our repertoire of services in the health care arena!
As Seen on TV

A half hour TV show featuring Montabaur Heights and talking about the logistics behind moving mom and dad (or yourself) premiered on April 15 on WBBZ (MeTV). The show is an offshoot of our successful seminar series designed to bring in people to tour Montabaur Heights.

WNY radio and television legend Dan Neaverth is the host of the show. Future shows featuring Brothers of Mercy skilled nursing and rehabilitation is planned.

New Blog Feature

A new Blog section featuring numerous interesting topics around senior aging is now live on the BOM website. The new "content" will also assist in keeping our website at the top of Google search engines (SEO).

Tony Walker Holiday Fundraiser

Friends and staff of the Brothers of Mercy participated in a Tony Walker Holiday Fashion Show last December. Participants and guests were given an opportunity to purchase items at a discounted price with a portion of the proceeds going to the Brothers of Mercy. Everyone had a great time.
The 16th Annual
CARITAS AWARDS DINNER
Thursday, May 18th 2017

Please join us on Thursday, May 18th for an exceptional event and dinner as we honor 2017 Patsy Casilio Humanitarian of the Year Award recipients, Brother Jude Holzfoerster (Posthumously) and Patrick Casilio, Jr.; 2017 Not-For-Profit Honorees, Mr. Robert M. Bennett and Rev. Leon Biernat; and 2017 Corporate Honoree, Mr. John R. Yurtchuk.

This year’s event will be **Bigger Than Ever** highlighted by the chance to **Win 7 Major Prizes** at the May 18th awards dinner. Winners need not be present to claim your prize.

Call **716-759-7604** to order your tickets, or email **Todaro2@brothersofmercy.org**
OKTOBERFEST 5K RUN

We know it may seem early, but mark your calendar for the 2017 Oktoberfest and 5K Race.

Scheduled for Friday, September 8th, this is one of WNY’s premier races and post race parties.

This is a family friendly event with our Annual Oktoberfest celebration following immediately.

To Register

1. Go to www.brothersofmercy.org
2. Go to NEWS & EVENTS
3. Click on “Oktoberfest 5K Run/Walk”, then click on the orange “Register Now” button
Nursing Home Gets Facelift

Our rehab rooms will be getting a much overdue facelift this year. We are starting with three rooms, with plans to remodel all rooms over the next year or so. The rooms will be converted from semi-private rooms to private suites.

The rooms will be remodeled to include an enlarged bathroom with all new bathroom fixtures and tiling. The room will be equipped with a new examination overhead light, new energy-efficient windows, new walls and an updated color scheme, as well as a new flat screen television, furniture and refrigerator.

Semi private rooms will be converted to private suites. In addition, all the rooms in the skilled nursing facility will be remodeled.

Advisory Board Member Joe Basil’s Company Voted Best Place to Work by Business First

Brothers of Mercy Advisory Board Member Jim Basil was honored to receive a Large Business category award for “2016 Best Places to Work” presented by Buffalo Business First on Tuesday, March 15th. The event took place at the Buffalo Niagara Convention Center where multiple businesses throughout WNY were invited to participate.

“The biggest asset we have within our expanding company is our employees,” explains Jim Basil. “Without them, we would not be at the level we are at today. We have 35 employees who have been with us for ten years or longer, that is truly a testament to the sense of family and community that our employees have fostered. Not to mention the amazing support we receive from our customers and the community.”
1. The 126 acre Brothers of Mercy Campus is the same size as the Vatican in Rome.

2. Their original name was “The Brotherhood of Christian Mercy”.

3. There are 9 Brothers of Mercy organizations throughout the World.

4. Brothers of Mercy in Clarence employs over 500 people.

5. There are 10 Brothers in the United States, 12 in Holland and 12 in Germany.

6. The Brothers of Mercy name was inspired by the Allman Brothers.

7. Montabaur is a small town in Germany 45 minutes from Frankfurt.

8. Brother Kenneth Thomas served in the Air Force before becoming a Brother.

9. The original WNY location for the BOM campus was in Orchard Park.

10. In the early years, the Brothers made house calls to the needy.

11. Brothers of Mercy is not part of the Catholic or Kaleida health systems. We are an independent, non-profit organization.

12. The Brothers of Mercy Oktoberfest run features WNY’s largest post-race party.

13. The longest standing volunteer has been at BOM for over 29 years 8 months.
DID YOU KNOW?

Brothers holds a 5 Star Rating for nurse staffing levels, department of heath survey results and quality measures. We are one of the very few large nursing homes in all of WNY to earn this high rating.

We have Registered Nurses on site 24/7 along with daily visits by MDs and PAs. We offer therapy up to seven days a week, over 97% of our past rehab patients gave us an overall rating of Excellent, and we have standardized rehab protocols, established in collaboration with area hospitals to promote continuity of care.