Living a Life of Charity in Western New York Since 1924
The Brothers of Mercy has been honored as a Best Place to Work in Western New York by Business First.

This is a terrific honor for us. We competed in the “X-Large” category defined as having over 250 employees. The survey itself was quite an undertaking as employees responded to an anonymous online survey used by Business First.

There were approximately 40 questions on a scale where “Strongly Agree” to “Strongly Disagree” answers were available. Statements that they were asked to rank included:

- My opinions seem to count at work
- Our culture supports my health and wellbeing
- I am proud to work here
- I am paid fairly
- I love the people I work with
- My immediate manager cares about my development
- I know I can depend on the other members of my team
- I find my job interesting and challenging

As part of the survey employees were asked to describe their work environment in three words. The most common responses were *caring, enthusiastic, supportive, team and family.*

Even before our participation in this competition, we already knew that one of our greatest attributes is our staff longevity. It is not uncommon on our campus to have an employee with 20, 30 or 40+ years of service. This alone sets us apart in our industry. To say we serve the sick, the aging and the indigent is an understatement. Day in and day out, we witness our staff going above and beyond what anyone would witness elsewhere.

It does not take long for a campus employee to feel like they are part of a family as they begin their careers with Brothers. Quite often we see staff stopping by on their day off just to check on a patient or briefly visit with a resident or fellow employee. Families tell us that nurses who served a family member years ago are here to care for another loved one now coming to us. This makes such a difference to our families!

We believe that our dedication to providing support, development, and a family-like environment for our employees instills in them a sense of empowerment and happiness.

As we continue to grow the campus, we need great people to continue the tradition of superior resident and patient care. So it’s important for us to attract people who share the mission and vision we have. It’s equally important for employees to then have a good experience and enjoy the place they work at.

Happy employees help make happy residents!
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Brothers of Mercy Selected 2018 Best Places to Work Honoree

Brothers of Mercy has been selected as a Buffalo Business First "2018 Best Places to Work" honoree. The 13th annual Best Places to Work luncheon was held on Thursday, March 15, at Buffalo Riverworks. Buffalo Business First hosted the event honoring us and our employees’ accomplishments.

Employees were asked to complete a workplace employee engagement survey, which was developed by a panel of leaders in the field of employee engagement.

The survey measures six key engagement categories focusing on communication, employee needs, manager effectiveness, personal engagement, team dynamic and trust in leadership. To gather statistically sound results, companies must reach a minimum level of employee participation, based on total number of employees, to be eligible to be a finalist.

"Just being selected to participate as a finalist speaks volumes about our employees, and how they feel as proud members of the Brothers of Mercy team.

We are all fortunate to have such a dedicated group of professionals that make a difference in the lives of the residents they serve on a daily basis.

Peter Eimer, CEO"
New Website taking Brothers of Mercy to the Next Level

In an ongoing effort to be the best we can, and differentiate ourselves from the many skilled nursing, rehabilitation, adult care and senior living facilities throughout WNY, the Brothers of Mercy website has been completely re-designed.

The new site will be much more user friendly, using a more visually interesting and current platform, and work better on phones and tablets. For the first time we will be using BOM employees and residents in many of the photos with the eventual goal of changing all of them over.

Brothers of Mercy CEO, Peter Eimer, states “Our website is our #1 marketing tool. It’s basically the first point of contact for many future residents, rehab patients and future employees”. We took on a very aggressive approach and timeline to get the new site up and running by March.

There are a number of new features and topics, including a YouTube Video Channel that will incorporate testimonials and BOM employees that go “above and beyond” the call of duty. The “Donations” page will also be much easier to navigate and an online payment portal will be made active for those who want to make payments online.

www.brothersofmercy.org
"The Legacy Continues With You" Capital Campaign

Since 1924, the Brothers of Mercy has provided 5 Star care for the sick, the aging and the elderly in Western New York. The organization respectfully holds the most pristine reputation for the care they provide on our 126 acre campus nestled in Clarence, New York.

The Legacy Continues With You Capital Campaign will allow us to build on the Brothers legacy of compassionate health-care while also providing a complete continuum of care, programs and services.

This endeavor will help transform the campus in a manner that is consistent with our mission. Every option required to age in place will soon be available, helping Brothers meet the challenges of an evolving health-care environment while also building a stronger brighter future.

In response to recent demographic studies as well as expectations from our residents and applicants, we plan to build a brand new, state-of-the-art assisted, enhanced assisted and memory care community. This facility will help meet the demand for more residential amenities with privacy and alternate levels of care. Additionally, the campaign will also support renovations of rehabilitation and Hospice rooms in our skilled nursing and rehabilitation center.

The goal of this campaign is to raise $3 million. The Brothers of Mercy is more than half of the way there! Only you can help us reach our goal. To make a donation to this campaign, please call or email:

Nancy Gugino
Brothers of Mercy Facilities Foundation Director
E-Mail: gugino@brothersofmercy.org
Tel: (716) 906-9014

From the Archives

[Image of two men and text about the needs of the community]

Brothers of Mercy Drive To Raise $690,000 for Home

In 1963, the brothers purchased 13 acres of land at the former site of St. Mary’s Convent. The property was transformed into a 145-bed nursing home. In 1967, the facility opened to respite care patients for the first time.

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Renée Villa was selected as the new Campus Director of Spiritual Care at the Brothers of Mercy. Growing up on the West side of Buffalo near Kleinhans Music Hall, Renée attended Cathedral School and Mount St. Joseph Academy. She graduated from SUNY at Buffalo with a BA in Psychology, then received a Master of Divinity and Pastoral Ministry from Christ the King Seminary in East Aurora. She also has a certificate in Spiritual Direction.

Renée brings years of experience to the Brothers of Mercy, with her most recent position working for the Diocese of Buffalo. Before that, she was actively involved in ministry at Christ the King Church in Snyder, where they eventually created the position of Pastoral Associate for her.

Married for thirty-nine years, Renée’s husband is a retired millwright who volunteers as a docent at the Naval Park and Eucharistic minister at the Veterans’ hospital. They also have three daughters; musically inclined as one is a voice teacher, the other a band and music teacher.

Renée plans to offer various programs for spiritual growth and maintenance. In fact, she has already put on a couple successful seminars. “Resisting Happiness” was held in January, and “Methods of Prayer” was held in March. A third seminar, “Journaling Toward Inner Peace” is scheduled for April.

She is open to observations and suggestions. “We all carry a light within us that is waiting to be shared. Each person has a mission that is entrusted to them. Prayerful listening is the key to finding that mission.”

Part of her life philosophy is that forgiveness is a decision. “It is primary to leave people the space needed in order for forgiveness to take root and blossom.”

“We all carry a light within us that is waiting to be shared. Each person has a mission that is entrusted to them. Prayerful listening is the key to finding that mission.”
The evolution of the Brothers of Mercy in Clarence began in the mid 19th century when Peter Lutschect founded the Congregation of the Brothers of Mercy of Montabaur. Working with the poor, elderly and disabled, their Christian mission of love for God and neighbor developed into a vocation that stood the test of time.

Soon, their compassionate health care drew others to their mission. The Brothers of Mercy religious congregation was formally established in 1856.

In 1924, several Brothers came to Western New York. They established a residence on Cottage Street and began their mission of in-home nursing. The demand for their spiritual care and medical skills grew and, in 1938, a second residence on Jewett Parkway was adopted.

The Provincial headquarters was moved to Clarence in 1952. A year later, patients from Cottage Street were moved into the newly built Brothers of Mercy Sacred Heart Home. In 1972, the Brothers opened the 100-unit senior apartment complex. The building that would later become the Brothers of Mercy Nursing and Rehabilitation Center was opened within 12 months, and the Sacred Heart Home was converted into a an adult care facility.

The work on the Brothers of Mercy campus has continually been recognized for excellence. In 2002, the Clarence Chamber of Commerce named the Brothers of Mercy “Business of the Year”, and the Nursing and Rehabilitation Center has received a five-star rating.

In 2016, the Clarence Brothers merged with a German order, known as the Brothers of Mercy of Mary Help of Christians, which is a community founded by Brother Peter Friedhofen. Looking for ways to strengthen the Clarence community, formal talks went on for years before the merger became official. Both orders were founded in Germany during the 1850s and have similar missions in health services and care of the aged.

The following pages highlight the dedicated lives and accomplishments of the current Brothers of Mercy congregation.
Brother Kenneth

Brother Kenneth is currently the Community House Superior for the Brothers in Clarence. Growing up in Fredonia, NY, he enlisted in the United States Air Force under the Delayed Enlistment Program when he was only 17. His Air Force career lasted 11 years, being stationed all across the United States, Germany and South Korea. While on active duty, Brother Kenneth attended and completed USAF Leadership School at Lowry Air Force Base in July 1985, and received the Award of Unit On the Job Training Manager of the Year. He earned a BS in Management from Park University in 1994 and an MS in Health Services Administration from D’Youville College in Buffalo in 2001.

Brother Kenneth first felt a calling to priesthood or religious life early in his Air Force career. However, he seriously began to discern a vocation in 1987 while in Alaska. Brother Kenneth finally took a leap of faith and contacted the Community here in Clarence in October of 1995. Since joining the Community in 1996, Brother Kenneth has always lived on the campus in Clarence.

He is an avid photographer, enjoys walking for exercise, following the Buffalo Bills, Sabres, New York Yankees and is a casual basketball fan. Brother Kenneth also likes reading - mostly spiritual reading - as well as other various types of literature, music, some TV and movies, cooking, baking and loves to travel (especially on trains). He is a Fourth Degree Member of the Knights of Columbus and has been a Knight of Columbus since 1984.

Brother Kenneth is a member of the Brothers of Mercy Corporate Board of Directors and also serves as a Spiritual Care volunteer, mainly at the Brothers of Mercy Nursing and Rehabilitation Center.

Brother Edward

Born in Alton, Illinois, and raised in Louisiana and New Mexico, Brother Edward realized he had a vocation to the Brotherhood when he was just 15 years old. He actually entered the Brothers of Mercy community while still at high school age.

Brother Edward has been a volunteer fireman for many years in the Clarence Fire District #1. One year he was honored as the Fireman of the Year and once he was honored as the EMS of the year. Still an active member, you will see him directing traffic when needed on campus.

Along with living at the campus here in Clarence, Brother Edward lived for a brief time in Oklahoma City and also lived in Kansas City.

Brother Edward is currently the Assistant Community Superior with the Brothers Community and performs various tasks as assigned by the Community Superior.
Brother Matthias

Brother Matthias had a late religious vocation after having spent many years in the business world. He had also spent many years not practicing his faith and when he finally returned to the Church, soon found himself involved in various church committees, and as a member of his Parish Council.

His involvement in these activities facilitated his meeting a number of well respected spiritual / religious individuals who had a great influence on him. This influence coinciding with a reduction in responsibilities and obligations in his personal life fostered Brother Matthias’ decision to pursue a religious vocation.

The journey in pursuit of this vocation took a circuitous route filled with detours and doubts until, as he says, “I finally determined that no matter how much I fought it, this is where God wanted me to be”.

Brother Matthias has spent his entire religious life as a member of the Brothers of Mercy Community in Clarence. He currently serves as Community Treasurer and is a member of the Board of Directors for the Brothers’ various Operating Corporations.

Brother Edmund

Born and raised in Buffalo, NY, Brother Edmund attended Father Baker High School where he first realized he had a vocation to religious life.

After high school he joined the U.S Navy and served from 1969 to 1972. While in Navy bootcamp, Brother Edmund was appointed as a Battalion Leader. He also received a Vietnam War Service Medal and held the rank of Seaman (E2). After honorably serving his country, he then worked at Buffalo General Hospital with positions in the mail room, central supply and the accounting office.

Brother Edmund currently serves as the Sacristan for the Brothers Community (Residence) and at the Sacred Heart Home Chapel. Aside from living on the campus in Clarence, Brother Edmund lived at the residence on Jewett Parkway in Buffalo.

He is responsible for the upkeep of both chapels and makes sure that both chapels are prepared for daily and weekend Masses. Much of this includes ensuring that the priest vestments and altar linens are properly cared for and that all supplies are on hand for religious services. An avid movie goer, Brother Edmund likes cats and currently has one as a pet.
Brother Fidelis

Brother Fidelis is currently the Director of Spiritual Care at the Brothers of Mercy Nursing & Rehabilitation Center. In that capacity he coordinates and oversees all spiritual services and sacraments within the facility.

Brother Fidelis grew up and attended school in North Tonawanda, NY. After high school, he worked in a research lab and in 1961, was drafted into the Army during the Berlin Crisis when Kennedy was president. He was on the East-West German border as a border guard for three years when they put up the Berlin Wall. “The Russians were looking at us and we are looking at them through binoculars. There was always a tension.”

After Brother Fidelis left the Army, he was called to look at the Brothers of Mercy Congregation as a vocation. “I said to myself, I’m going to try religious life, give myself four months. If it’s for me, fine. If it isn’t, goodbye. Here I am 49 years later and I think it is for me.”

As a registered nurse, Brother Fidelis began his tenure as Spiritual Care Director in 1999. Responsible for addressing the spiritual needs of the evolving population of the Nursing and Rehabilitation Center, he coordinates the Mass, Rosary, and interfaith service schedules throughout the week and on holy days, distributes communion, and offers spiritual guidance. Brother Fidelis is a member of the Brothers of Mercy Corporate Board of Directors.

Brother Hugh

Brother Hugh currently serves as a part time Spiritual Care Assistant at both the Brothers of Mercy Senior Apartment Complex and Montabaur Heights. He also assists our chaplain with Sunday Mass at the Sacred Heart Home.

Born and raised in Detroit, MI, Brother Hugh attended the Detroit University High School, which was run by the Society of Jesus (Jesuits). He began discerning his vocation while in High School and he had a Jesuit mentor.

Along with living on the campus here in Clarence, Brother Hugh has lived at the residence on Jewett Parkway in Buffalo, Kansas City, and in Oklahoma City for 10 years.

In recognition of good patient care, Brother Hugh received a tuition discount from the Mercy Hospital School of Nursing. He also completed a BS in Nursing from St. Louis University.
Brother Nolasco

Born in Roberta and raised in Atlanta, GA., Brother Nolasco enjoyed swimming and playing baseball. He was eventually drafted into the Army and served from 1953-1955 and was assigned to Division 1 (Big Red 1), 26th Infantry and also the 26th Regiment as Chief of the Ordinance Section.

Brother Nolasco was raised as a Protestant and converted to Roman Catholicism in 1955. He began discerning a religious vocation in 1956. Brother Nolasco originally began his vocation with the Mercedarian Fathers, but left and eventually joined the Brothers of Mercy of Montabaur in 1959.

Brother Nolasco attended Clark College in Atlanta and also attended the Reed School of Business Administration. Since entering the Community, Brother Nolasco served as the Secretary to the Provincial 9. For a time he served as Coordinator for the Physical Therapy Department, and right after Vatican II was the Community’s Vocation Director both in Western New York and in Kansas City.

He retired as the Telecommunications Administrator for the facilities in Clarence and since then has spent much time in prayer for others. As the weather and his health permit, he also visits employees and residents at the Brothers of Mercy Nursing & Rehabilitation Center and the Sacred Heart Home.

Brother Terrence

Brother Terrance was born and in Long Island, NY. Attending St. Patrick’s Grade School and High School in Elizabeth, NJ, he began discerning a religious vocation during high school when he was in 11th grade.

Aside from residing for many years here at the Campus in Clarence NY, Brother Terrence was stationed in Oklahoma City Oklahoma for over 2 years.

He earned an RN degree from the Alexian Brothers in Chicago, and a degree from Erie Community College in Willamsville. Brother Terrence also worked as the Brothers of Mercy Foundation Director for 6 years.

Brother Terrence is now retired, but volunteers at the Nursing and Rehabilitation Center. He also spends much time praying for others.
Brother Xavier

Born and raised in Wyandotte, MI, Brother Xavier realized he had a vocation to the Brotherhood when he was in 11th grade. Never visiting the community prior to signing up, he joined the community shortly after his high school graduation.

Early on as a Brother, he rode around the city of Buffalo on a bicycle doing home healthcare work. After becoming an RN, Brother Xavier worked at local hospitals as a private duty nurse. Additional duties included being in charge of a 100 bed retirement home at a Brothers facility in Kansas City, MO and on two occasions served as a Nursing Home Supervisor in Oklahoma City.

Brother Xavier served as Provincial Superior of the Brothers of Mercy North American province from 1960 to 1963. He considers becoming both a registered nurse and a certified registered nurse anesthetist as his greatest accomplishments. He has lived at almost every house or location the Brothers have had in the United States. He has lived in at both former residences in Buffalo (Cottage Street and Jewett Parkway), Kansas City, Oklahoma City and on our campus here in Clarence.

After 71 years of full or part time work, mostly as a nurse, Brother Xavier is now retired. His current responsibilities are to pray for other people. He also volunteers every Thursday at the Sacred Heart Home giving manicures.

2018 WNY Catholic Men’s Conference

The Catholic Men’s Fellowship of WNY sponsored it’s 16th Annual Men’s Conference “Fight the Good Fight” on Saturday, March 10, 2018 at Cardinal O’Hara High School.

Close to 700 Catholic men of faith attended this one day workshop that included speaking sessions by Rev. Albert Haase, OFM, Auxiliary Bishop Edward Grosz and Joe McClane. Reconciliation, rosary, prayer fellowship and contemplation were the themes of the conference. The day concluded with a mass celebrated by Bishop Richard Malone.

The Brothers of Mercy was in attendance at two information tables at the conference. Director of Marketing Bob Zotara represented the wellness campus, while Brother Ken was there to promote the Brothers of Mercy community and religious vocations.
New & Events...

As Seen on TV
The new Russell J. Salvatore Outpatient Rehab Clinic at the Brothers of Mercy was featured on AM Buffalo recently.

WECK Radio Around Buffalo host John Sommers talks to Nancy Gugino and rehab clinic director Lauren Chetney about the positive impact the facility will have on the community. The new Outpatient Rehab Clinic officially opened in early January.

German Brothers Enjoy a Winter Visit
Brothers Alfons-Maria, Peter, Benedikt and Bernhard sample some wine at a Niagara-on-the-Lake winery during their semi-annual visit to the Brothers of Mercy Wellness Campus in February. Accompanied by CEO Peter Eimer and Brother Ken, the German brothers were given the red carpet treatment touring the region. Other stops included downtown Buffalo and Niagara Falls.

Outpatient Rehab Clinic Celebrates 100 Treatments
The Russell J. Salvatore Outpatient Rehab clinic at the Brothers of Mercy is off to a great start. On January 15, Rose Ruhland was the first official patient at the Clinic.

Exactly one month later, they were celebrating treating their 100th patient. Congratulations to Lauren and her staff for getting the word out so quickly and treating so many patients. Keep up the good work!
Rehab Entrance gets a Facelift

The entrance to the Rehab Clinic gets a fresh, clean look. Gone is the floral print wallpaper replaced with newly painted walls to match the color scheme of the outpatient rehab area.

Our “Homeward Bound” motto and tag line (Real life rehab designed to get you back to real life) identifies what we do and adds just the right touch to complete the transformation.

Holiday Gift Card Event

The annual Holiday Gift Card Gathering Event was held on Thursday, December 7, from 4 to 7 p.m. The White House was decorated, Christmas music playing and refreshments were served. Staff, friends, family members and boards members enjoyed a festive atmosphere.

Gift cards of $25 or greater were donated to benefit the 18th annual Caritas Awards Dinner. This year’s event will be held May 10th at Salvatore’s Italian Gardens.

Welcome New Assistant Administrator

Thomas Farrell was hired as the new Assistant Administrator for the SNF. Thomas comes to us from Emerald South Nursing Home, where he held positions as Regional Director of Social Services for the Sapphire Group, and most recently, Administrator for the past few years.

Before entering the healthcare field, Thomas held the position of Quality Assurance and Career Development Officer for the US Navy from 2004-2009. Thomas has strong interpersonal skills, and will be an asset to our team with many of the current and future projects relating to employee relations, quality and business development.
The 17th Annual
CARITAS AWARDS DINNER
Thursday, May 10th 2018

Please join us on Thursday, May 10th for an exceptional event and dinner as we honor the 2018 Patsy Casilio Humanitarian of the Year Award recipient, David J. Nasca; 2018 Corporate Honoree, Joseph Floss; 2018 Not-For-Profit Honoree, Robert D. Gioia and 2018 Spotlight Award winner, Steeg Johnson.

This year’s event will be Bigger Than Ever highlighted by the chance to Win 6 Major Prizes at the May 10th awards dinner and 7 Major “Live Auction” items. (Winners do not need to be present to claim your prize)

For more information, or tickets, call 716-759-6985 EXT 353, or email Todaro@brothersofmercy.org
We know it may seem early, but mark your calendar for the 2018 Oktoberfest and 5K Race.

Scheduled for Friday, September 7th, 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 & INFO
3. Click on “Oktoberfest 5K Run/Walk”, then click on the orange “Register Now” button
The 240-bed skilled nursing facility in Clarence, New York will expand with the opening of its outpatient facility, the Brothers of Mercy Outpatient Rehabilitation Clinic, gifted by Russell J. Salvatore.

The nonprofit provides many levels of adult residential care and works with patients in rehabilitation, including those who have experienced a stroke or had surgery. But since 2012, it has sought to fill a significant gap in the services it provides.

While the facility prides itself on its inpatient rehabilitation services, “What we don’t have is a service for outpatient physical, occupational and speech therapy,” said Tom Bloomer, administrator for the nursing and rehabilitation center. The ability to provide outpatient services helps with continuity of care for patients who have already become comfortable with their therapists.

“The therapists know their patients’ goals, they know their strengths and limitations,” Bloomer said.

“Being able to continue on an outpatient basis with the same team helps lead to better outcomes for existing patients, but there was also a need in the community at large,” said Nancy Gugino, Brothers of Mercy foundation director.

Because Brothers of Mercy has been in western New York for almost 100 years and developed a “pristine
reputation for quality of care,” Gugino said, “the admissions team gets calls often for outpatient therapy, and they’ve had to turn them away.”

Fortunately, that is no longer the case. With the Brothers of Mercy Outpatient Rehabilitation Clinic, “We’ll be able to serve the community at large in addition to our prior patients,” Gugino said.

When the idea originated between 2012 and 2013, Brothers of Mercy received a grant for the John R. Oishei Foundation but could not pull together the additional resources required at the time, Gugino said.

The idea was tabled until a $300,000 gift from philanthropist Russell J. Salvatore revived the original plan. Salvatore had donated new televisions for the skilled nursing home before Brothers of Mercy reached out to him for help with funding the outpatient building.

With funding secured, the team needed to find the right partner to make the vision for a new facility a reality. Brothers of Mercy had already established a relationship with Lehigh, which had previously helped with water temperature problems in the main building and handled room renovations for the facility.

“We were very impressed with their workmanship, quality of work and timeliness,” said Paul Moyes, director of plant operations for Brothers of Mercy.

The project began with a simple floor plan that lent itself to changes. Lehigh was able to provide flexibility throughout the process, adapting the original plans to reflect the actual wants and needs of the Physical and Occupational therapy teams as work progressed.

The facility has a full-time program director, as well as a speech and language pathologist. Patients will also be able to receive occupational therapy, which aids in daily living activities such as dressing and grooming.

A rehabilitation gym has been outfitted with state-of-the-art equipment, including upright and recumbent bikes and elliptical machines; an upper-body ergometer; a Total Gym; a stretch cage; hand and ankle weights; weighted balls’ balance boards; and machines for electrical stimulation and ultrasound.

Patients will have a park-like, 1,700 square-foot courtyard with a patio to get some air. Bloomer even hopes to add a putting green so rehabilitating patients can practice their swing. This eye towards growth is all part of Brothers of Mercy’s plan.

So far the new Russell J. Salvatore Outpatient Rehab Clinic at the Brothers of Mercy has surpassed all expectations. Exactly one month after treating their first patient in early January, the rehab therapy team celebrated with it’s 100th treatment. Not bad for being opened for only one month.