We are proud and excited to celebrate our 30th anniversary this year!

We know that more important than a set number of years are all the many achievements, trends, innovations, and contributions to our community that those years represent. An anniversary signifies a new opportunity to recommit to our mission, identity, culture and values to set the stage for the future. In today’s business and social environment, it is more important than ever to share with our stakeholders, employees, patients, residents, clients, students, families, physicians and strategic partners the perspective one gets by viewing our organization’s success over time, help them better appreciate its readiness for tomorrow.

Catholic Health Services has been blessed with the talent, skill, dedication and commitment of the many people who laid the bricks and the mortar over the years to build the strong and progressive organizations we share today. Today, those entrusted with the challenge of building taller bridges to the future stand proud and ready to answer the call. Our caring and healing ministries were founded by and continue to be led by mission-driven, compassionate individuals. We provide approximately $12 million annually in charity care, including uncompensated care, rental subsidies, health support services, community health education, and numerous other community efforts, touching over 29,000 lives. We are committed to a vision of ministry that transcends traditional organizational boundaries and facility walls – striving and expanding to enhance the health and well-being of individuals, families and communities throughout South Florida.

Thank you for allowing us into your lives and giving us the opportunity to serve. We look to the next thirty years with the hopeful anticipation of meeting even greater needs in our community.
Always on the front page of the newspapers, his face was frequently seen on television. In fact, he was the talk of every household. On the other hand, he gave invariably next to nothing on occasions where the right hand did not know what the left hand was doing, such as for Sunday offerings during the service or alms given to the beggars in the street. It was said that he would not give more than $10 dollars to a Church offering and $1 to the beggars in the street - as opposed to millions of dollars during events that would publicize his generosity.

One day, Joe died and went immediately to the gate of heaven. Back on earth people who knew him were saying, “He will get straight in and get a very high place up above.” But it didn’t work out quite like that. At the gate of heaven, he met Peter who held the keys to many rooms in our Father’s mansion. He welcomed Joe and like others who came before him, he asked him to follow him to show Joe where he would live. Peter took him to a place that was more beautiful than Paris that was regarded as the most beautiful place in the world. Joe saw many elegant and extravagant houses. His heart was filled with pride and joy hoping that one of these houses would be his. Peter then took Joe across town and to the suburbs where he saw buildings much more beautiful than the finest hotel in the world such as Ritz Al Baham Hotel on Jamaica Beach Road. Dubai. He was positive this would be his home. He dropped his luggage. Unfortunately Peter continued until they left the suburb and reached the slum with not only low income houses but dilapidated buildings. When Peter got to one house with a thatched roof, he ordered Joe to drop his luggage because he has reached his home. On hearing this Joe said to Peter, “If you are joking stop it.” Peter responded, “Joe, the little amount you brought to heaven was not even enough to complete this building. But since God is not like us and is the greatest giver of all. He gives even to those who are completely underserving of his gifts such as you. Hence, He provides the thatches used for the roofing on this building.”

When Joe insisted that he had donated millions of dollars to societies, individuals, and political parties, he was then shown his account book. Peter added that giving of itself is not enough. It has to have a certain quality to it. It is the way we give, and the spirit of the intent in which we give that is important. Real giving that ends up as dividends in heaven has no trace of self-interest in it.

Now back to Joe’s gifts. How many good deeds of his passed the test? Very little. A lot of his gifts were tainted with selfishness, and that made it worthless in the eyes of God. Some of them were gifts given to friends, relatives, and cronies. Others were gifts that he gave only to get something in return. Other still were gifts given for the sake of showing off or to win the praise and recognition of others. In a way, Joe’s gifts were given to inflame his own ego. Others still were those given to quiet his conscience. Such giving has a coldness and lack of spontaneity about it. In other words, they were gifts given to avoid embarrassment or something worse. In the Gospel, Jesus Christ said, “Give to those from whom you have nothing to receive.” In Joe’s account book, only these little gifts he gave to the poor, his weekly $10 Sunday offerings, and money that jingled that he put in the Rice Bowl were recorded under income in his account book in heaven. It is unfortunate that Joe learned his lesson in the hereafter. Since God is very prodigal in his mercy, this is not always the case. He allows us a second chance just as he gave to the good thief on the Cross and to Victor in the next story.

A friend invited Victor to his Church for a Thanksgiving Service, and he sat at the front row. When it was time for offering, the basket was passed around. Despite the Pastor’s encouragement for generous offerings, Victor hurriedly pulled out $1 from his pocket and dropped it on the floor. Just then, the person behind him tiptoed behind him on the shoulder and handed him $200. Then majestically, Victor looked around and put $200 in the basket and passed it on. Then he turned and thanked the man for being so generous. He replied “don’t mention it; be more careful next time, it fell from your pocket.”

How did Victor receive a thousand times more than what he offered? That was a wrong transaction!
Novak Djokovic has achieved many victories in tennis courts around the world. Right now, he is ranked number one in men’s singles tennis and is taking top place on the leader board at the Miami Open.

What many people don’t know is that he is also achieving victories off the court, by financially supporting early childhood education and development programs for children.

Briefly stepping away from the Miami Open, Djokovic visited with staff and children of Centro Mater East Childcare Center in late March. The visit coincided with a $20,000 donation from the Novak Djokovic Foundation, which has invested in early education projects in Australia, the Balkans, Serbia and North America since 2007.

“Supporting the dreams of children is so important to Jelena (his wife) and me, and it will always be,” said Djokovic. “We have a long-term vision for our foundation to support disadvantaged children in reaching their potential.”

Putting the children’s schedule ahead of his own, Djokovic made sure his visit did not interrupt their nap time. The children’s faces lit up as he toured the center, walked into classrooms, gave high fives and hugs, and even sat with the children for some valuable alphabet lessons.

Djokovic taught lessons of his own, as he quizzed kids on the color of a tennis ball, the name of the object used to hit the tennis ball, and what separates two tennis players on a court.

In anticipation of his visit, the children were shown photos and videos of tennis, as well as Djokovic playing. A special highlight: the ball-in-pocket catch that wowed spectators at the Miami Open March 25.

“We are thrilled for the donation, but that he also came out was great for the kids,” said Madelyn Rodriguez, program director of Centro Mater East.

Rodriguez was contacted about the donation by Evelo Torres, CEO of the Early Learning Coalition. She said the recommendation for the donation came via Alberto Litt, the Novak Djokovic Foundation’s Global CEO, who is known for helping out in cities that he visits. He listed simple criteria for a location to help: an institution by the Rickenbacker Causeway, that serves the inner city and is excellent. Centro Mater was their clear choice.

“They interviewed me and we went back and forth,” said Rodriguez. “They’re donating money and they don’t want to be associated with just anybody. They wanted to know about our program, our accreditations, our funding sources and to see that we’re reputable.”

Now in its 48th year, Centro Mater Child Care Services is a nonprofit organization that assists low-income families and their children, providing care for children from six weeks to 12 years of age. All five Centro Mater centers are accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children and have a five-star rating from the Quality Counts initiative.

According to Octavio Verdeja, Jr., the Centro Mater Foundation’s chair, the Djokovic donation will help with the summer learning camp hosted annually at Centro Mater centers.

Perhaps Djokovic’s visit also will inspire the start of future tennis player’s journey.

Story and Photography: Cristina Cabrera Jarró, ADOM
Catholic Health Services launches Telemedicine in St. John’s Nursing Center

After a 3 month pilot program, Catholic Health Services will provide specialized medical care to patients in St. John’s Nursing Center, 24/7, 7 days a week. Catholic Health Service and Duxlink Health Technology, a new tele-care technology company, developed a specialty tele-medicine program for medically complex patients discharged from hospital for sub-acute skilled care. Rehospitalization of nursing home patients are frequent and result in complications, morbidity, and incur Medicare expenditures of more than a billion dollars annually. The lack of a physician presence at many nursing homes during off hours is a contributing factor to avoidable hospitalizations.

Although Telemedicine does not replace the on-call or primary care physician; it supports and reinforces care. Duxlink Health Technology provides accessible local board-certified and state-licensed specialists (i.e., cardiologists, pulmonologists, geriatricians) whenever the physician or nurse practitioner is not available should a patient be in need of immediate attention. Technology is changing our lives, including healthcare. Duxlink Health Technology has developed an integrated system with several patents. It includes wireless tele-monitoring devices, such as blood pressure, pulse oximeter, glucometer, weight scale, stethoscope, and even 12 lead hospital grade ECG; information technology to capture and analyze patients’ data from variety of hospital or clinic medical record systems via a Patient-centered Data Mart; and provide services in patient remote monitoring and specialty physician consultations on a 24/7 basis.

At the time of implementation, Duxlink Health Technology provided wireless telemedicine and communication devices, and trained and certified nursing personnel at St. John’s Nursing Center. The telemedicine devices allowed the nursing staff to monitor patients 24/7 and immediately communicated with the patient’s physician to make a real time face-to-face virtual consultation for on-time diagnosis and treatment. “The partnership with Duxlink will allow us to address unexpected patient issues quickly and ensure their safety and well-being,” shared Jacqueline Jackson, RN, Director of Nursing.

Patsy Juno came to St. John’s after numerous cardiac issues, heart attack, bypass surgery and defibrillator implant last fall. He had a complicated course of treatment due to his medical conditions and his status fluctuated over a two month period. He then developed severe and persistent chest pain. His physician’s assistant requested a telemedicine consultation and several diagnostics were performed at the bedside. Mr. Juno was diagnosed and treated and an emergency transfer to the hospital for evaluation was prevented. “No doubt the Duxlink system has saved me from going back to the hospital several times. After all the stress of my heart attack and open heart surgery, this technology has given me greater peace of mind and access to great care and specialty care anytime I need it,” commented Mr. Juno.

Duxlink Health Technology, LLC, a Florida based Technology Company, provides a platform of end-to-end IT, technology and service integration from chronic, remote tele-care/management to acute, episodic, and on-site care. The mission is to develop an integrated and proactive care platform for all healthcare providers to connect with patients anytime and anywhere to improve clinical outcomes in patients with chronic diseases and reduce healthcare costs.
Surrounded by new residents and friends, partners, builders and local dignitaries, Archbishop Wenski blessed and dedicated St. Joseph Manor, our most recent HUD-subsidized, independent, low-income community. Located next to St. Joseph Haitian Mission in Pompano, the first phase of St. Joseph Manor was made possible through an $8 million federal housing grant.

The building with 63 apartments is home to seniors with an average annual income of $9,000, paying an average monthly rent of $200. As with the other properties managed by Catholic Housing Management, tenants need only pay 30 percent of their household income toward rent and utilities. Already with a waiting list, it has been fully occupied since September 2015.

The community offers numerous activities and conveniences, including: group outings, educational programs, common rooms for club gatherings, libraries, exercise classes, and visiting vendors. On-site management, social services and maintenance staff ensure continuous smooth operations and assistance to the residents. The residents at St. Joseph Manor are approximately 85 percent Haitian-American, as well as Spanish and English-speaking residents. “It is our mission to provide housing for seniors in need and meet the needs of people who would otherwise not have a decent and affordable place to live,” said Juana Mejia, vice president CHS Elderly Housing Services. She added that federal funding for additional low-income senior housing is not currently available. “We continue exploring options for funding to continue to support and develop affordable housing.”
May is...

**Arthritis Awareness Month**
National Arthritis Awareness Month was initiated by the Arthritis Foundation through a Presidential Proclamation in 1972. It aims to raise awareness and reduce the impact of arthritis, which strikes one in every five adults and 300,000 children and is the nation’s leading cause of disability.

**Older Americans Month**
Acknowledging the contributions of older persons to our country. Every President since John F. Kennedy has issued a formal proclamation asking that the entire nation pay tribute to older persons in their community.

**Stroke Awareness Month**
Every 40 seconds someone in America has a stroke. It is the 5th leading cause of death in the United States and a leading cause of long-term disability. The goal of the annual campaign is to raise awareness about the importance of managing stroke risk factors, understanding stroke symptom recognition and response, and improving the quality of life during stroke recovery for millions of survivors.

**6-12: Nurses Week**
Since 1820 we celebrate the role nurses play in delivering high quality care to patients around the world.

**8-14: Women’s Health Week**
Designed to empower women to make their health a priority, promoting women’s health and its importance.

**8-15: Nursing Home Week**
Skilled nursing, post-acute, and long term care settings honor this time to honor residents, patients, and their families and to recognize staff for their dedication to caring for seniors and persons with disabilities.

**Mother’s Day - Sunday May 8th**

June is...

**Alzheimer’s and Brain Awareness Month**
This month presents an opportunity to join the global conversation about the brain, Alzheimer’s disease and other types of dementia. Everyone who has a brain is at risk to develop Alzheimer’s, a fatal disease that cannot be prevented, cured, or even slowed.

**Aphasia Awareness Month**
Aphasia is an acquired communications disorder that impairs a person’s ability to process language but does not affect intelligence. Aphasia impairs the ability to speak and understand others, and most people with aphasia experience difficulty reading and writing.

**Father’s Day - Sunday June 19th**

We really do get by with a little help from our friends. In a recent study of almost 7,000 people, those who lived in a neighborhood they considered tight-knit, had a 15% lower risk of stroke than those who didn’t feel the sense of community. And the more neighborly, the better. Members of the coziest communities enjoyed a 48% decrease in stroke risk.

**Sweet News about Dark Chocolate!**
Got a chocolate craving? Choose dark chocolate over milk chocolate, and you may protect your heart. Researchers report in the journal Nature that eating dark chocolate raises antioxidant levels in the blood - which may help keep heart disease at bay. The researchers found no significant antioxidant activity increase from milk chocolate or when dark chocolate was consumed with a glass of milk, leading them to speculate that adding milk may interfere with antioxidant absorption. Of course, like any type of chocolate or sweet treat, it is best to consume dark chocolate in moderation.

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