

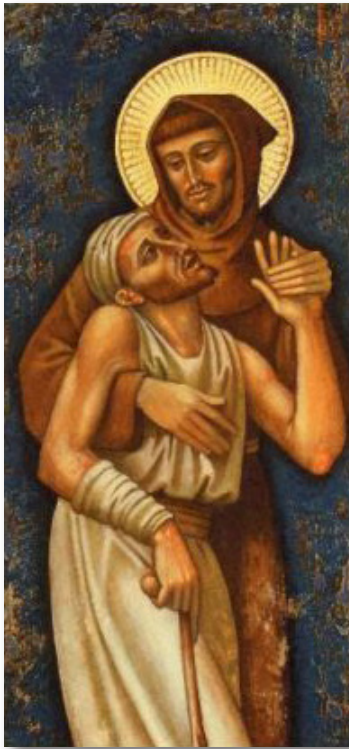


**Hospital Sisters**  
HEALTH SYSTEM

O u r M i s s i o n a n d H e r i t a g e

Respect • Care • Competence  
Care • Competence • Joy • Res  
Competence • Joy • Respect •  
Joy • Respect • Care • Compet





## ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI

Giovanni (John) di Pietro di Bernardone was born to wealthy parents in Assisi, Italy, in 1181 or 1182. Later he was renamed Francesco (Francis) by his father, Pietro, after a business trip to merchant fairs in France. Pietro was a prosperous silk merchant and land owner who expected his son to carry on the family business. His mother Pica was an educated noblewoman originally from Provence, France, and a devout Christian who encouraged Francis' spiritual development. According to his biographers, Francis enjoyed a very comfortable life and had many friends.

In 1198, civil war raged in Assisi, a community intent on independence from both papal and imperial power. Noble families fled to the city of Perugia, the archrival of Assisi. In 1202, Francis fought in the war between Assisi and Perugia, was captured, and imprisoned in Perugia. Ransomed from prison by his father a year later, Francis returned home seriously ill which tempered his desire for glory and knighthood.

The gradual process of Francis' conversion began in 1205 and was perhaps rooted in his experience of war and illness. He gave generously to beggars who came to his father's cloth shop. He was deeply moved by the plight of those suffering with leprosy which in the Middle Ages was greatly feared because it caused disfigurement and disability, was incurable, and believed to be highly contagious. Lepers were banished to colonies in remote areas to ensure quarantine. At the age of 23, Francis renounced his inheritance, left his family, and formally began his life as a "Penitent of Assisi."

In 1208, Francis began nursing lepers and begging for stones to repair the churches of San Damiano, San Pietro, and the Porziuncola, a 9th century church. At the Porziuncola, he heard the Gospel for the feast of St. Matthias. Inspired by the words of Scripture, Francis discovered his vocation: to imitate Jesus Christ and to preach penance and peace. He devoted his life to preaching the Gospel and caring for the sick and the poor, sending a powerful message of love, compassion, and healing. This commitment to care for the sick and the poor is the essence of the Franciscan Mission.

Francis died on October 3, 1226 in Assisi. Today, his life and ministry still resonate with millions of men and women who follow in his footsteps and provide health care, education, and other services to people in need around the world.

To reveal and embody

### Tau

The Tau is a letter of the Greek alphabet. It is a sign of life and salvation. In the Old Testament, the prophets marked those who have chosen to reject a sinful lifestyle with a Tau. In Revelation, those who professed themselves to belong to Jesus Christ received the sign of salvation on their foreheads. Pope Innocent III's opening address to the Fourth Lateran Council of 1215 focused on the Tau, its symbolism, and meaning for the Church, and inspired Francis to use the Tau as a symbol of the religious order he founded. Francis stretched out his arms and proclaimed to his friars that their tunic was the Tau. It not only mirrored the shape of the cross but also wrapped each friar in his life-long commitment to be a symbol of healing to others.

# ST. CLARE OF ASSISI

Chiara (Clare) was born in Assisi, Italy, in 1194, the eldest daughter of Favarone and Ortolana di Offreduccio. As a young girl, Clare dedicated herself to prayer. At the age of 18, she was moved by the dynamic preaching of Francis and was determined to live the Gospel more profoundly. On the evening of Palm Sunday in 1212, she secretly left her father's home, and sought refuge with Francis and the friars who received her into religious life at the Porziuncola.

After a short time, Clare's sister Catherine, who took the name Agnes, joined her and they went to live at the church of San Damiano, which Francis had rebuilt. From 1212 to 1215, Francis dictated a "Form of Life" for Clare, Agnes, and the other women who were inspired to live a life of prayer and poverty. Thus, the first Community of the Order of Poor Ladies was founded. The Poor Ladies lived a life of great poverty, austerity, and unlike the Franciscan friars, they were cloistered. In 1226, Clare's mother Ortolana entered the community, and in 1229, Clare's sister Beatrice joined them.

In 1224, Clare became severely ill and suffered for many years but expressed that no pain could trouble her for so great was her joy in serving the Lord. When Assisi faced attack by invading Saracens in 1240, Clare, although very sick, placed the Blessed Sacrament on the convent walls. "I beseech you, dear Lord, protect these whom I am now unable to protect." To her sisters, she said, "Don't be afraid. Trust in Jesus." The Saracens fled due to Clare's intercessory prayer.

Francis always remained her friend and inspiration. Clare was so devoted and dedicated to Francis that she was often referred to as "alter Franciscus," or another Francis. Her encouragement and support of Francis was a vital part of both her ministry and his. In 1225, Francis, nearly blind and very ill, spent six weeks at San Damiano where Clare and her sisters cared for him. After Francis' death in 1226, Clare continued to promote the Order of Poor Ladies.

Following her death on August 11, 1253, the order she founded was renamed the Order of Saint Clare in her honor. In 1260, the community of sisters moved from San Damiano to the new convent inside the walls of Assisi. Today, the Poor Clares are a worldwide Order of sisters who continue to live a contemplative life, surrounding the world with prayer.



## Christ's healing love

### San Damiano Cross

The significance of the San Damiano cross comes from an event that was a turning point in Francis' life. During a contemplative walk in 1206, Francis passed by the crumbling church of San Damiano near Assisi, when he felt compelled to enter and pray. He knelt before the cross and heard a voice telling him to "go and rebuild my church which as you can see is falling into ruin." He began to gather stones but later realized the deeper meaning and accepted God's invitation to live a life of poverty and service. Years later, Clare, her sister Agnes, and the other women who joined them were given the church of San Damiano as their convent. Clare meditated before the San Damiano cross for 41 years. When the Sisters moved from San Damiano to the new convent inside the city walls, they brought it with them.



# HOSPITAL SISTERS OF ST. FRANCIS

On July 2, 1844, Father Christopher Bernsmeyer, a Franciscan priest, witnessed the religious commitment of women in Our Lady of Grace Chapel in Telgte, a village outside the city of Muenster, Westphalia, Germany. This marked the founding of the Hospital Sisters of the Third Order of St. Francis, a religious community dedicated to a life of simplicity and service to the sick and poor.

The Community grew rapidly and in the early years served the sick in Westphalia and Silesia, Germany. Over time, the Community evolved into an international congregation of Franciscan Sisters, and today their Provinces include Germany, Poland, the United States, Japan, and India.

At the invitation of Bishop Peter Joseph Baltes of Alton, Illinois, twenty Hospital Sisters arrived in the United States on November 3, 1875. They established their Motherhouse and the American Province in Springfield, Illinois, and began a health care ministry. German-speaking immigrants throughout Illinois and Wisconsin were among the first to benefit from the Hospital Sisters' compassionate care.

In 1917, the Hospital Sisters purchased 500 acres of land five miles northeast of Springfield, Illinois, for the erection of the St. John's Tuberculosis Sanitarium and later the construction of St. Francis of Assisi Church and St. Francis Convent. Currently, the property is 300 acres and includes the Sisters' residence, St. Francis of Assisi Church, St. Clare of Assisi Adoration Chapel, Crucifixion Hill cemetery, the administrative offices of the American Province, Chiara Center, Hospital Sisters Mission Outreach, and the corporate offices of Hospital Sisters Health System.

The American Province of the Hospital Sisters of St. Francis is a significant provider of Catholic health care through the sponsorship of hospitals through Hospital Sisters Health System, Hospital Sisters Mission Outreach (a medical surplus recovery organization), and Chiara Center, a retreat and conference center dedicated to revealing Christ's healing presence in the spirit of St. Francis and St. Clare of Assisi. To learn more, visit [www.hospitalsisters.org](http://www.hospitalsisters.org).

for all people through

## International Community Symbol

The Hospital Sisters of St. Francis symbol blends the Tau with a cord and knots. The cord represents the world and, thereby, the Hospital Sisters' International Congregation, who are united by the central symbol of the Tau. The three knots symbolize the Hospital Sisters of St. Francis' vows of poverty, obedience, and celibate chastity. An image of the Pieta of Telgte is imprinted on the reverse. The pieta is a subject in Christian art depicting the Virgin Mary cradling the crucified body of Jesus, most often in sculpture. The Pieta of Telgte is enshrined in Our Lady of Grace Chapel, where Father Christopher Bernsmeyer, OFM, officially welcomed young women to the Third Order, which constituted the founding of the Community of the Hospital Sisters of the Third Order of St. Francis on July 2, 1844.

# HOSPITAL SISTERS HEALTH SYSTEM

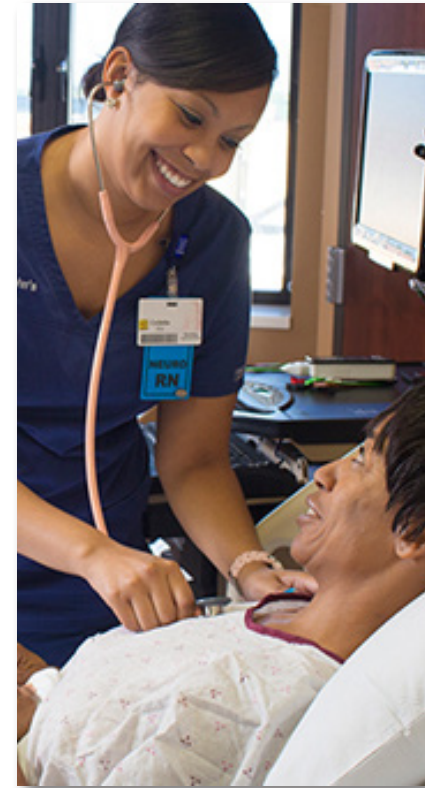
Hospital Sisters Health System (HSHS) is a highly integrated, multi-institutional health care system comprised of 15 hospitals and more than 200 physician practice sites in Illinois and Wisconsin. HSHS serves rural and midsized communities throughout both states.

HSHS is committed to delivering high quality, compassionate, holistic, and cost-effective health care services to all who seek it. Sponsored by Hospital Sisters Ministries, our mission is *to reveal and embody Christ's healing love for all people through our high quality Franciscan health care ministry.*

Our Core Values express the Franciscan spirit and our special charism. Our more than 14,000 colleagues and 2,000 physicians who care for our patients and their families serve with four core values that are important within this Franciscan health care ministry: **Respect, Care, Competence, and Joy.**

As a System, HSHS is able to strengthen and further its mission, share innovative ideas, and develop and implement strategies to transform health care locally and nationally. It is our vision to unite the key elements of today's health care delivery system to increase patient access, quality, and safety; promote efficiencies; and decrease expense and waste. Our priority is to provide the right care, at the right time, in the right setting. Care integration is our strategy for achieving our vision to provide exceptional care centered on the whole person -- mind, body, and spirit.

Through our care integration strategy, investments in state-of-the-art facilities and technology, and substantial community benefit programs and services, HSHS continues the legacy of the Hospital Sisters of St. Francis to care for the residents of the communities we serve, with a special emphasis on the poor and vulnerable. To learn more, visit [www.hshs.org](http://www.hshs.org).



our high quality

## Hospital Sisters Health System Visual Identity

The visual identity of Hospital Sisters Health System incorporates the Tau, a highly recognizable and very common symbol of the Franciscan tradition. The visual identity symbolizes the richness of the past and, at the same time, a call for compassionate service in the future. It visually unifies our ministries with HSHS and in a more overarching way, with the sponsored ministries of the American Province of the Hospital Sisters of the Third Order of St. Francis.



**Hospital Sisters**  
HEALTH SYSTEM



## OUR SYSTEM OF CARE

Hospital Sisters Health System provides the structure whereby the Hospital Sisters of the Third Order of St. Francis, our founding sponsors, can continue their healing mission in the Roman Catholic Church. Hospitals and other institutionally based programs are the primary means of responding to those in need. As a Franciscan health care ministry, HSHS is inspired to serve others, particularly the most vulnerable in our society. We are also committed to adopting the latest best practices to deliver exceptional and compassionate care to all our patients. Our system of care includes:

HSBS St. John's Hospital, Springfield, IL, founded 1875  
HSBS St. Elizabeth's Hospital, O'Fallon, IL, founded 1875  
HSBS St. Francis Hospital, Litchfield, IL, founded 1875  
HSBS St. Anthony's Memorial Hospital, Effingham, IL, founded 1875  
HSBS St. Joseph's Hospital, Highland, IL, founded 1878  
HSBS St. Mary's Hospital, Decatur, IL, founded 1878  
HSBS St. Joseph's Hospital, Chippewa Falls, WI, founded 1885  
HSBS St. Vincent Hospital, Green Bay, WI, founded 1888  
HSBS Sacred Heart Hospital, Eau Claire, WI, founded 1889  
HSBS St. Nicholas Hospital, Sheboygan, WI, founded 1890  
HSBS St. Mary's Hospital Medical Center, Green Bay, WI, assumed sponsorship 1974  
HSBS St. Joseph's Hospital, Breese, IL, assumed sponsorship 1987  
HSBS St. Clare Memorial Hospital, Oconto Falls, WI, began sponsorship 2014  
HSBS Holy Family Hospital, Greenville, IL, began sponsorship 2016  
HSBS Good Shepherd Hospital, Shelbyville, IL, began sponsorship 2017

To learn more about HSHS and our system of care, visit [www.hshs.org](http://www.hshs.org).

Franciscan health

## St. John's College of Nursing

In 1886, the Hospital Sisters of St. Francis founded St. John's Hospital School of Nursing. Initially, the school was created as a two-year diploma program to educate members of the founding religious order. In 1899, "The Nursing Sister - A Manual for Candidates and Novices of Hospital Communities" was prepared by St. John's Hospital Training School. In 1912, the school accepted the first lay women. In 1952, when the National League for Nursing began its accreditation program for schools of nursing, St. John's was among those who came forward to meet this challenge. St. John's has been recognized as the oldest Catholic hospital-based school of nursing in the United States. Since its founding, St. John's has undergone many transitions. However, its dedication to the education of professional nurses whose practice exemplifies excellence has been constant.

# OUR PHYSICIAN PARTNERS

Hospital Sisters Health System aligns with physicians and other health care professionals in Illinois and Wisconsin to seamlessly unite patients, providers, and care facilities. Our physician partners include:

## HSHS Medical Group

In 2008, the decision was made by HSHS to unite health care providers -- hospitals, physicians, nurses, technologists, etc. to provide a better and more efficient health care delivery system. To that end, HSHS Medical Group was launched in 2009 with a charge to deliver patient-centered health care through a full range of primary care, specialty groups, and HSHS hospitals. To learn more, visit [www.hshsmedicalgroup.org](http://www.hshsmedicalgroup.org).

## Prairie Cardiovascular

Founded in 1982, Prairie Cardiovascular is a pioneering organization delivering state-of-the-art heart care to patients with compassion, dignity, assurance of quality, research, and education. A formal partner of HSHS since 2008, Prairie is a national leader in the innovation and development of new diagnostic and treatment procedures and continues to advance medicine with a very active research program. To learn more, visit [www.thedoctorsofprairie.com](http://www.thedoctorsofprairie.com).

## Prevea Health

“Prevea” is a combination of the words “prevention” and “panacea,” which means “a remedy for all illnesses.” It was the name given to Prevea Health in 1996 when physicians from the West Side, Webster, and Beaumont clinics partnered with HSHS St. Vincent Hospital and HSHS St. Mary’s Hospital Medical Center in Green Bay, Wisconsin. Since then, Prevea has grown to be the largest physician-owned multi-specialty group in the state of Wisconsin. Prevea offers health care for the whole family from routine doctor visits to specialized care. Prevea Health centers can be found in more than 40 locations throughout northeast Wisconsin and western Wisconsin’s Chippewa Valley region. Prevea also partners with six HSHS hospitals in Green Bay, Sheboygan, Oconto Falls, Eau Claire, and Chippewa Falls. To learn more, visit [www.prevea.com](http://www.prevea.com).

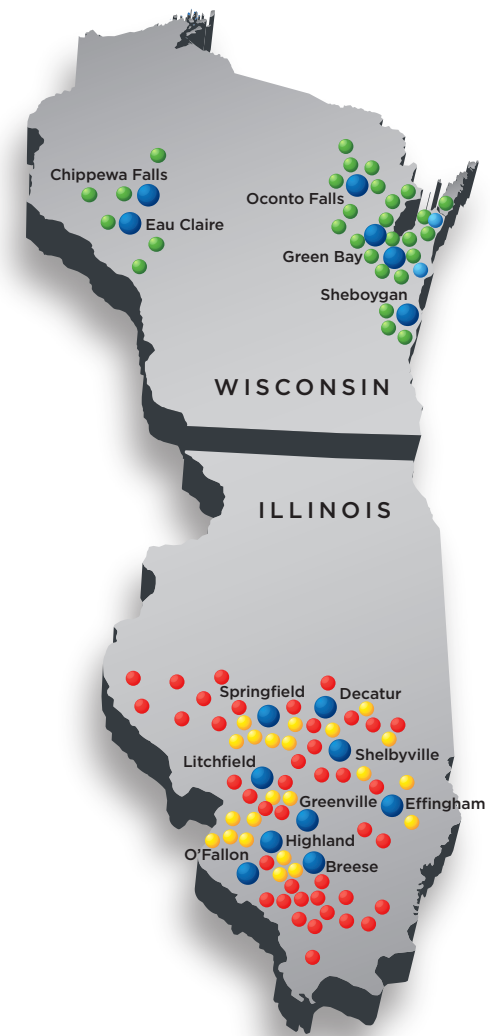
care ministry.

## Clinical Integration Networks

Kiara Clinical Integration Network (KCIN) is an application service provider for HSHS entities as well as affiliated community physician practices to allow hospitals and community partners to exchange health and other business information in a secure and efficient manner to maximize excellence in patient care, efficiency, and clinical experience.

Physician Clinical Integration Network (PCIN) is a physician-led, clinically integrated network in Illinois and Wisconsin that seeks to improve the quality of care and reduce the overall cost of care through a shared savings model.

To learn more about our clinical integration networks, visit [www.hshs.org/Our-Family/Other-Affiliates](http://www.hshs.org/Our-Family/Other-Affiliates).



- HSHS Hospitals
- Strategic Affiliates/Joint Ventures
- Prevea Health (multi-specialty group)
- HSHS Medical Group Clinics
- Prairie Cardiovascular Consultants



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