

# Holy Name Medical Center

## PRESS RELEASE



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### HOLY NAME MEDICAL CENTER NURSING STUDENTS GRADUATE Thirty Receive Licensed Practical Nursing Diploma at Commencement Exercises

Teaneck, NJ—Holy Name Medical Center’s School of Nursing celebrated the 41<sup>st</sup> Commencement Exercises for its Licensed Practical Nurse Program on August 21. Thirty students received their licensed practical nursing (LPN) credential in the hospital’s Marian Hall Conference Center, as family members, friends, Medical Center staff and School of Nursing faculty witnessed the event. Holy Name’s School of Nursing also offers a Registered Nurse Program, whose students graduated in June.

The 24 female and six male candidates, School of Nursing faculty, and members of Holy Name Medical Center’s administration proceeded into the conference center amid the strains of Pomp and Circumstance. Amy Nieporent, BSN, RN, an instructor in the LPN program, issued a welcome, and Theresa Reilly, one of the soon-to-be graduates, delivered the invocation.

In her salutation, Sheryl Slonim, DNP, RN-BC, NEA-BC, Executive Vice President of Patient Care Services and Chief Nursing Officer at Holy Name Medical Center, told the graduating class that “the possibilities and diversity of choice are endless.” She reminded the graduates that, having completed the course of study in nursing, “you are not the same person you were” and that as they assume their new roles, “remember that patients always come first.” She encouraged them to “learn and pursue greatness, but never forget the fundamentals,” noting that “respect for life and the human condition” are essential.

Gloria Moscatello, RN, a School of Nursing alumnus who is now Director of Nursing for Preferred Home Health Care and Nursing Service, gave the Commencement Address. Describing herself after high school as “a hot, hot mess” who was lacking direction, she recalled her inspirational meeting with the late and beloved Sister Claire Tynan. Sister Claire, who had directed the School of Nursing for 39 years, noted that while Ms. Moscatello’s record was “not the best,” she encouraged her to pursue a nursing education. “She gave me a chance,” said Ms. Moscatello. “Now I get to give people a chance.” She advised, “Don’t lose your passion. Stay humble....Treat your patients the way you treat the people you love the most.”

Dr. Slonim presented the diplomas, with the assistance of Nancy Lyons, BSN, RN, and Jennifer Gazdick, MSN, RN, both instructors in the School’s Licensed Practical Nurse Program. The graduates:

Jennifer Alves  
Marilyn Arrieta  
Michael Barlow  
Leishel Bautista  
Jaycee Cahill  
Johansel Caraballo\*\*  
Danielle Clarke

Meryl Lacap  
Melissa Lawrance\*  
Ivan Martinez  
Melissa McGinn  
Patricia Ocampo  
Frances Pisona  
Theresa Reilly

Jaime Demczuk**	Raquel Ricon
Siobhan Devereaux*	Josefina Rodriguez
Marykate Ernst	Audrey Sanchez-Lugo
Richard Garcia	Aimee Smith
Kelvin Guzman	Tammy Smith
Jonathan Hernandez	Christine Sullivan
Vanessa Hernandez	Marissa Veltidi
Michelle Laboy	Kayla Walters

\*\**Magna Cum Laude*

\* *Cum Laude*

Barbara Blackwell, EDD, RN-BC, Director of the School of Nursing, and Ms. Lyons, then presented the following awards:

Valedictorian Award – For the highest grade point average; this year, for the first time in the School’s history, a tie: Johansel Caraballo and Jaime Demczuk

Nursing Excellence Award – For commitment, leadership, professionalism and compassion: Melissa Lawrance and Raquel Ricon

President’s Award – For academic excellence, commitment to classroom learning and plans to pursue future nursing education: Siobhan Devereaux

Jo-Ellen Van Oort Memorial Scholarship – For a love of nursing and helping others: Christine Sullivan

Volunteer Service Award – Jaycee Cahill, Johansel Caraballo, Jaime Demczuk, Siobhan Devereaux, Melissa Lawrance, and Christine Sullivan

Melissa Lawrance, President of the School’s Class of 2013, delivered the Farewell Address; and Sister Breda Boyle, the Medical Center’s Director of Pastoral Care, said the closing prayer. Paul Daher, a pianist who has provided musical accompaniment for Holy Name’s commencement exercises for over 20 years, performed classical selections throughout the event.

The School of Nursing, founded in 1925 by the Sisters of St. Joseph of Peace, offers a two-year registered nurse (RN) program with the option of completion in three years, and a one-year licensed practical nurse (LPN) program. For information about admission requirements for Holy Name Medical Center’s School of Nursing, email [school@holyname.org](mailto:school@holyname.org) or visit [www.schoolofnursing.info](http://www.schoolofnursing.info).

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#### ABOUT HOLY NAME MEDICAL CENTER:

Holy Name Medical Center is a fully accredited, not-for-profit healthcare facility based in Teaneck, New Jersey, with off-site locations throughout Bergen County. Founded and sponsored by the Sisters of St. Joseph of Peace in 1925, the comprehensive 361-bed medical center offers leading-edge medical practice and technology administered in an environment rooted in a tradition of compassion and respect for every patient. Holy Name provides high quality health care across a continuum that encompasses education, prevention, early intervention, comprehensive treatment options, rehabilitation and wellness maintenance—from conception through end-of-life.

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