



• Catholic Health Association of Canada •

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At the 2008 convention Fr. Gerald A. Arbuckle and Sr. Sue Mosteller presented keynote addresses to the delegates.



Gerald A. Arbuckle, SM, Ph.D.

Director of the Sisters of Charity Health Service, Sydney, Australia

HEALTH CARE: CRAFTING CATHOLIC IDENTITY IN POSTMODERN CANADA

At no previous age has health care in the Western world, including Canada, faced a more chaotic and threatening external environment. Yet, at the same time, our organizations are going through a significant internal transition from congregational to more and more lay sponsorship. In the midst of this turmoil our ministries have two interconnected challenges: viability and Catholic identity. Failure to clarify our Catholic identity at this time will inevitably lead to the institutional death of these ministries.

While it is possible to define in general what we mean by 'Catholic identity', it is not an easy task to clarify this identity in specific terms. However, the most relevant way to re-articulate our identity at this time is to retell, and re-own the original founding story of all Catholic health care, namely the Good Samaritan parable. From this parable we will derive the energy and the passion to move creatively into the future.



Sue Mosteller, CSJ

L'Arche Daybreak, Toronto, ON

PROFESSIONALISM WITH PASSION

Full of spirit, full of life is not about the maintenance of a movement, nor is it about the building of our reputation as Catholic health care. Passion in our professional life springs from a profound conviction that we, the human family, belong together in weakness and in strength.

As health care professionals, we endeavour to respond to suffering brothers and sisters by together sharing our wisdom, creativity, vision, hope, resources, power, and energy. The vision is beautiful but the reality is full of difficulty in the complex systems of a large organization. How do you and I profess what we believe in the workplace? How do we sustain personal energy and passion? And how does the system we create not lose the voiceless in service delivery and planning? Finally, how do you and I find the courage to be transformed by compassion for the one in our midst who suffers?

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