



VITALity
Catholic Healthcare Services

A HEALTHCARE MINISTRY OF THE DIOCESE OF CAMDEN



2023 YEAR IN REVIEW



BRINGING CARE To LIFE

Care Coordination

Parish Nursing

Ministry with the Deaf & Persons with Disabilities

Parish-Based Senior Ministries

Hospital Chaplaincy

Stephen Ministry

“I came so they might have life and have it more abundantly.” – John 10:10

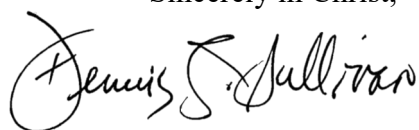
Mission Statement

We serve to enhance the quality and promote the dignity of life for the elderly, persons with disabilities and their families throughout the Diocese of Camden through programs and services that address the health and well-being of body, mind and spirit. Rooted in our Catholic values, we deliver these services freely and compassionately as the Gospel directs us, and we will care for and assist all people in need, regardless of their religious affiliation.

I am pleased to welcome you to the VITALity Catholic Healthcare Services 2023 Year in Review. Through the good works of VITALity, the Diocese of Camden continues to bring healing and hope into the lives of thousands of our elderly and/or disabled brothers and sisters in South Jersey. As you review the pages of this report, I invite you to learn more about the services provided through this essential ministry and thereby see how VITALity may be of help to you and your loved ones who may be struggling through the challenges of aging and/or disability. Our charitable services are available to all, regardless of your faith or religious affiliation.

I am thankful for your ongoing prayerful support and generosity that enables us to fulfill our mission to continue the healing works of the Lord in the world today. May God bless you and may His loving grace be always with you and those you love and care for.

Sincerely in Christ,



Most Reverend Dennis J. Sullivan, D.D.
Bishop of Camden

Allow me to introduce you to the VITALity Catholic Healthcare Services 2023 Year in Review. I thank you for your interest in our healthcare ministry that seeks to bring comfort and hope to those seniors and persons with disabilities in need of healing, guidance, advocacy and companionship, to help them thrive through the challenges inherent of their state of being. As we conclude our eighth year of service to the people of South Jersey, I invite you to read about the fine work of our compassionate staff who strive to bring God's healing grace into the lives they touch each day.

By being a gentle advocate as a Care Coordinator, a face of healing and hope as a Hospital Chaplain, the helping hand of a Parish Nurse or Stephen Minister, or a familiar companion within our Parish Communities of Seniors and those with Disabilities, VITALity staff are there to offer healthcare related services in a compassionate manner to all who call upon us for assistance. Their stories come alive in these pages to raise your awareness of their charitable services available throughout the region.

I hope that you find this Year in Review valuable as we seek to demonstrate our accountability to the communities we serve and inform you of our works that may assist you or your loved ones in times of need. May you be blessed in your generosity and prayerful support that will enable us to continue our mission of caring for His most vulnerable people.

May the Lord bring His favor upon you and those you love and care for.



Deacon Jerry Jablonowski
Secretariat for Health and Well-Being
Executive Director, VITALity Catholic Healthcare Services
Diocese of Camden

Stephen Ministry



19 STEPHEN MINISTRY PARISHES
throughout the Diocese of Camden

Providing an additional avenue of pastoral and spiritual care, Stephen Ministry is a lay ministry based on the idea that all Christians are called to minister to others, offering compassionate and caring listening and accompaniment to people going through life struggles. With over 250 trained Stephen Ministers in 19 parishes throughout the Diocese, all pledge to remain steadfast in their mission to walk with others through listening, prayer and offering emotional and spiritual support, providing one-on-one confidential Christian care to members of our parishes and our communities.

Ministry with the Deaf & Persons with Disabilities

VITALity's Ministry with the Deaf and Persons with Disabilities invites all person with disabilities and their families to experience, throughout their lifespan, their essential belonging in their parish, the Diocese, and the Church at large. We work with clergy and families as well as other community partners to encourage people to participate fully in their parishes and communities. With 5 parishes offering Mass of Welcome and Inclusion, sensory friendly liturgies, faith-based programming, and voice interpreted Masses, this ministry continues to grow and serve more people each year.



Care Coordination

Navigating the complexities of the many health care services can be confusing and overwhelming, especially for individuals with family members experiencing the challenges of aging and caregiving. VITALity's nurses (RNs) and social workers (MSWs) are here to assist seniors and persons with disabilities when they need us the most, providing education, advocacy, resources and support in accessing essential programs and services that promote health, safety and well-being at home or another setting.



Resource & Referral Help Line

1-888-VITALity | 1-888-268-4825

One call to VITALity's Resource and Referral Help Line (1-888-268-4825) offers individuals and family members valuable information about resources and connects them to knowledgeable care coordinators for more comprehensive assistance. In 2023, VITALity's Care Coordinators responded to 1,011 Help Line inquiries, resulting in 3,888 personalized and confidential phone consultations and home visits. Since the inception of VITALity's Care Coordination Program, 7,548 individuals have been served and 22,087 home visits and phone consultations completed.

TOP 5

SERVICES IN 2023

1. Insurance Assistance
2. Housing / Assisted Living / Nursing Home
3. Home Health Aid / Home Help Services
4. Food / Meals on Wheels
5. Coordinate Medical Care

Hospital Chaplaincy

VITALity's Hospital Chaplaincy program cares for the hospitalized and elderly infirm in 18 institutions throughout South Jersey, providing compassionate emotional and spiritual support to Catholic patients and their families. Our team visited the sick and gave Holy Communion to an average of nearly 5,700 patients, families and staff each month. Our Priest Chaplains administered the Sacrament of the Sick to 3,800 persons desiring this grace of the Lord's healing mercy. These statistics show the ongoing commitment of our chaplains who remain present to those in need of pastoral care.

**17 Priest Chaplains & Associates serve
18 Hospitals/Facilities**

Pastoral Care Encounters with Patients, Families & Staff
69,425

The Eucharist Shared
28,345

Baptisms Celebrated
18

Anointings Sacrament of the Sick
3,800

Through VITALity Catholic Healthcare Services, our pastoral care teams minister in all of the secular hospitals within our Diocese. Each team consists of a Priest Chaplain along with an Associate Chaplain (Deacon, Religious Sister, or Lay Minister). Additionally, our chaplains minister to the spiritual needs of the dedicated healthcare professionals who care for the sick within all of these institutions.



Parish Nursing



34 Parish Nurse ministries throughout the Diocese touched the lives of over 18,000 parishioners in 2023. Working to educate and bring resources to their parish communities, they coordinated flu shot clinics, health fairs, blood drives and blood pressure clinics. Recognizing the need for education in the community, they organized health presentations on pertinent topics such as cancer screenings, stroke and mental health. Parish nurses organized exercise programs such as

walking with seniors in the park helping to emphasize the benefits of staying active. Recognizing the impact of grief and loss, many parish nurse ministries organized Healing Masses at their individual parishes. The annual parish nurse Foundations of Faith Community nursing course and parish nurse retreat continued in 2023 with 5 new parish nurses being commissioned in the Diocese of Camden in September and over 20 nurses attending the parish nurse retreat in May.

Mercy Teams & Cancer Care Ministries

Mercy Teams and Cancer Care Ministries are parish-based ministries with similar missions to be the working hands of Jesus Christ helping those in the parish community during times of need. Trained volunteers provide practical support to help their parish community members. Cancer Care Ministry members provide comfort, support and aid to those journeying through cancer treatments. Helping with rides to treatment, bringing meals before or after chemo or helping with laundry are examples of how ministry members aim to reduce workload during a difficult time. Mercy Team volunteers work similarly as a helpful presence to older adults and those with disabilities, helping to assist them with tasks such as rides to Mass, doctor's appointments, picking up prescriptions, providing meals or simply providing companionship.

Parish-Based Senior Ministries

In 2023, Parish Senior Social Day Centers thrived with engaging, fun-filled programs for senior members. Special celebrations, exercise classes, dancing and enrichment activities provided positive social experiences for seniors in our community. The dedicated Senior Social Day Center directors, staff and volunteers offered welcoming environments to a growing number of senior members to forge new friendships, laugh, and grow in fellowship with one another. VITALity Catholic Healthcare Services hosted two joy-filled gatherings for our senior members. In 2023 we honored Centenarians and Nonagenarians in the Camden Diocese with a special Mass and reception to acknowledge this blessed group of individuals (ranging in age from 90-102) and the gifts they uniquely bring to the world. On October 31, we collaborated with Prime Timers Senior Social Day Center, Incarnation Parish, to celebrate a new season together with a Fall Fling. Approximately 100 seniors members from several parishes in the Camden Diocese dressed in Halloween costumes, line danced, socialized and enjoyed a delicious meal together.



Senior Social Day Centers

Prime Timers

Church of the Incarnation Parish
Mantua, New Jersey

Young at Heart Club

Christ the Redeemer Parish
Atco, New Jersey

Golden Slippers

Saint Simon Stock Parish
Berlin, New Jersey

The Renaissance Center

Saint Andrew the Apostle Parish
Gibbsboro, New Jersey

The continued presence of Parish Senior Social Day Centers provides a healthy path for seniors to *Live Life to the Fullest* mentally, physically and spiritually!

Life to the Fullest Membership Program

With 3,000 members strong, VITALity's Life to the Fullest membership program informs and connects seniors to health and wellness information they need to stay healthy and safe at home. Membership is free to all seniors 65 and over living in the South Jersey area. Members receive a quarterly electronic newsletter that includes important health updates and resources, Diocesan events and more. Members are given free health and wellness information on a variety of topics to support a healthy body, mind and spirit.



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631 Market Street Camden, NJ 08012 VITALity.CamdenDiocese.org

RESOURCE AND REFERRAL HELP LINE: 1-888-26-VITALity | 1-888-268-4825

GET TO KNOW US!



Scan the QR code to learn more about our ministries.