

Celebrating 10 Years of VITALity Services

"I came so that they might have life and have it more abundantly." (John 10:10)



On December 1, Bishop Joseph Williams of the Camden Diocese, along with priests and deacons, celebrated Mass marking the 10th anniversary of VITALity Catholic Healthcare Services. VITALity's first leaders, board members, and former and current Diocesan staff expressed gratitude for all who helped bring its vision and mission to life. A shared commitment to compassionate care for the most vulnerable population across South Jersey—work begun in 2015 and continuing today—was proudly affirmed.

A few words from our Executive Director...

Friends, this December marks the 10th anniversary of **VITALity Catholic Healthcare Services** in the Diocese of Camden. Ten years of walking with the people of South Jersey in moments of joy, vulnerability, transition, and profound need.



As we approached this milestone, I am reminded of why VITALity exists. After the sale of our nursing homes in 2015, instead of choosing to walk away from a healthcare presence in our Diocese, it was recognized that even without owning facilities, the Church still had — and always will have — a sacred responsibility to care for those who are sick, aging, vulnerable, and quite frankly, sometimes forgotten.

With that mindset, a ministry was created that encompasses *whole person care* - care for health and well-being in body, mind and spirit for the elderly and those with disabilities and their families. A ministry that would serve this population by walking into hospitals, parishes and homes asking, "*How can we help you?*" or "*How can we be Christ for you today?*" Ten years later, the answer to those questions has grown into a constellation of ministries that reach tens of thousands of individuals every year.

Our **Hospital Chaplaincy**, present in 18 South Jersey hospitals and healthcare facilities today, remains one of the most visible expressions of Christ's healing presence — meeting patients and families in moments of fear and uncertainty, offering prayer, sacramental support, simple humanity and comfort during very uncertain times.

Our **Parish Nurse Ministry programs**, in 33 of our parishes, including our Mercy

Teams and Cancer Care Ministry, all work to empower parishioners to care for one another — offering compassionate outreach, health education, advocacy and the reassurance that no one walks their health journey alone.

Our [Ministry with the Deaf and Those with Disabilities](#) helps to ensure that every person, regardless of ability, is welcomed into the sacramental and communal life of the Church — honoring their gifts, their dignity, and their belonging. Today, several parishes offer sensory-friendly Masses.

Our [Care Coordination](#) team, who has served over 10,000 individuals over the past decade, accompanies individuals and families through the complexity of today's healthcare system — helping them navigate diagnoses, complicated insurance processes, plan of care assessments, long-term support, and the emotional and spiritual questions that come with them.

Our [Stephen Ministry](#), in 16 parishes, carried out so beautifully by trained lay ministers across the Diocese, offers one-on-one Christ-centered care to those experiencing grief, loneliness, illness, or life transitions.

And our [Senior Ministry](#) and [Social Day Centers](#), growing to 50+ members over the past eight years, have become lifelines for older adults — places of community, activity, friendship, and pastoral care, allowing our seniors to remain connected, supported, and seen. In 2024, our [Calls of JOY](#) program was developed to address isolation and loneliness among so many older adults.

Each ministry is different, but all share the same heart: a commitment to honoring the sacredness of every person and serving them as a whole — physically, emotionally, socially, and spiritually.

We look ahead with gratitude and a fresh perspective through Bishop Williams' eyes. I am thankful that we are blessed to have a bishop as our leader that has lived a life intertwined with medical and healthcare professions. I look forward to how his understanding of the work of these vocations will impact the essential ministries VITALity will continue to offer to those in need.

As we enter our next ten years, may we remember something that has anchored VITALity Catholic Healthcare Services from the beginning: that every person who comes to us carries a story, a struggle, a hope, but most importantly, God-given dignity. We must always remember the whole person — (caring for the) body, mind, and spirit. That is not just our philosophy. It is our identity. It is our ministry. And it is our promise to the people we serve.

Thank you, and may God continue to bless VITALity Catholic Healthcare Services for the next ten years and beyond.

With best wishes for a Blessed Advent and Christmas,

Nicole Keefer, Executive Director

Care Coordinators - Available to Help You



VITALity's [Care Coordination Program](#) is a charitable service that supports older adults, individuals with disabilities, and their caregivers in accessing the care they need to stay safe, healthy, and independent at home.

Our Care Coordinators—licensed nurses and social workers—provide personalized support to help you navigate physical, social, mental and spiritual resources with confidence.

Care Coordination

Provides:

Health advocacy to help you stay as healthy and independent as possible
Assessment of your needs and guidance to appropriate services

Education on managing health risks and avoiding hospitalizations
Connections to health and well-being resources in your area

Ongoing emotional and spiritual support for individuals and caregivers

Examples of one on one support from a care coordinator includes:

- Applying for LIHEAP/USF benefits
- Applying for SNAP benefits
- Applying for Medicaid/MLTSS benefits
- Helping to find HHA service
- Assisting with housing resources/ completing applications
- Coordinating food resources such as meals on wheels
- Assistance in selecting the right Medicare plan to meet needs
- Helping to arrange transportation to appointments
- Assisting with prescriptions - and more

For assistance, call 888-268-4825

[Learn More](#)

Schedule your weekly *Calls of JOY*



Calls of JOY!
A friendly voice and caring connection

What is Calls of JOY?
Calls of JOY is an uplifting start to your week. This free program brings meaningful conversations, compassionate listening, and social connection right to you over the phone. Every call is confidential with the intent to brighten your day.

To start your week with connection, care, and conversation:
 ● Call us at 856-583-4123
 ● Scan the QR code to the right
 ● Or, visit: vitality.camdeniacare.org/calls-of-joy-program/

JOY is just a phone call away!



Add JOY to Your Week this Winter

Loneliness and isolation increases this time of year due to less daylight, colder weather and fewer opportunities for social engagement. Older adults are especially vulnerable.

VITALity Catholic Healthcare Services recognizes this is a challenging time for many and can cause serious health issues. To help address this critical need, we offer scheduled, weekly **Calls of JOY** to anyone who is feeling lonely and isolated. Learn how to schedule your *Calls of JOY* below.

[Register Here](#)

All are Welcome at Senior Social Day Centers

Golden Slippers

Director: Jennifer Smith
Saint Simon Stock Parish, Berlin
Tues., Wed. & Thurs. 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.
(856) 767-2563

Prime Timers

Director: Flo Curly
Church of the Incarnation, Mantua
Tues. & Thurs. 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.
(215) 432-4479

The Renaissance Center

Director - Tese Hemschoot
Saint Andrew the Apostle Parish, Gibbsboro
Tues. & Thurs. 9:30 a.m. - 1p.m.
(856) 304-9306

Young at Heart Club

Director: Kathy Benton
Christ the Redeemer Parish, Atco
Wed. & Fri. 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.
(609) 352-9800

For additional information about parish senior ministries or groups in the South Jersey area, contact Christine Willard, Director of Marketing and Senior Ministries at 856-583-6121 or christine.willard@camdendiocese.org.

Merry Christmas to You!



On behalf of all of us at VITALity Catholic Healthcare Services, we wish you a Merry Christmas and Peaceful New Year! May the joy and love of this beautiful season surround you and your loved ones. God Bless!

A Christmas Eve Prayer

Loving Father,

Help us remember the birth of Jesus, that we may share in the song of the angels, the gladness of the shepherds, and worship of the wise men.

Close the door of hate and open the door of love all over the world. Let kindness come with every gift and good desires with every greeting.

Deliver us from evil by the blessing which Christ brings, and teach us to be merry with clear hearts.

May the Christmas morning make us happy to be thy children, and Christmas evening bring us to our beds with grateful thoughts, forgiving and forgiven, for Jesus' sake. Amen.

Written by: Robert Louis Stevenson

***What does Mrs. Claus say to Santa when there are clouds in the sky?
It looks like rain, deer. Ha-ha!***

Upcoming Events

December 6 @ 9 a.m. - [Celebrate Advent with Art Stories by Brother Mikey - St. Damien Parish, Ocean City](#)

December 7 @ 3 p.m. - [Christmas Concert - Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Glassboro](#)

December 12 @ 7 p.m. - [Prepare the Way of the Lord, Scripture and Music - Our Lady of Peace Parish, Williamstown](#)

December 12 @ 7 p.m. - [Christmas Concert - Sts. Peter and Paul Parish, Turnersville](#)

December 13 @ noon - [Wreaths Across America - begins in the parking lot of St. Vincent de Paul Church, Mays Landing](#)

December 13, 14 - [Follow the Star Experience - All Saints, Millville](#)

December 14 @ 7 p.m. - [Christmas Concert - St. John Church, Collingswood](#)

December 14, 15 -All Masses - [Bambinelli Masses - St. Andrew the Apostle Parish, Gibbsboro](#)

December 20 @ 5 p.m. - [Life Nativity - St. Joseph Parish, Sea Isle City](#)

Please refer to the Diocese of Camden website for Diocesan event details.
www.camdendiocese.org.

Life to the Fullest Member Discounts

Through your [Life to the Fullest Membership](#), you have access to many free health and well-being resources and programs to support your individual needs. Please let us know how we can support you as a *Life to the Fullest Member*.

[Calls of Joy Program](#) - You are not alone. Our trained volunteers will make a weekly phone calls to a senior feeling lonely to offer social engagement and uplifting conversation.

[Health and Well-Being Resource Library](#) - Check out 25+ resources to support your health and well-being. [Click here](#) for the list. If you don't see a topic, let us know and we will send you information for that topic.

[Business Discounts](#) - Present your membership card for special discounts and services from local businesses listed below.

- **South Jersey Catholic Cemeteries** -Receive 5% discount off pre-planning costs. Contact: Debra Moore - 856-583-2829
- **Hearing Hut** - Receive 20-50% off standard discount or up to 50% off network discounts. Contact: Steve Mulranen - 856-468-1966
- **Karr Barth Associates** - Receive complimentary comprehensive financial analysis. Contact: John Napolitano - 856-685-6372 or John.Napolitano@equitable.com
- **Nicholas "Nick" Nowak, eXp Realty** - Save 20% on real estate fees when buying or selling. Contact: Nick Nowak - (cell) 856-430-0240, (office) 866-201-6210 x1339 or Nick@NickNowakTeam.com
- **Alert1 Medical Alert** - Receive discount prices on alert systems. Contact: Victoria

James 800-693-5433 or victoriaj@responselink.com. Visit www.alert1.com.

Share this [Life to the Fullest Membership application](#) with a friend or family member! Membership is free to all seniors age 65 and over living in the South Jersey area. Email or call Christine Willard, Director of Marketing and Senior Ministries, at Christine.Willard@CamdenDiocese.org or call 856-583-6121 with any questions.

[Become a Member Here](#)

VITALity Catholic Healthcare Services

1-888-268-4825

[Send Us A Message](#)

Stay in Touch!



Diocese of Camden | 631 Market Street | Camden, NJ 08102 US

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)