



THE RAPIDES FOUNDATION

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: June 17, 2003
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A New Role for Nurses Is Being Introduced In Central Louisiana

Alexandria, LA – Nurses and Clergy from across Central Louisiana are invited to learn how to put together a health program at their church. The focus of Parish Nursing is to serve the healthcare needs of a faith community.

The **Cenla Parish Nurse Program** is being held as part of The Rapides Foundation's effort to increase access to healthcare in Central Louisiana. Parish Nursing is a health promotion, disease prevention lay ministry, open to all religions and based on the care of the whole person. It recognizes that physical needs and spiritual needs are linked. This ministry would be integrated into the life of the congregation to fulfill the mission of health and healing among the congregation.

The presenter for this program is Janet DiLeo, RN, MPH, and Director of Congregational Wellness at The McFarland Institute. The McFarland Institute was invited because of their goal to develop well-trained pastoral care providers and counselors and to advocate for the spiritual dimension of healing in the community. DiLeo is responsible for overseeing 46 church nurse programs in local churches as well as for the training of these church nurses. She has served for over ten years as Health Education Director of Catholic Charities for the Archdiocese of New Orleans and was responsible for the planning, implementation, development, and evaluation of numerous health education programs offered for the staff and clients of Catholic Charities.

The **Cenla Parish Nurse Program** is made possible through a partnership with Cenla Nursing Workforce Coalition, CHRISTUS St. Frances Cabrini Hospital, Office of Public Health-Region VI, Rapides Regional Medical Center and The Rapides Foundation. There will be four identical sessions to choose from, these sessions are free and are scheduled:

- Tuesday, June 17 – 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
First United Methodist Church, 2727 Jackson Street, Alexandria
- Wednesday, June 18 – 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Sacred Heart of Jesus Catholic Church, 600 Lakeview Street, Pineville
- Thursday, June 19 – 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church, 11 16th Street, Alexandria
- Thursday, June 19 – 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
Emmanuel Baptist Church – Fellowship Hall, 430 Jackson Street, Alexandria

For more information on the **Cenla Parish Nurse Program** contact Yvette Alphonse at 767-3003 or Dena Norton at 767-3001.

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