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[MyNews](#) > [Missouri](#) > [SSM Health St. Louis](#) > [SSM Health St. Mary's Hospital - St. Louis](#) > [Saying goodbye to Sr. Maureen Stocking](#)

Search this site




[System](#) [Wisconsin](#) [Illinois](#) [Missouri](#) [Oklahoma](#)

Saying goodbye to Sr. Maureen Stocking

RICHMOND HEIGHTS, Mo. (4/24/2017)

Chaplain Sr. Maureen Stocking is retiring after 34 years of dedicated service at SSM Health St. Mary's Hospital. During her time at St. Mary's Hospital, she has provided comfort and spiritual guidance to patients and employees and mentored many aspiring ministers.

On Thursday, April 27, the St. Mary's community will come together to celebrate her career and wish her all the best in this next chapter of her life at a retirement party from 2-4 pm in the Mother Odelia conference room. Employees and volunteers are invited to come and share how Sr. Maureen's ministry has impacted their lives and work. For more information about the retirement party, download this invitation:  [Sr Maureen Invite.pdf](#).



Sr. Maureen has played an important role in our hospital's history. Before leaving, we asked Sr. Maureen to share some of her favorite memories from her career at St. Mary's Hospital and her plans for the future.

You worked in Catholic education and school administration before coming to SSM Health St. Mary's Hospital. What made you decide to make the leap to health care?

I worked in Catholic education and school administration in St. Louis and New York archdioceses for 25 years before coming to St. Mary's. I was extremely happy in these roles until I had vision difficulties and needed a lot less paperwork. A Dominican friend of mine, who took CPE (Clinical Pastoral Education) at St. Mary's, suggested that becoming a Chaplain might be a possibility. Gratefully, I listened to her, completed CPE, became NACC (National Association of Catholic Chaplains) certified, and accepted a chaplain position at St. Mary's.



What has been your favorite part about working in pastoral care? What has been the biggest challenge?

My favorite part about working as a chaplain is two-fold: I have met people in stressful situations and brought comfort and healing and I have worked with wonderful, dedicated staff. Probably my biggest challenge has been trying to meet

spiritual/emotional needs when we have fewer chaplains. However, this has necessitated us involving more disciplines in providing care and that has been positive.

How has your career in pastoral care affected your life?

Through our exceptional health care services, we reveal the healing presence of God. Living our mission statement has become an integral part of my life and brings me joy and happiness. It has also enabled me to form staff friendships that are life-giving.



What are a few of your most memorable experiences at St. Mary's Hospital?

One of my most memorable experiences was participating on the St. Mary's Pain Control Team that won the Missouri Team Quality Award. Another important experience was being on the Employee Council and helping employees.

Who has made an impact on your career and time at St. Mary's Hospital?

Sr. Betty Brucker was St. Mary's President when I came to St. Mary's and her concern for employees taught me lessons that I have tried to live ever since. Working with Sr. Rose Ann Poetz, Sr. M. Joan Meyer, and Sr. Teresa Noth was a blessing. Having department leaders like Rick Erickson, Mark Fuller, and Elisha Donaldson was life-giving. Chaplains too numerous to mention have shaped my ministry and provided ongoing relationships. Doctors and nurses, to mention a few like Dr. Al Schergen, Dr. Neil Gallagher, Joan Clark, Jean Brontoli, Lois Bollinger, Julia White, and literally so many more that I could not even name them all, have enriched my life personally and professionally. Most of those named are from the past, and it is very difficult for me to name others because the list is too extensive. I am grateful for all of them.



What's next for you?

Among other things, I want to sleep as late as I want to and not worry about scraping the windshield to get to work on time. Seriously, though, I plan to attend the Women of Wisdom program in New Jersey this September, spend more time with my family, visit with my friends in New York, and go wherever the Spirit leads me.

Is there anything else you would like to add?

Thanks for the memories and I hope we can keep in touch. God bless!

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001-3S2	4/23/2017	Sister Maureen you will be missed you are a kind and gentle soul.
Smith, Melissa	4/24/2017	Enjoy Your Travels Sister Maureen!!
Kerber, Justin	4/24/2017	Maureen, Thanks so much for your quiet, strong presence and for all you've taught me. I will miss you. Gratefully yours, L'shalom, Rabbi Justin Kerber
Jones, Dawn	4/24/2017	Sr. Maureen! I am SO VERY HAPPY for you that you can FINALLY RETIRE! You SO deserve to sleep in late every morning! You have been VERY DEAR to me all the years I worked at St. Mary's. I'll always keep you in my heart and cherish wonderful memories of working with you in the Spiritual Care Dept. I'll always remember when my grandson