

## **Ladies of Charity USA Caregiving Board**

**Sister Carole Blazina, SC**, is the first councilor of the Sisters of Charity of Seton Hill, US Province. A healthcare provider who has served in nursing management and in private practice as a family nurse practitioner, Sister Carole also ministered as director of novices for the United States Province from 1998-2006 and co-director of the Seton Spirituality Center, Chicago, IL, from 2007-2008. Most recently, she served as Clinical Director of Catholic Charities Free Health Care Center, Pittsburgh; Sister Moderator of the Association of the Ladies of Charity, Diocese of Pittsburgh; and member of the Advisory Board of Carlow University School of Nursing, Pittsburgh.

**Larry W. Boone, Ph.D.**, A graduate of Lehigh University, Dr. Boone earned both his graduate degrees (M.S.I.E. and Ph.D.) at the University of Pittsburgh. A recently retired associate professor in the Department of Management in the Peter J. Tobin College of Business, St. John's University, Dr. Boone's primary research and teaching interests involve organization theory and behavior, creative thinking, strategic planning, and entrepreneurship. Dr. Boone has consulted for businesses, several universities, and a variety of non-profit groups, including the Roman Catholic Diocese of Rockville Centre. He teaches in the Pastoral Formation Program of that Diocese and has been involved with the Parish Management Programs for nearly 20 years. He is the author of five chapters in the book, ***A Concise Guide to Catholic Church Management*** (Ave Maria Press, 2010).

**Sister Karen Burgess, DC**, is originally from Richmond, Virginia. She has been a Daughter of Charity for 35 years, Province of St. Louise. Sr. Karen graduated from DePaul Hospital School of Nursing in Norfolk, VA in 1981 and from Catholic University of America with a BSN in 1986. She has had a variety of nursing experiences in Daughters of Charity hospitals in VA, MD, DC and FL. Additionally, she has worked in a small maternity home in GA and in an outpatient Oncology / Infusion center. After caring for retired Sisters in Emmitsburg, MD, Sr. Karen worked in homecare for 5 years in MD and just completed almost 2 years in Waco, TX. Presently, Sr. Karen is living at St Ann's Center for Children, Youth and Families in Hyattsville, MD.

**Mary Ann Dantuono, J.D.**, earned a Juris Doctor at St. John's University School of Law and a B.A. in Communication Arts at Fordham University. In 2015, Mrs. Dantuono retired as Associate Director of the Vincentian Center for Church and Society at St. John's University, a position she held since 1996. Prior to that she served the R.C. Diocese of Rockville Centre as the Director of Public Policy and Legal Affairs for Catholic Charities. She held membership on the boards of several human service and health care organizations and has been active in leadership positions in Church organizations on the diocesan, state, national and international levels. She was president of the Ladies of Charity USA (2015-2016), was elected to the Executive Board of the International Association of Charities for a 3-year term, and is very active in the St. John's Association. Mrs. Dantuono contributed chapters in

the book, *A Concise Guide to Catholic Church Management* (Ave Maria Press, 2010) on “Human Resource Management” and “Legal Issues”.

**Michael Elsas** recently retired as President of Cooperative Home Care Associates (CHCA), a licensed home health care agency located in the South Bronx. He is currently a board member of Paraprofessional Healthcare Institute and Independence Care System related entities to CHCA that are dedicated to supporting senior adults and adults with physical disabilities and chronic conditions to live at home and participate fully in community life and to support direct care workers. With over 1900 paraprofessional workers and an administrative staff of nearly 100, Cooperative Home Care Associates has been nationally recognized for its unique worker-centered philosophy, which links quality jobs to quality home care services. Prior to joining Cooperative Home Care Associates in 2000, Mr. Elsas was the Chief Operating Officer of the Visiting Nurse Association of Hudson Valley. From community liaison to President, Mr. Elsas has nearly 40 years of experience in the home care industry. His professional affiliations include: trustee of the 1199 SEIU Home Health Aide Benefit Fund, Catholic Charities and the Medical Society of New York. Mr. Elsas received a Bachelor of Arts degree from the C.W. Post Center of Long Island University.

**Kathy Kavanaugh**, from Albany, NY, has been a member of the LCUSA Board for five years, serving as Communications Committee Chair. Kathy served as president of her local association and currently chairs an annual coat drive, serves in a leadership role in *Bridges Out of Poverty*, and was one of the founding members of “Mary’s Corner,” a LOC outreach site to families with young children, in Albany, NY. She is also the parish outreach coordinator and coordinator of pastoral care for her parish, and serves on a pastoral care diocesan commission. Professionally, Kathryn has worked in software development, retail marketing, administration for a graduate school of theology, and implemented a program for grandmothers raising grandchildren. Kathy is married, mother of four children and grandmother of seven.

**Suzanne Johnson** is the current President of LCUSA. She has served on the National Board as Chairperson of the Finance Committee, Treasurer and Vice President for the Western Region. A Lady of Charity of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles since 1998, Suzanne has served as President and in other leadership positions for the Los Angeles association. Suzanne worked as the Business Manager of Holy Angels Church in Arcadia, CA for ten years; prior to that she was Chief Financial Officer for the Midwest Division of an international building products corporation. Having passed the California Bar Exam in 2010, she is now an immigration attorney volunteering at the Immigration Legal Assistance Project in Los Angeles. Between them, she and her husband Roger have five children and eleven grandchildren.

**Peggy Keene** was invested as a Lady of Charity 20 years ago at Word of God Parish in the Pittsburgh Diocesan Association. She has held a variety of leadership positions including President of her parish association and President of the Diocesan Association. She also co-chaired the 2009 National Assembly held in

Pittsburgh. Peggy joined the Board of LCUSA in 2013 as a director for the Mid-Atlantic region. She is presently the chair of the Spirituality Committee and the chair of the National Assembly committee. In addition to being a Lady of Charity, Peggy is very active in several ministries in her parish. She recently retired from her position as a Medical Office manager. After 44 years of marriage, she was widowed. Peggy is a mother of four and grandmother of four.

**Steve Kelly** is the co-founder and CEO of ELAP Services LLC. A recognized expert in the insurance, employee benefits and risk management industry, Steve possesses over 30 years of experience in solving his clients' health care challenges. ELAP contracts with over four hundred individual employer-sponsored health plans across the nation and supports these plans in areas of provider reimbursement, direct contracting for medical services and benefit plan design. Steve is active in the community and serves as the President of Eagles Fly for Leukemia, a charity that supports research at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia and provides financial support to families impacted by pediatric cancer. In addition, Steve serves on the Executive Committee of Citizens Diplomacy International, a Philadelphia based organization dedicated to furthering international exchange in areas of commerce, culture and government. He resides in Villanova, PA with his wife Susan and son Evan.

**Marilyn Martone, Ph.D.**, Chair, is a moral theologian with a specialty in health care/rehabilitation ethics. She is a public speaker and is a consultant ethicist. Marilyn retired from St. John's University where she was an associate professor of theology. For seven years she represented the Holy See at the United Nations on women's issues. She has also served on various hospital ethics committees. She was the recipient of an NEH grant on "Justice, Equality and the Challenge of Disability" and was also one of two recipients of a fellowship on disability ethics at Weill-Cornell Medical College and the Hospital for Special Surgery. Marilyn is an active Lady of Charity at St. John's where she serves on the development and spirituality committees. She was a director from the Northeast on LCUSA's Board for two terms and continues to serve on the Advocacy committee. She has also been appointed to the Family and Patient Council at NY Presbyterian Hospital in NYC. Marilyn is the author of "Over the Waterfall," a book that chronicles her family's journey accompanying her daughter who suffered a traumatic brain injury.

**Catherine Powers, M.D.** has served as Medical Director for Catholic Community Hospice in metro Kansas City (KS & MO) since 2013, supervising the care of home & facility patients requiring hospice and palliative care. She is also serving as a member of the Kansas City Archdiocesan Ethics Advisory Council. A graduate of the University of Kansas Medical School, Dr. Powers is Board Certified in Anesthesiology and Hospice & Palliative Medicine (HPM). She practiced as an anesthesiologist at Research Medical Center and Children's Mercy Hospital in KCMO for 25 years. She is also a Lady of Charity in the Metropolitan Kansas City Association.

**Rita Robinson, Ph.D.**, LCPC, NCSC, NCC, NBCC, is a licensed professional counselor in private practice, an educator and consultant. Rita is a retired administrator from Prince George's County Public School System. Her past positions include public school teacher, counselor, pupil personnel worker, vice principal, principal, Director of Pupil Services, Director of the Office of Equity Assurance, and Director of Staff Development. She has received numerous awards in recognition of her outstanding leadership and service in the field of education. Currently, she is an adjunct professor of graduate courses at Bowie State University, and an independent contractor for the Anti-Defamation League. Rita has been a Lady of Charity since 2002 and served as the President of the Archdiocese of Washington D.C. Association, 2012-2014. She is involved with ministries to the homeless and at a maternal and infant home. Rita is married to John N. Robinson, is the mother of four children and grandmother of four.