



CELEBRATING  
OUR LADY OF  
THE LAKE HEALTH'S  
FIRST 100 YEARS

1923-2023






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# DEDICATION

THIS BOOK IS DEDICATED TO THE FRANCISCAN MISSIONARIES OF OUR LADY SISTERS  
WHO HAVE SERVED OUR LADY OF THE LAKE OVER OUR FIRST 100 YEARS FOR THEIR INSPIRED  
SERVICE AND DAILY MINISTRY TO THOSE MOST IN NEED.



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# OUR MISSION

Inspired by the vision of St. Francis of Assisi and in the tradition of the Roman Catholic Church, we extend the healing ministry of Jesus Christ to God's people, especially those most in need.

We call forth all who serve in this healthcare ministry, to share their gifts and talents to create a *Spirit of Healing* with reverence and love for all of life, with joyfulness of spirit, and with humility and justice for all those entrusted to our care.

We are, with God's help, a healing and spiritual presence for each other and for the communities we are privileged to serve.

## **SERVICE**

The privilege of reaching out to meet the needs of others

## **REVERENCE AND LOVE FOR ALL LIFE**

Acknowledging that all of life is a gift from God

## **JOYFULNESS OF SPIRIT**

An awareness of being blessed by God in all things

## **HUMILITY**

Being authentic in serving as an instrument of God

## **JUSTICE**

Striving for equity and fairness in all relationships with special concern for those most in need





## A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

### OUR LADY OF THE LAKE ADMINISTRATORS

Mother Marie de Bethanie Crowley  
**1921–1929**

Mother Henrietta Didesse  
**1929–1960**

Mother Gertrude Hennessy  
**1960–1967**

J.B. Heroman Jr.  
**1967–1979**

Robert C. Davidge  
**1979–2008**

K. Scott Wester  
**2008–2022**

Charles L. "Chuck" Spicer Jr.  
**2022–Present**

2023 marks the 100th anniversary of Our Lady of the Lake Health. When I reflect on the impact of our ministry, I am reminded of the Sisters and the thousands of team members, physicians, providers, nurses, board members, volunteers and students who have contributed to the ministry and continue to answer the call to serve with a commitment to promote and defend human dignity, ensure adequate healthcare for the poor and contribute to the common good.

Our Lady of the Lake has, for 100 years, promoted equity of care and good health for all in our community. This work has included offering new and expanded services to address social determinants of health and community advocacy and outreach in places where no other organization is serving. Some of the innovative, "before-its-time" work in which Our Lady of the Lake has endeavored over the past century include:

- *Exceptional care for children beginning with a specialized pediatric ward opened in the 1940s, and our children's hospital opened on its own campus in 2019, after four years as a hospital-within-a-hospital. Our Lady of the Lake Children's Health includes outreach like Health Care Centers in Schools*
- *Specialized care for the elderly beginning with the opening of Ollie Steele Burden Manor Nursing Facility in 1966*
- *Care for those living with HIV and AIDS, which includes a Mid-City Baton Rouge Early Intervention Clinic*
- *Thousands served battling chemical dependency and mental health concerns through St. Ann's and the Tau Center*
- *Resources and compassionate care for end-of-life needs*
- *Community work through HealthyBR, a coalition led by the East Baton Rouge Mayor-President with the goal to promote a better and healthier life for all people in the city*
- *Hospitals, emergency departments, urgent care and clinics in areas that are medically underserved*
- *Largest emergency department in the state at the Regional Medical Center serving more than 200,000 patients a year*
- *Statewide leaders in cardiology with the opening of the Heart & Vascular Institute in 2013*
- *Largest group of specialists to fight cancer in state as part of the Our Lady of the Lake Cancer Institute*
- *Positioned as a key community partner to improve healthcare across the state*

We are committed to the highest standards of quality care with cutting-edge medical technology. We believe a big part of healthcare is hearing our patients. Through listening, we can understand what's going on, what good health means to each person, and most importantly, how we can heal. Our advanced services are delivered in accordance with our mission. For the Franciscan Missionaries of Our Lady Sisters who founded Our Lady of the Lake in 1923 to minister to the sick and poor, caring means not only emotional and spiritual support but also a rapid return to physical health. We continue this mission to serve God's people, especially those most in need.

Our Lady of the Lake has a living spirit, one breathed into the Baton Rouge community by the Sisters' special gifts and their devotion to other people's lives. While our culture may look different from the Regional Medical Center to Assumption Community Hospital to one of our Lake Physician Group Clinics, one thing that stays consistent is our commitment to delivering the healing ministry of Jesus Christ. We are the *Spirit of Healing*.

Chuck Spicer  
PRESIDENT, OUR LADY OF THE LAKE HEALTH



The image features two panels of a stained glass artwork. The top panel shows the head and shoulders of St. Francis of Assisi, with a halo and a dove above his head. The bottom panel shows his torso, wearing a simple robe and holding a staff. The artwork is composed of various colored glass pieces (yellow, green, blue, orange, red) separated by dark lead lines.

# INSPIRED BY THE GENTLE SAINT

As a ministry of Franciscan Missionaries of Our Lady Health System, Our Lady of the Lake Health traces our origins back more than 800 years to St. Francis of Assisi.

Born to a wealthy cloth merchant in 1182, Francis was inspired by God in his mid-20s to leave his worldly life. Clad in rough garments, barefoot and without a walking staff or currency, he began to wander the countryside of Umbria, Italy, preaching and proclaiming the Gospel. Francis advocated "holy poverty" to the rich as well as to the poor, and he invited all to forgiveness, reconciliation, humility and simplicity.

Francis became known for his love of nature, animals and the environment and moved people not only by his words but also his example. Many joined him and soon The Order of Friars Minor was established, endorsed by Pope Innocent III in 1210. This group quickly grew and inspired by Francis, set out to not only preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ but also to live it through services to the sick and needy. Soon after, Francis founded The Order of Poor Ladies, eventually The Order of St. Clare, a group of women dedicated to his teachings. Finally, for those who could not leave their homes, Francis later formed the Third Order of Brothers and Sisters of Penance. This was a lay fraternity whose members neither withdrew from the world nor took religious vows but still carried out the principles of Franciscan life.

Francis died in 1226, but not before his growing Order had been established in France, Germany, Hungary, Spain and even further to the East. This gentle man, a profound inspiration to many, was pronounced a saint by Pope Gregory IX in 1228.





# OUR LADY OF THE LAKE'S GROWTH THROUGH A SISTER'S EYES: SISTER HELEN CAHILL

Sister Helen Cahill, FMOL, has been part of our ministry for more than 50 years. As you can tell from her family name, she emigrated from County Cork, Ireland, to the U.S in 1962. Growing up there she was exposed to many missionaries who inspired her, making a commitment to join the Franciscan Missionaries of Our Lady Congregation in 1959.

In 1970, Sr. Helen attended nursing school in Monroe and later graduated from Our Lady of the Lake School of Nursing. She did additional study earning a master's degree in pastoral studies from Loyola University, followed by a bachelor of science in professional arts from St. Joseph's College, a certificate in gerontology from Northeast Louisiana University, and chaplain certification from the National Catholic Chaplains Association.

## WHAT SETS US APART

Sr. Helen says there are many aspects that make Our Lady of the Lake special, including a dedicated medical staff and team members who care for patients. Working side by side with folks who have generous hearts and joyful spirits has made her journey special.

Our ongoing commitment to innovation in healthcare is very important to the hospital's ministry. She feels privileged to serve on Our Lady of the Lake's Board with many dedicated people from the community and hospital who share their time and talents.

In this administrative role, she learned of Our Lady of the Lake's partnership to develop an innovative test to help identify sepsis in patients. Sepsis is the No. 1 killer of hospital patients and is often difficult to diagnose. The team of researchers

and quality improvement specialists, led by Hollis O'Neal, MD, and Christopher Thomas, MD, worked for years to develop the IntelliSep test. And now as the first hospital in the world to implement it, Our Lady of the Lake stands out as a place dedicated to improving care for everyone who enters its doors.

"The Lake has physically changed over the past 100 years, from the old hospital, literally on the Capitol Lake, to its current home on Essen Lane," Sr. Helen says. "What hasn't changed is the fact that we can pray at work and that our faith and beliefs are part of how we care for patients, fellow team members and the community we serve."

Sr. Helen has witnessed immense growth and change over her decades of service.

"It is our commitment to mental health, trauma, children's health and other specialty services that make us stand out," she says. "We are physically more present to our communities and our *Spirit*

*of Healing* makes Our Lady of the Lake different."

## HEALING BODIES AND MINDS

While Sr. Helen worked as a nurse for many years, the profession was a bit different during her time. All patient information was handwritten, and cards were made for all medication.

She fondly recalls her time with oncology patients. She had the privilege of being on the journey with many patients, some with good health and others who were very ill. She remembers many faces and special events.

Sr. Helen then became a member of the pastoral care department at Our Lady of the Lake. She journeyed with many patients in the TAU Center







who were dealing with mental and behavioral issues. She was touched with their vulnerability, honesty and courage as they dealt with their issues.

Another part of her ministry includes visiting the Louisiana Correctional Institute for Women for the past 20 years. She has met some wonderful people there.

"My visit is not to judge but to listen and share," she says. For the past few years, she

was invited to be Mrs. Claus for the children who come to celebrate Christmas with their incarcerated mothers. She enjoys bringing Christmas cheer to families.

### REFLECTING ON HER JOURNEY

When she isn't acting as the Sisters' liaison to Our Lady of the Lake, Sr. Helen enjoys reading, walks, visits with friends and some hot tea. She

is deeply grateful for her life and vocation. "I thank God for the support and the support I receive from my Franciscan Sisters, friends and wonderful people on my journey who help sustain me."

Sr. Helen says, "As I look at each new day, I see a new beginning—with its challenges and opportunities, to live our Mission. I ask God to give me the strength I need to do what I am called to do."







# ANSWERING GOD'S CALL

## FROM CALAIS, FRANCE TO BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA

Six Franciscan Missionaries of Our Lady Sisters journeyed to the U.S. from France in 1911 on a mission to further the healing ministry of Jesus Christ: Mother Marie de Bethanie Crowley, Sister Margaret Gaffney, Sister Brigida Comerford, Sister Angelique Van Bockstale, Sister Saint Joseph Martin and Sister M. Hortulane Arnould. The Sisters established St. Francis Sanitarium in Monroe in 1913. Ten years later, by the grace of God, the Sisters helped build a brand-new hospital for Baton Rouge. The site chosen was next to a glistening downtown lake.

The Sisters' positive impact on the Monroe area was hardly a secret. So when Monsignor Francis Leon Gassler of St. Joseph's Cathedral in Baton Rouge and leading area physicians collaborated to pursue the establishment of a larger, more modern hospital, they knew where to turn.

In 1921, Baton Rouge was a small river town of 22,000 residents that needed a hospital. Mother de Bethanie Crowley was invited from St. Francis Sanitarium in Monroe for a driving tour of the downtown area. She witnessed a picturesque capital city with a bustling mercantile trade and thriving business district, fueled by the oil industry's economic boon. She passed gleaming schools, the magnificent State Capitol building and a new city hall. She was inspired by the need for a modern healthcare facility to meet the needs of the growing community. As the story goes, when they neared the former Louisiana State University campus in what is now downtown Baton Rouge and its adjacent lake, Mother de Bethanie directed them to stop.

Monsignor Gassler was aghast as Mother de Bethanie purposefully picked her way through a mule yard toward a briar patch at the back of the property. He

thought the area, which had been a sugar mill at the turn of the century, looked like a city dump. However, Mother de Bethanie could envision something different: a beautiful four-story brick hospital named Our Lady of the Lake Sanitarium.

Mother de Bethanie moved swiftly in bringing Baton Rouge leaders together through an ecumenical committee with five Catholic, five Jewish and five Protestant representatives. After hearing of the Sisters' success in Northeast Louisiana, the community quickly contributed more than \$30,000 to begin construction.

Nearly two years later, the new hospital opened on November 4, 1923, on that 17-acre site. More than half of Baton Rouge's residents attended the dedication. The city's appreciation and support of the Sisters' healthcare ministry has never waned in the 100 years since.

Newspapers described Our Lady of the Lake as standing "castle-like" on a hill with green terraced lawns sloping down to a tree-bordered lake. The hospital was graced with a statue of Our Lady on an island in the lake, where Sisters often went to reflect and pray.

Inside the hospital, rooms were bright and spacious, a reflection of medicine's newfound belief in the healing benefits of sunlight and fresh air. Patient rooms had pine floors and were furnished with dressers, tall bedside tables, small rockers and crank-up beds covered with white spreads crocheted by the Sisters. The Franciscan Sisters lived on the hospital's fourth floor until their convent was built in 1927.





1921



1923



1924



1926

# 1920s

**1921** At the request of Monsignor Francis Leon Gassler and leading physicians, Mother de Bethanie Crowley travels to Baton Rouge to consider opening a hospital in the capital city. She purchases land adjacent to Capitol Lake.

**NOVEMBER 4, 1923** Our Lady of the Lake Sanitarium, a \$330,000 four-story brick hospital, opens with 100 beds and six surgical suites on a 17-acre site. The Stanacola Band performs and the open house lasts for three days. The dedication is attended by more than half of Baton Rouge's residents.

**NOVEMBER 11, 1923** Our Lady of the Lake School of Nursing opens with five students, offering young women new opportunities for professional careers.

**MAY 12, 1924** National Hospital Day celebration includes LSU Cadets and Band performance. Our Lady of the Lake's relationship with LSU began in the hospital's first months.

**MAY 4, 1926** The first class of nursing students graduates, including one Franciscan Missionaries of Our Lady, Sister Marie Madeline Lemoine. In coming years, the nursing school educates thousands, including Sisters who came to the U.S. from Europe to serve.







## A LIVING LEGACY: PHYLLIS SIMMONS

From nursing school through now serving as senior director of regulatory management, Phyllis Simmons, BSN, RN, has dedicated her career to Our Lady of the Lake Health.

Having worked at Our Lady of the Lake for more than 50 years, Simmons has seen a lot of changes and can confirm the unwavering commitment to our Baton Rouge community and beyond.

### WHY NURSING AND WHY OUR LADY OF THE LAKE?

Simmons was born at Our Lady of the Lake Sanitarium and laughs when she says, "That's pretty neat to be able to say: I was born at the Lake and I'll probably die here."

Growing up, Simmons was inspired by three aunts who were nurses and worked at Our Lady of the Lake. "As a child, I always admired them and their uniforms with nursing caps," Simmons remembers.

"In high school there weren't many options for a young woman," Simmons says. "My parents weren't prepared to send me to college, and I didn't know what I wanted to do." She decided to go to the nursing school her aunts went to: Our Lady of the Lake School of Nursing, which has now become Franciscan Missionaries of Our Lady University (FranU).

"I fell in love with nursing within a couple of weeks," she says. "I enjoyed the science of it and the art of nursing, practicing what I learned while taking care of patients."

Simmons' family owned The Cotton Club restaurant for more than 60 years in Baton Rouge. "I come from a long line of customer service," she says. "I grew up helping my father cook and serve customers, so I knew what it was to take care of people."



### MEETING OUR SISTERS

Simmons' relationship with the Franciscan Missionaries of Our Lady Sisters dates back to an experience when she was 8 years old: a visiting aunt was seven months pregnant and went into labor.

"My mom said we had to go to the hospital, so we went to the Lake of course," Simmons remembers. "Everyone embraced Margaret, who was British and didn't know anyone." That's when Simmons first met some of the older Sisters, including Mother Gertrude Hennessy.

"I admire and love working for the Sisters," Simmons says. "They're fun and very sweet."

### NAVIGATING HER NURSING CAREER PATH

Simmons graduated from Our Lady of the Lake School of Nursing in December 1969. "I graduated on a Sunday, and I came to work on Monday," she says.

Starting as a MedSurg bedside nurse, Simmons had one brief stint away from Our Lady of the Lake when she and her first husband were stationed at Fort Johnson (then Fort Polk) in central Louisiana. She worked off post as a civilian nurse.

"I had that experience and then came back to the Lake," Simmons says. "That's where I've been ever since."

After working as a bedside nurse for a few years, Simmons began working in the education department around the time the new hospital on Essen Lane was being built.

### INTO THE NEW HOSPITAL

On April 2, 1978, when patients were moved from the original hospital campus downtown to the new hospital on Essen Lane, Simmons'



assignment was to receive team members and patients.

Saying goodbye to what had been home for several years, from nursing school through the first years of her career, wasn't easy.

"About two days after we'd made the move one of the Sisters took a few of us over to the old place," Simmons says. "I remember it was just so heartbreaking to see those empty spaces. It was so quiet you could hear a pin drop."

Simmons' career continued in the new space. Once teams were settled, she transitioned from education to infection control, where she served for about 15 years. In 1998, then-CEO Robert Davidge asked her to lead the emergency department, and she was there for a decade as its director.

In 2006, Simmons joined the regulatory team, working to support not only Our Lady of the Lake but also other hospitals within the health system, covering more than 3 million square feet within all the buildings.

### **ADAPTING DURING A WORLDWIDE PANDEMIC**

Across her career, Simmons has seen diseases make huge impacts on the industry and healthcare professionals. From HIV/AIDS in the 1980s to Ebola outbreaks, she's been part

of educating and supporting team members to recognize, contain and protect themselves while caring for patients.

Then came the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020.

The request for more patient beds was an everyday affair, and Simmons would assist with planning. "I'd have to sit down with my CNO, look at the bed plan and try to figure out where we could put 20 more ICU beds and flip them very quickly," she says.

### **WHAT HAS STAYED THE SAME**

Simmons jokes that the struggle over parking and traffic is something that's remained the same over her 50+ years at Our Lady of the Lake. But it's really the mission of the ministry that's been a constant over her career here.

"I've always felt that connection to the Sisters and serving as part of the ministry to take care of patients," she says. "That's what's stayed the same: a high ethical and high-quality standard, and we're very tied to our community."

Listening has been another constant throughout Simmons' decades at Our Lady of the Lake. "Sometimes the unspoken words are the most important, so listening with all your senses is important."

### **A LEGACY OF DEDICATION**

"I've seen a lot of growth and it's all based on the strategic needs of where we need to be next," Simmons says. "It's amazing to see the vision that our Sisters, our board and our administration has had in trying to keep us moving forward."

Reflecting on her career, Simmons says she has enjoyed the challenges over the years



and the career options being part of a health system has provided. "If you don't like doing this, you can look at something else and try a different pathway," she says. "I wouldn't do anything else or work anywhere else."







# GOING WHERE WE ARE CALLED

## EXPANDING ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE



The mission of Our Lady of the Lake Health has always been to respond to the community's greatest needs. In 1923, the need was a hospital. Since then, the need has been for the hospital to provide the most up-to-date technology and healthcare right here in Baton Rouge.

In 1929, Mother Henrietta Didesse succeeded Mother de Bethanie as administrator, and in 1960 Mother Gertrude Hennessy came to Our Lady of the Lake as its next administrator. She was highly successful in that capacity long before women held such positions in the public sector. The years that followed were prosperous and full of change.

Our Lady of the Lake Health's physical and geographic presence has expanded over the past century to better serve the needs of a growing population. Major additions were made to the original hospital in downtown Baton Rouge in 1941 and 1957.

The Regional Medical Center moved to its current location on Essen Lane on Sunday, April 2, 1978—a remarkable facility with a unique place in the heart of Baton Rouge. By 1982, the state had purchased the original hospital. It was demolished, making way for a government building now on the property. The

Regional Medical Center added the six-story St. Mary's Tower in 1985.

The Sisters responded to calls to better meet the needs of growing outlying areas and rural communities. In 1996, the Sisters received word that Assumption Community Hospital in Napoleonville was closing, which would leave this rural bayou region without quality healthcare. Our Lady of the Lake Regional Medical Center acquired the hospital facility so it could continue to provide important medical services to a rural population of about 23,000, many of whom are uninsured or underinsured.

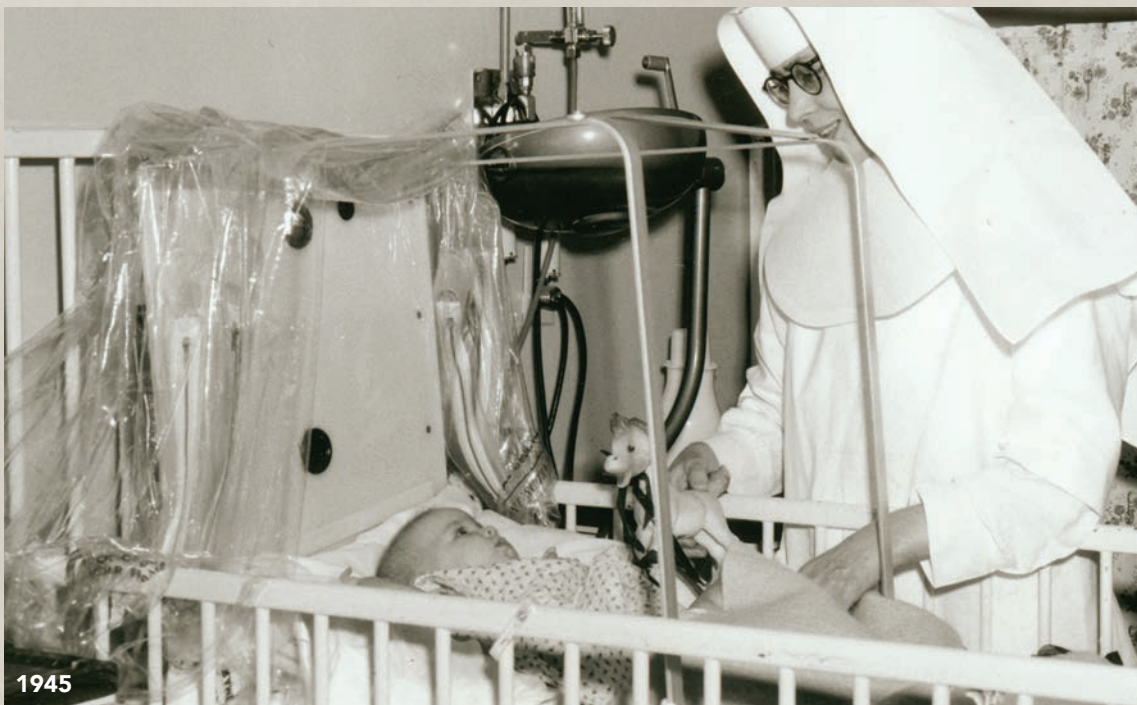
In 2000, St. Elizabeth Hospital became part of our health system. The Ascension Parish hospital was founded as Riverview Medical Center in 1986 as part of a large, national for-profit organization. The hospital was set to close when Our Lady of the Lake and the Franciscan Missionaries of Our Lady Sisters saw the promise for growth in Ascension Parish and decided this would be an excellent place to extend their ministry. In August 2000, Our Lady of the Lake purchased Riverview, operating the hospital as a subsidiary. Sister Vernola Lyons worked with the staff

to infuse the Franciscan spirit in the new venture, and her efforts were embraced by the hospital team and community.

In 2004, St. Elizabeth transitioned to separate hospital status and more than \$40 million has been invested in a 43,000-square-foot expansion. In 2019, the full-service hospital became known as Our Lady of the Lake Ascension. True to the Sisters' mission, the campus provides much-needed services to Ascension residents and a Community Healthcare Clinic in partnership with Ascension Parish for the treatment of uninsured residents.

In 2012, Our Lady of the Lake Livingston was built in Walker as the first free-standing emergency department in Louisiana, with outpatient radiology, lab and a medical office building. In the heart of Livingston Parish, it is part of a 170,000-square-foot medical complex located just south of Interstate 12 at the Walker exit. As the only emergency department in Livingston Parish, it is committed to providing the most technologically advanced emergency care available. The facility is staffed by experienced emergency physicians and nurses 24 hours a day, seven days a week.





# 1930s

**1930** Technology advances at Our Lady of the Lake, including an X-ray machine and high-powered microscopes.

**SEPTEMBER 8, 1935** Senator Huey P. Long, former Louisiana governor, is shot. He is rushed to Our Lady of the Lake for surgery, and Sister St. Michael O'Shea prays with him during her rounds. Two days later, Long dies from complications of the gunshot wound.



From left, Mother Henrietta Didesse, Sister Julie O'Donovan and Sister St. Michael O'Shea

# 1940s

**1941** Mother Henrietta Didesse adds a wing to the hospital, doubling patient capacity to 200. The annex includes an obstetrics department and a new chapel.

**1945** A specialized pediatric ward opens, separating children from adults, led by Sister Julie O'Donovan, who was considered a "guardian angel" by parents. Sister Gertrude Hennessy presides over the growth of obstetrics.

**1948** Sister St. Michael O'Shea leads the development of an Eye, Ear, Nose & Throat facility, built at the request of local physicians. The facility quickly gains a regional reputation for excellence.



In 2013, a nine-story tower was built at the Regional Medical Center to house the Heart & Vascular Institute, a state-of-the-art, world-class facility for the treatment of heart and vascular-related disorders and diseases, including heart attack and stroke.

Our Lady of the Lake Cancer Institute is the region's leader in providing comprehensive prevention, early detection, treatment and survivorship care and has been for decades. The Cancer Institute's teams have a vast network of collaborators across Louisiana to address treatment issues and make discoveries that have a national impact, and most importantly offer each cancer patient individually tailored treatment options. These medical leaders draw upon resources from our nationally recognized academic medical center and from Our Lady of the Lake's graduate medical education programs and strong relationships with Louisiana State University and Pennington Biomedical Research Center. Cancer researchers and providers work side by side to advance cancer treatment.

Our Lady of the Lake Robotic Surgery Institute provides the latest advances in surgical care. In 2010, Our Lady of the Lake imagined a robotic-assisted surgery program that would change the future of our communities. Today, this team of incredibly skilled surgeons has developed its craft and made Baton Rouge the epicenter for robotic training in the Gulf South, including a recent expansion of robotic-assisted surgery services at Our Lady of the Lake Ascension. Our Lady of the Lake Robotic Surgery Institute is the impressive and highly regarded result of their dedication to excellence.

Our Lady of the Lake's geographic footprint was greatly enhanced with the consolidation of Lake Primary Care Physicians. With over 100 clinics, more than 650 providers including more specialists and sub-specialists than any other in the region, this employed provider group, now known as Our Lady of the Lake Physician Group, brings continuity of healthcare across the spectrum from preventive care in its clinics to the most complex of healthcare at Our Lady of the Lake's hospitals.

Over the years, Our Lady of the Lake has partnered with other provider organizations to bring expanded care and expertise for the community including orthopedic care with Baton Rouge Orthopaedic Clinic, neurology with The NeuroMedical Center, walk-in care for illness and minor injury with Lake Urgent Care, bariatric and metabolic medicine through a partnership with Pennington Biomedical Research Center and the State of Louisiana, and many more.

Our Lady of the Lake entered into a cooperative endeavor agreement with Ascension Parish government in 2023 to expand healthcare services, promote healthy living and provide greater access to all members of the Ascension Parish community.

After four years as a hospital-within-a-hospital, Our Lady of the Lake Children's Hospital opened its own campus near the Regional Medical Center in October 2019. The 360,000-square-foot facility is home to more than 25 pediatric specialties and serves as an anchor for advanced pediatric care for the region.



## CAMPUS STREETS AND THEIR MEANINGS OUR LADY OF THE LAKE REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER

**HENNESSY** Named for Mother Gertrude Hennessy, the first administrator of Our Lady of the Lake and Regional Superior of the Franciscan Missionaries of Our Lady in the late 1950s and early 1960s.

**DIDESSE** Named for Mother Henrietta Didesse, who succeeded Mother Gertrude Hennessy as Administrator of Our Lady of the Lake.

**O'DONOVAN** Named for Sr. Magdalen O'Donovan. The street leading to Our Lady of the Lake Livingston is also named O'Donovan.

**ONE CALAIS** After St. Francis' ministry spread to France, seven convents were formed and referred to as the Third Order Regular. One of the convents became the Franciscan Sisters of Calais. Eventually all seven houses

combined into one congregation, and it was headquartered in Calais.

**CONSTANTIN** Named for Sr. Linda Constantin, who was a longtime nurse and member of the senior administrative team at Our Lady of the Lake.

**MARGARET ANN** Named for Sr. Margaret Ann Miller, who ran the business office for years.

**FLANDERS, BRITTANY, DIJON AND PICARDY** Cities or areas in northern France. The area around the Regional Medical Center was developed by Milton J. Womack and Theo Cangelosi, who named it Calais Office Park. They also named these streets. Both were great friends of Mother Gertrude.

## OUR LADY OF THE LAKE ASCENSION

**ST. FRANCIS** Saint on whose tradition the Franciscan Missionaries of Our Lady is based.


**ST. CLARE** A follower of St. Francis and the founder of the Order of Poor Clares.

**ST. ELIZABETH** A third order Franciscan whose example for a "rule of life" was followed in the establishment of the French convents that eventually evolved into the Franciscan Missionaries of Calais, now the Franciscan Missionaries of Our Lady.







A black and white portrait of Alison Walker, an older woman with short, light-colored hair, wearing glasses and a white collared shirt. She is smiling and looking directly at the camera. The portrait is set against a light, textured background.

## FINDING A PROFESSIONAL HOME: ALISON WALKER

In 1980, Alison Walker joined Our Lady of the Lake during a transformational time, just after the hospital had moved from its downtown location. Although she didn't intend to stay longer than five years, Walker's entire professional career was with the ministry, rising to senior leadership.

As one of the first female administrators who wasn't a nurse or Sister, Walker paved the way for other women leaders over her decades-long tenure. Starting as an assistant administrator responsible for planning and agency affairs, Walker retired in 2014 as senior vice president for planning and business development, with plenty of title changes along the way.

"If you could script what a wonderful job would be for me, this would be it," Walker says. "I had to have the balance of the theoretical, study things and the action part of doing things."

### MENTORS TO LEARN FROM

When she was recruited from Tulane University after earning her master's in health administration, Walker was willing to go wherever the best opportunity was.

"My life is a series of very good consequences," Walker says. "It's a God thing. Opportunities have presented themselves, and I've had the wherewithal to take advantage of them. It's been what's meant to be."

Part of what drew Walker to Our Lady of the Lake was that it was a beautiful, modern facility, the first in the state to have all private rooms. What convinced her it was the right place were the Franciscan Missionaries of Our Lady Sisters who sponsor the ministry.

"It was clear the Lake was just such a special place. Something was different," she says. "I was familiar working within a faith-based organization, but it just had a different feel."

In her career, Walker estimates she worked closely with or had relationships with 25 of the Sisters.

"As wonderful as my career was from a job perspective and the mentorship and opportunities I had, that was always framed by the relationships I had with the Sisters and the opportunity I had to learn from each and every one of them."

Walker enjoyed many mentors during her career, including the late Robert Davidge, then CEO, who encouraged Walker to remain with the ministry, and Mother Gertrude Hennessy. "I was incredibly fortunate to have not only Bob Davidge as a mentor but also Mother Gertrude. That was one savvy lady."

Even when she would be recruited or consider other positions, Walker remembers thinking, "That's a good job, but it's not better than what I have now." Finally around her 10-year anniversary with the ministry she stopped looking elsewhere.

"I worked hard and I loved my work, but it took a lot," she says. "I've never regretted it, and I've still been able to keep in touch with many people and stay connected."

### WHERE BUSINESS MEETS COMMUNITY NEEDS

"The best thing to me is that the Lake has a clear sense of what we're about, what our mission is and what our ministry is," Walker says. "How we live out the mission and values can look different, but the core of who we are remains the same."

Walker says Our Lady of the Lake would always work to balance business opportunities, clinical needs and what the organization was seeing in the community. "How do we get out there and not just look at what drives business for us," she says. "We're here to serve the community."

One important service to the community has been Our Lady of the Lake's presence in North Baton Rouge, first through the opening of the Scotlandville clinic. Walker was glad to be part of bringing this longstanding wish of Mother Gertrude and Sister Brendan Mary Ronayne to fruition.





"It's never about one person. It's always about a big team," Walker says. "We've had incredible board members, really bright, savvy businesspeople and community leaders. We've had really great and committed medical staff leadership, and the ceaseless hours our team members put in any time we started a new service or new program made the work possible."

Over the years Our Lady of the Lake was tested regularly by transitions and challenges throughout Walker's time with

the organization, including responding to AIDS, the rise of managed care and HMOs, and of course, Hurricane Katrina.

Our Lady of the Lake had been exploring graduate medical education before Katrina devastated New Orleans in 2005. The ministry worked quickly to support residents in need of somewhere to work and learn.

"We had to do whatever we could to shore up existing graduate medical education in Louisiana," Walker says. "We've got a good supply of physicians now, and I think

we can be proud of what we've done."

### **REMEMBERING THE PAST WHILE MOVING FORWARD**

"One of my wishes is that Our Lady of the Lake would stay connected with the community who has been important in the past," Walker says. "I'm so excited about the 100th anniversary because it represents such a wonderful opportunity to engage with people so critical to our history and acknowledge those contributions."





# 1957



**STATISTICS FROM  
OUR LADY OF THE  
LAKE'S ORIGINAL  
HOSPITAL 1923-1978**

**ADMISSIONS**  
904,603

**BIRTHS**  
121,408

**NURSING SCHOOL  
GRADUATES**  
1,100+



1953



1960



1965



1977



1978



# 1950s

**1953** Leading the charge in heart care in our area, Our Lady of the Lake doctors perform Baton Rouge's first pediatric heart surgery on a 9-year-old child.

**FEBRUARY 1957** As Baton Rouge grows, so does the hospital with a seven-story wing added, increasing the number of patient beds to 400.

**OCTOBER 26, 1959** A new wing with six modern operating suites is dedicated, bringing the hospital's capacity to 465.

# 1960s

**1960** Members of Our Lady of the Lake's Auxiliary always make a special commitment to the hospital —giving their talent, time and resources to social service projects.

**1965** The Pike Burden family donates 30 acres, and at their request, the Sisters and community leaders break ground on a home for the elderly, naming it after the family matriarch, Ollie Steele.

**APRIL 15, 1966** The Sisters open the Ollie Steele Burden Manor Nursing Facility next door to Maryville Convent on Essen Lane.

# 1970s

**1975** A community-based group studies the feasibility of moving the hospital to a larger campus.

**DECEMBER 11, 1977** The new six-story Our Lady of the Lake is dedicated, the first hospital in the state with private beds, ultra-modern surgical suites and the latest medical equipment.

**APRIL 2, 1978** Our Lady of the Lake moves to its state-of-the-art building on Essen Lane. On 100 acres, the new hospital costs \$140 million and features 563 patient beds. Stained glass from the original hospital chapel is moved to the new facility chapel to connect past, present and future.



# OUR EDUCATION MINISTRIES

## ACROSS THE YEARS

The Sisters knew that in order to meet the healthcare needs of the growing capital city, they would need a constant supply of new nurses. Soon, Our Lady of the Lake Sanitarium opened a school of nursing, which made it possible for the Sisters to perpetuate their healing ministry. Living under the guidance of the Franciscan Sisters of Calais, religious life and spiritual development were also a major focus of the young students' lives.

From an initial class of nine students, this school of nursing grew to become Our Lady of the Lake College, offering training in a broad range of ancillary health disciplines and general studies. In 2016, it became Franciscan Missionaries of Our Lady University, offering expanded certificate programs such as theology and applied behavioral analysis, associate, bachelor, master and doctoral degrees, continuing the legacy of faith and academic excellence of those founding Sisters.







“START BY  
DOING WHAT  
IS NECESSARY;  
THEN DO WHAT  
IS POSSIBLE;  
AND THEN  
SUDDENLY  
YOU ARE  
DOING THE  
IMPOSSIBLE.”

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI



# 1980s

**MARCH 11, 1980** Our Lady of the Lake physicians perform the hospital's first open-heart surgery.

**OCTOBER 7, 1981** The Rosary Chapel is dedicated with 12 stained-glass windows from the original chapel that burned shortly after it was built. A mosaic, crucifix and processional cross, all created by local artists, create community connection.

**MARCH 29, 1983** The Tau Center for Chemical Dependency opens with 56 beds and 12 patients. It will later become a comprehensive behavioral health program in response to community need.

**DECEMBER 14, 1984** The former downtown location is partially demolished.

**1985** St. Mary's Tower addition is completed, housing an outpatient surgery center, David D. Kahn Cancer Center, the Children's Center and 200 additional beds. Our Lady of the Lake becomes the largest private hospital in Louisiana. The Heart Cath Lab is expanded, and the Division of Elderly Services is established.

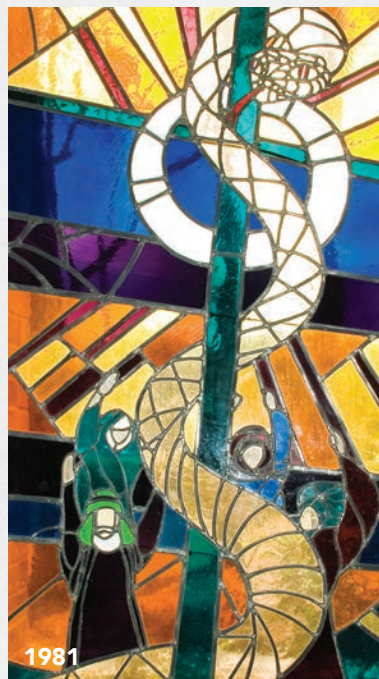
**1986** Medical Plaza I opens on the main hospital campus with six floors to increase convenience and comfort of patients, physicians and team members.

**1987** Our Lady of the Lake's Hyperbaric Medicine and Louisiana Wound Care Center opens, one of the 10 largest hyperbaric facilities in the nation.

**1987** With Sister Brendan Mary Ronayne leading the course, Our Lady of the Lake provides healthcare and support to patients living with HIV and AIDS through the Immunological Support program.

**1988** St. Francis Adult Day Health Center is established to improve participants' quality of life by promoting the highest level of functioning.

**1989** Our Lady of the Lake becomes a member of the Children's Miracle Network.





1997



1996



1998



1993



# 1990s

**1990** Our Lady of the Lake School of Nursing becomes Our Lady of the Lake College, offering a selection of healthcare courses and basic college-level classes.

**1992** Our Lady of the Lake is accredited as a cancer center by The American College of Surgeons, the gold-standard for community-based cancer care.

**1992** Villa St. Francis, a HUD elderly housing complex, opens in Baton Rouge, followed by Assisi Village in 1995 and Calais House in 1996.

**1992** Medical Plaza II opens with nine floors on the hospital's main campus, offering additional medical suites for Our Lady of the Lake and other local practitioners.

**1993** Lake Primary Care Physicians is formed with 40 internal medicine family practice and pediatric doctors and other healthcare professionals. It is one of the area's largest primary care networks.

**MAY 31, 1995** The first bone marrow stem cell transplant is completed at Our Lady of the Lake.

**DECEMBER 23, 1996** Our Lady of the Lake Assumption Community Hospital (then Assumption Community Hospital) opens in Napoleonville for the underserved in this rural area.

**1997** A new front entrance and lobby at the Regional Medical Center are completed, with a stained-glass depiction of St. Francis of Assisi.

**1998** St. Jude Children's Research Hospital begins an affiliation with Our Lady of the Lake Children's Health, offering uncompromising care and convenience to pediatric hematology-oncology patients.

**MAY 11, 1998** St. Clare Manor Nursing Home opens, accepting Medicare, Medicaid, hospice and private pay.

**NOVEMBER 30, 1998** LakeLine Direct begins operation, providing free, 24-hour nurse advice, health information and physician referrals.

**JANUARY 25, 1999** Lake After Hours Urgent Care, a partnership with local physicians, opens its first location on Perkins Road, offering walk-in care for minor injury and illness.





# THE FATHER OF GRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION AT OUR LADY OF THE LAKE

Education is a way of life at Our Lady of the Lake Health, and we have a robust graduate medical education program to train the next generation of physicians. John Clifford, MD, was instrumental in establishing GME at Our Lady of the Lake Regional Medical Center, along with Laurinda Calongne, Erin Wheeler, Alison Walker and Roberta Vicari, MD. Calongne was a consultant before joining the team as Dr. Clifford's administrative partner to lead the GME work.

Dr. Clifford first came to Louisiana in 1962 for medical school at Tulane University and has been living in Louisiana since. After finishing his training in 1976 he moved to Baton Rouge to practice neurosurgery with Dr. Thomas Flynn. He had a busy neurosurgical practice and was one of the principal founders of The NeuroMedical Center.

After Katrina devastated New Orleans in 2005, the Tulane and LSU medical schools needed somewhere for their students to continue training, and Our Lady of the Lake in Baton Rouge was the logical choice.

"The late Robert Davidge, then CEO of Our Lady of the Lake, talked to me about the problem and asked for my help getting the educational program started," Dr. Clifford says.

In 2006, the partnership with LSU and Tulane schools of medicine began, initially with students rotating through the medical center.

## ANSWERING THE CALL TO SERVE

As the designated institutional official (DIO) for the graduate medical education program, Dr. Clifford, with strong support from the administration and medical staff, established the pediatric residency program at Our Lady of the Lake Children's Hospital in 2010.

This took time, and with a lot of learning about the accreditation process and learning the ins and outs of the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME). There were meetings with Louisiana's congressional delegation, and state House members garnered additional support for the project.

## HOW ACADEMIC MEDICINE CONTRIBUTES TO OUR COMMUNITY

As an academic medical center, Our Lady of the Lake strives to provide the best clinical care while staying current on the advances taking place in medicine. "Residents are empathetic to patients,

particularly pediatric residents," Dr. Clifford says. "They provide a wonderful, wonderful benefit for both the hospital and the patient."

Our pediatric residency has grown into a strong program, and Dr. Clifford says a big part of that is how Our Lady of the Lake treats

its residents. "The Lake is good to them. They work in comfortable surroundings having nice places to sleep when on call, good food, places to study and relax when off duty."

Launching the next residency program in psychiatry was much easier. "When we did that, it worked very well and was much, much easier as we learned so much from the pediatrics start up."

## NURTURING EMPATHY AND PROFESSIONAL GROWTH

Residents offer an opportunity for faculty and other team members to provide mentorship and support through their educational journey.

"By the time you graduate from medical school, you realize you are just at the beginning of a long journey and the row you have to hoe is very long and full of roots," Dr. Clifford says.







He fondly recalls his interactions with residents. "Getting to meet these young, enthusiastic people was one of the more enjoyable parts of my career. You become a combination of mentor and parent."

Our GME faculty have a heart for teaching. "It was nice to see that dedication," Dr. Clifford says. "I'm not sure the public knows what is involved and how complex and demanding a medical education is. It continually evolves as you progress through its corridors."

Dr. Clifford retired in 2012, and his role with Our Lady of the Lake's GME program was a priority in those final years of full-time work. "It was a great way to end my career."

### WHAT SETS US APART

When asked what makes Our Lady of the Lake stand out when it comes to healthcare in Baton Rouge, Dr. Clifford mentions the dedication to the Blessed Mother and the example of St. Francis of Assisi.

He said there is a certain kindness with our team's approach to helping patients. "The Lake wrote the book, and they walk the walk and talk the talk much more than any other hospital," Dr. Clifford says. "There's a certain kindness to the spirit of the Lake. You just have to see it in action to really appreciate it."

### REFLECTING ON A REMARKABLE CAREER

"I've been a physician for over 50 years and have come to learn in so many ways that the Great Physician is always there to lend a helping hand," Dr. Clifford says.

When asked if he would do it all over again, Dr. Clifford says, "Unhesitatingly, yes." He sees his 40+ year career in neurosurgery as an honor to care for the sick and injured, and he enjoyed being on the cutting-edge of the wonderful field of medicine. "It was never routine for me. I never really knew what each day might bring. I was blessed beyond measure!"



# 2000s

**2000** Our Lady of the Lake Ascension (then St. Elizabeth Hospital) in Gonzales joins the health system as a wholly owned subsidiary.

**2002** Our Lady of the Lake is named a Top 100 Cardiovascular Hospital and receives a national five-star rating in cardiology.

**2002** Our Lady of the Lake Neighborhood Clinic-Scotlandville opens, fulfilling the Sisters' longstanding desire to establish a healing and spiritual presence in medically underserved North Baton Rouge.

**2002** Our Lady of the Lake Pediatric Emergency Room opens to serve the unique needs of young patients 24/7.

**2006** Following Hurricane Katrina in August 2005, graduate medical education begins at Our Lady of the Lake through a partnership with LSU and Tulane schools of medicine.

# 2010s

**2010** The robotic surgery program is established with certified instructors for the da Vinci robotic system, providing the latest advances in surgical care and becoming the epicenter for robotic training in the Gulf South.

**2010** Our Lady of the Lake establishes a community-based pediatric residency program, committed to training the next generation of amazing pediatricians. A 10-bed pediatric progressive care unit is established for monitoring patients whose conditions are stable enough to not require a stay in the pediatric intensive care unit (PICU).

**2012** Our Lady of the Lake Livingston opens as the state's first freestanding emergency room in a 140,000-square-foot medical complex open 24/7.

**2012** Our Lady of the Lake receives designation as a Joint Commission Stroke Center of Excellence.



2000



2006



2013



2012





2013



2016



2016



2017



2019

**2012** HealthyBR is established by the East Baton Rouge Mayor-President and community-based organizations, including Our Lady of the Lake, with the goal to inspire a healthier Baton Rouge for all. Baton Rouge becomes the first community in the U.S. to have partner hospitals work together to create a joint Community Health Needs Assessment and Community Implementation Plan.

**APRIL 15, 2013** Our Lady of the Lake officially implements a public-private collaboration with Louisiana State University. Later in the year, a historic sports medicine and academic partnership with LSU is established.

**NOVEMBER 2013** The nine-story, 30,000-square-foot Heart & Vascular Institute opens, bringing the highest level of patient care for heart attacks, stroke and other vascular disorders.

**2015** Our Lady of the Lake and HealthyBR receive the American Hospital Association's ANOVA Award for Community Health Impact.

**2016** Our Lady of the Lake College becomes Franciscan Missionaries of Our Lady University with about 1,700 students. The private Catholic university, known by many as FranU, offers certificate programs, associate, bachelor, master and doctoral degrees.

**2016** LSU's Bengal tiger mascot, Mike VI, receives a CT scan at Our Lady of the Lake.

**NOVEMBER 15, 2017** Our Lady of the Lake North Emergency Room opens, closing a gap in the area's emergency healthcare services, bringing lifesaving care closer to residents in North Baton Rouge. The innovative model of care includes primary care, specialty care and urgent care, the first time such a model was used in Louisiana.

**2019** After four years as a hospital-within-a-hospital, Our Lady of the Lake Children's Hospital opens its own campus near the Regional Medical Center. The 360,000-square-foot facility is home to more than 25 pediatric specialties and serves as an anchor for advanced pediatric care for the region.

**2019** Our Lady of the Lake Health receives the Catholic Health Association's Award of Merit for our HIV community work. Establishing opt-out HIV testing in our emergency departments contributed to Baton Rouge moving from No. 1 in new AIDS case rates to No. 10.





# AN ACADEMIC APPROACH TO IMPROVING HEALTHCARE



Our Lady of the Lake has had a relationship with Louisiana State University, the state's flagship institution, since the hospital opened in 1923. The original hospital was built near the school's first Baton Rouge campus, and although both organizations eventually moved to other parts of Baton Rouge, the connection remained strong.

With deep roots and strong branches, the powerful partnership has included learning, leading and growing for Louisiana's future through enhanced graduate medical education, integrated student learning programs, caring for the community, keeping athletics thriving, improving health through innovation and research, and caring for students.

LSU and Our Lady of the Lake's commitment to advancing education, health and research and our continued pursuit of excellence ensures a vibrant and promising future. The depth of our roots, complemented by our shared resources, produces world-class talent and advancements that are making a mark in history.

In the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina in 2005 and as part of its public-private partnership with the state and LSU, a number of residency programs including primary care, internal medicine and pediatrics moved to the campus of Our Lady of the Lake Regional Medical Center. This led to the construction of a medical education building, new and expanded clinics, and the addition of a dedicated surgical center. By enhancing the presence of graduate medical education, we ensure the continuation of highly trained and skilled medical professionals to care for our community for years to come.

In a collaboration between LSU, Our Lady of the Lake and the State of Louisiana, a public-private partnership was formed through a cooperative endeavor agreement in 2010. The partnership focused on expanding access to care, driving new research, improving trauma care and expanding graduate medical education.

As a result, Our Lady of the Lake became a branch campus in Baton Rouge for the LSU School of Medicine. The collaboration allowed a redevelopment of graduate

medical education for LSU and began a journey to reshape healthcare and training in Louisiana.

This collaboration also led to the construction of LSU Health – North Campus in 2013, which housed urgent care, primary care and specialty care clinics that were operated by Our Lady of the Lake in conjunction with LSU Health Baton Rouge. In 2017, the campus expanded and rebranded as Our Lady of the Lake North, officially opening with an emergency department. The addition of free-standing emergency services by Our Lady of the Lake in the same location as urgent care and primary care services was the first time such an innovative model of care was used in the state and remains the only one in Louisiana today.

The LSU partnership was a distinguishing factor in Our Lady of the Lake Regional Medical Center receiving a Level I Trauma designation and Our Lady of the Lake Children's Hospital receiving a Level II Trauma designation, both in 2022, by the American College of Surgeons.

In 2022, Our Lady of the Lake announced a first-of-its-kind, long-term, healthcare-focused partnership in collaboration with LSU, LSU Athletics, the Tiger Athletic Foundation and other LSU-affiliated entities. The partnership will transform Baton Rouge into a hub for medical research and emerging technologies, with world-class, transformative research and sparking life-saving discoveries in healthcare technologies and treatment, attracting top-flight physicians and providing local patients with access to cutting-edge clinical trials.

Our connection to education within Baton Rouge extends beyond LSU and FranU. In 2022, Our Lady of the Lake Health partnered with Baton Rouge Community College to build a program that allows Our Lady of the Lake medical assistants a clear and accelerated pathway to obtain an associate degree and become licensed practical nurses. Our Lady of the Lake Health aims to ensure that the needs of the local community are met by investing in a highly skilled and diverse team.









2020

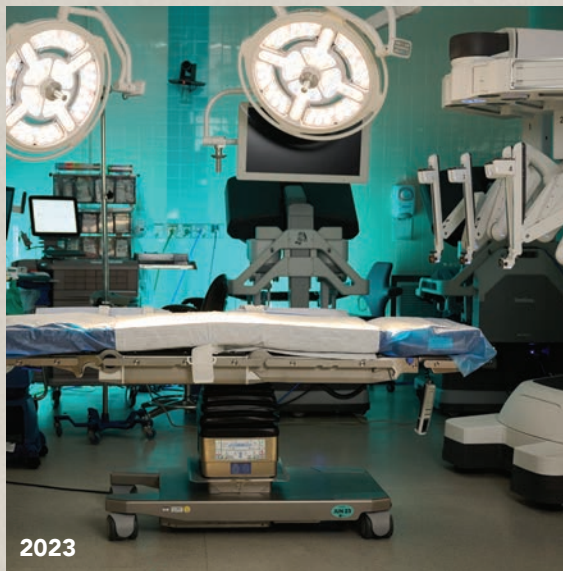




2020



2021



2023



2022



2022



2022

# 2020s

**2020** Our Lady of the Lake quickly responds to a global health emergency: the COVID-19 pandemic's highly infectious respiratory disease caused by a novel coronavirus. Patients begin receiving vaccines in 2021.

**2020** The colorectal cancer multidisciplinary team at Our Lady of the Lake Health is accredited by the National Accreditation Program for Rectal Cancer, a quality initiative developed by the American College of Surgeons, one of the first 15 programs in the U.S. to earn this distinction and the only one in Louisiana.

**2021** Our Lady of the Lake Cancer Institute is established and continues our regional leadership in providing comprehensive prevention, early detection, treatment and survivorship care.

**2021** Our Lady of the Lake Robotic Surgery Institute, home to the most advanced robotics program in Louisiana, launches with 9,000 robotic procedures completed in the previous decade.

**2022** Our Lady of the Lake Regional Medical Center achieves Level I trauma designation, and Our Lady of the Lake Children's Hospital is designated a Level II trauma center. Trauma centers treat the most seriously injured patients who require immediate care.

**2022** Our Lady of the Lake Health and LSU become Championship Health Partners to create transformational change and impact Louisiana with a new standard for healthcare, research and education.

**2023** Our Lady of the Lake Health is first in the nation to implement life-saving sepsis detection technology. IntelliSep Diagnostic Test, developed by Cytovale, was researched and developed in partnership with our Regional Medical Center's quality and research team over nine years.

**2023** Our Lady of the Lake Heart & Vascular Institute is the first medical facility in the state to offer the revolutionary Pascal Precision™ System for minimally invasive heart surgery.

**2023** Mayor Sharon Weston Broome presents a key to the City of Baton Rouge in honor of Our Lady of the Lake's 100 years of ministry in Louisiana.

**NOVEMBER 4, 2023** Our Lady of the Lake Health celebrates 100 years of service to the region.





# HONORS AND DISTINCTIONS



Being our best earns us the trust and loyalty of our community. Our mission is about people, the same mission that inspired our Franciscan Sisters who came to Louisiana more than 100 years ago. We're humbled by the recognition we receive and pleased to share our most recent accomplishments as we look to another 100 years of service.

Our Lady of the Lake Health has long been known for bringing cutting-edge medical technologies and procedures to the capital region. We were the first in Baton Rouge to perform both heart surgery and open-heart surgery. Our Lady of the Lake Children's Hospital was the first and continues to provide the only pediatric emergency room in the Greater Baton Rouge area. We were first, and continue to be the leader, in advanced minimally invasive and robotic surgeries, and the only organization in the region to offer comprehensive treatment and surgery for obesity through our Metamor Metabolic Institute.

Our Lady of the Lake is a leader in quality, safe and effective healthcare. Some of our certifications, distinctions and honors include:

- Leap Frog "A" Grade for Hospital Safety (Leap Frog Group, 2023)
- Level I Adult Trauma (American Academy of Surgeons, 2022)
- Level II Pediatric Trauma (American Academy of Surgeons, 2022)
- Transcatheter Valve Accreditation (American College of Cardiology, 2022)
- The only Accredited Cancer Program in Baton Rouge (Commission on Cancer, 2021)
- HeartCARE Center v1.2 (second hospital in Louisiana to achieve this status, American College of Cardiology, 2021)
- Chest Pain/PCI Center v7 (American College of Cardiology, 2021)
- Heart Failure Accreditation (American College of Cardiology, 2020)
- National Accreditation Program for Rectal Cancer (first and only in Louisiana, American College of Surgeons, 2020)
- Top 10% in the nation for Medical Excellence and Patient Safety in 17 clinical categories, with nine of those placing in the top 100 hospitals nationwide (CareChex, 2019)
- Accredited Bariatric Surgery Program (American Society for Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery/American College of Surgeons, 2019)
- American Heart Association's Get with the Guidelines Heart Failure Registry (2018+)
- Advanced Certification for Primary Stroke Centers (Joint Commission and American Heart Association, 2018)





OUR NEXT  
100  
YEARS

Today, Our Lady of the Lake Health offers the finest medical care in Greater Baton Rouge and surrounding parishes. We remain committed to the mission and vision of our founders, the Franciscan Missionaries of Our Lady, set forth more than 100 years ago.

Our Lady of the Lake has responded to the needs of the community for the past 100 years, and in the tradition of the Franciscan Missionaries of Our Lady, we have gone where we were called. We will continue to serve the members of our communities by listening and responding to the needs of everyone, especially those most in need.

Our Lady of the Lake's commitment to the community will be the driving force as we look to the future of healthcare

in Greater Baton Rouge. We will build upon the work done for the community over the past 100 years with planned strategic investments in technology, security and infrastructure to provide new and innovative ways of meeting healthcare needs. The full extent of new technology will be leveraged to ensure quality and safe care for those entrusted to our care.

Over the years, Our Lady of the Lake has been known by many names: sanitarium, hospital, regional medical center, among others. What remains constant is the Sisters' mission to care for, pray with and heal individuals and their loved ones. Our Lady of the Lake is special. Mother de Bethanie knew that 100 years ago, and 100 years from now it will still be true.





## LOVING AND COMPASSIONATE GOD,

As we celebrate 100 years of service and dedication,  
we pause to give You thanks for the blessings You have bestowed  
upon this ministry. We are grateful for the hands that have healed,  
the hearts that have loved and the lives  
that have been touched through our work.

Grant us the grace of reverence and love, that we may see  
Your image in each person we serve. Fill us with humility to be  
your presence to those we encounter. Inspire in us joyfulness of spirit,  
that our work may be a testament to Your enduring love.  
Empower us to act with justice, ensuring that all people  
have access to the care they need.

As we look forward to the future, may we continue  
to be guided by our Mission, rooted in Your love  
and committed to serving our community.

Amen.

Coletta C. Barrett, RN, FACHE  
VICE PRESIDENT, MISSION INTEGRATION, OUR LADY OF THE LAKE HEALTH



# PEACE PRAYER OF ST. FRANCIS



Lord, make me an instrument of Your peace,  
Where there is hatred, let me sow love;  
Where there is injury, pardon;  
Where there is doubt, faith;  
Where there is despair, hope;  
Where there is darkness, light;  
Where there is sadness, joy.

O Divine Master,  
Grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled, as to console;  
To be understood, as to understand;  
To be loved, as to love.  
For it is in giving that we receive.  
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,  
and it is in dying that we are born to Eternal Life.

Amen.







Our Lady  
of the Lake  
Health

5000 Hennessy Blvd. | Baton Rouge, LA 70808 | [ololrmc.com](http://ololrmc.com)

*Our Lady of the Lake Health, Our Lady of Lourdes Health, St. Francis Health, Our Lady of the Angels Health and St. Dominic Hospital are ministries of Franciscan Missionaries of Our Lady Health System.*