

Holy Name Hospital Celebrates the Opening of its George P. Pitkin MD Emergency Care Center



Most Reverend John Flesey, Regional Bishop of Bergen County, blesses Holy Name Hospital's new George P. Pitkin MD Emergency Care Center, an ultra-modern, state-of-the-art ER. (Inset) The dedication ceremonies also included a special presentation of a 9/11 Steel Memorial—a portion of the structural beam salvaged from the World Trade Center—donated by the Sims Corporation.

BY ROSEMARY DREGER CAREY
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AN AUDIENCE OF NEARLY 350 BUSINESS AND religious leaders, public officials and members of the community gathered to mark the opening of Holy Name Hospital's new George P. Pitkin MD Emergency Care Center, an ultra-modern, state-of-the-art ER.

The ceremonies, held in September at Holy Name Hospital in Teaneck, celebrated the opening of the modern, \$25 million facility which more than doubles the capacity of the previous ER. The dedication featured presentations by administrators and key staff at Holy Name Hospital, religious leaders from the Sisters of St. Joseph of Peace and government officials.

Dr. Frances Hoffman, president of the Winifred M. and George P. Pitkin Foundation, gave opening remarks, explaining that Holy Name Hospital's Emergency Care Center is named in memory of George Philo Pitkin, M.D., a renowned New Jersey physician, surgical innovator, medical author, celebrated researcher, and one of the physician-founders of the hospital in 1925.



Photos By George Kamper

With its 41 spacious treatment areas, the George P. Pitkin MD Emergency Care Center enables Holy Name Hospital to deliver a superior emergency care experience while meeting the needs of increasing patient volume in its emergency department. Each room in the 21,000-square-foot facility is equipped with leading-edge technology, including a state-of-the-art monitoring and integrated bedside information system with in-room instant access to medical records, prescription ordering and test scheduling.

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Exuding gratitude, excitement, joy and relief, Holy Name Hospital President/CEO Michael Maron described the project as the exemplification of the “heart and soul of Holy Name Hospital . . . and the symbol of our defined purpose to move humanity forward.” Maron expressed his sincere thanks to the people and organizations that allowed the ambitious project to become a reality—the outstanding architects and engineers and construction professionals for their ingenuity and hard work; the state and federal government agencies, community groups and philanthropists that offered their generous financial support; the inspiration and stewardship of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Peace; the guidance of hospital board members and especially, the efforts of the outstanding Holy Name Hospital staff, without whose contributions the Center would not be possible.

In a solemn moment that lent even deeper context to the celebration, Maron related some first-hand experiences he described as catalysts for the design and construction of the new center. The first, he explained, was having witnessed seven years ago—from the hospital board room along with fellow board members—the catastrophic fall of the Twin Towers of the World Trade Center. That experience, along with subsequent research of the awe-inspiring emergency treatment approaches embraced by a Jerusalem hospital he visited on behalf of the hospital, provided the impetus to build a facility that is poised to meet the care demands of the community in an emergency or homeland security situation.

Hence, one of the center’s key features, Maron explained, is a flexible layout that allows for expansion well beyond the normal treatment capacity to accommodate disaster situations or other large-scale incidents. The center’s treatment areas can be universally reconfigured to provide any level of care for any specialty area, at any time. Likewise, the 20,000-square-foot Marian Hall conference center—which will be used for hospital events—can also be reconfigured to accommodate triage and containment activities during extraordinary situations.

In an effort to improve the overall patient experience, all efforts were taken to afford privacy and comfort to patients and families. A Designated Fast Track area

serves as a treatment area for minor injuries and illnesses. Private and semi-private rooms increase privacy and the clever layout helps to reduce patient anxiety associated with lengthy transports from one area to another.

Richard Schwab, M.D., medical director of emergency services, echoed his boss’s joy and satisfaction with the new facility. “It is everything we wanted and more . . . a dream come true,” Schwab explained. “Reducing the wait time for people with a wide variety of illnesses and injuries is one of the biggest challenges we face in the ER,” explained Schwab. “Holy Name Hospital’s new Emergency Care Center enables us to treat patients the way I would want my mother, child, friend or family to be treated.” ■

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