



Fr. Holland and his team at the weekly staff meeting. Front, l-r, Fr. Ronald Wozniak, SJ, Fr. Paul Holland, SJ, Dominic Studer, Virgini Iturralde, Back, Ellen Reusch, Sr. Kathleen Foley, Ginny Harris, Shiranee Wagner.

Care, Compassion, & Community ~ Answering the Call at Campion

Driving up the winding road, a large, formidable structure looms out of the pastoral countryside of Weston, Mass. The first impression often mentioned by visitors is that of a castle, college or monastic building. In fact, Campion Center was built as a college of sorts, a seminary, and now serves as a retreat center and the home of our retired and infirm Jesuits; it is holy ground.

Fr. Paul Holland, SJ, Rector of the Jesuit community at Campion and director of Campion Health Center, often praises his team of caregivers, whom he refers to as “partners” not “providers.” They include medical co-directors Drs. David Hackett and Bob McIntyre, nursing director Ellen Reusch, RN, and pastoral minister Sr. Kathleen Foley, SND. That is in addition to nurses, aides, social workers, activities personnel, and a cadre of volunteers. This is ministry. “These women and men are surely

Jesuit partners-in-mission,” says Sr. Kathleen.

“I love to work here” are words Fr. Holland says he often hears from these partners, even in the midst of busy and demanding days.

Some of the Jesuits who call Campion their home live in suites on the health center’s top floor, which is designated for assisted living; others who require intensive healthcare reside on the second floor.

The caregivers who minister at Campion are quick to say that it’s all

about meeting the needs of Jesuits who have led lives of service. There is a clear sense of pride in the high-quality, professional care they’re able to provide to these Jesuits, care and concern that’s made possible through the generosity of the New England Province’s benefactors. And yet, Campion is also about the caregivers, who, when they see the place for the first time, often think they’re taking just another job. They soon discover, however, that they have come into nothing less than a vocation and they



Janie Belive, activities coordinator, lives around the corner from Campion. "I didn't realize when I started that I would care about the Jesuits so much," she says.

are ministering to those men who have ministered for their entire Jesuit lives.

Catherine R. Morency, RN, NP, the province health care co-coordinator often says, "Campion Center is a Jesuit community that has a health center, rather than a health center that is a Jesuit community."

Of course, the Jesuits themselves – their ways and their spiritual outlook – elicit much of this sense of meaning, this sense of care and concern.

Reusch, the nursing director, noted that recently she spoke to the monthly gathering of Jesuit residents about flu vaccines. "When I asked if there were any questions, one of the Jesuits raised his hand and said, 'we are just grateful that you are here.'" So, in giving, caregivers receive.

Many of the staff have worked at other health care facilities before coming to work at Campion, and concur with what Dominic Studer, RN, BSN says. "There is something

special about working with Jesuits that I really enjoy," said Dominic, who manages all of the documentation needed for the skilled nursing facility. "The men make a point of learning our names and learning about us and our families."

The Campion team does not try to hide the inevitable challenges and difficulties of working in any long-term care environment, with or without Jesuits. In this instance, the residents have been assigned to Campion by their Jesuit superiors, which is one way of saying that the move to Campion Center can be



Henry Augustin has been ensuring that the facilities are clean and spotless for over 10 years.



Nancy Mulcahey, RN, knew since junior high school that she wanted to be a nurse, although she started her career as a teacher. She attributes the spirit of cooperation and respect that the staff has for each other, and the Jesuits have for the staff, to her enjoyment of her work.

difficult, as it a life transition that most people would resist. The Jesuits grow into this phase of their lives, and in so doing, they teach the staff – and rest of us – something about being human and being a person of faith in the twilight of life's calling.

Ginny Harris, LICSW, didn't know



Jean Cadet, CNA, and his wife Yolaine (not pictured), have cared for the Fathers at Campion for over 20 years.

that Campion was a home for Jesuits until she arrived for her job interview. In her role as social worker, she says she has learned important things that will help her make the passage to her latter days on earth. She mentions, "Flexibility, the ability to let go, to forgive oneself and others, a sense of spirituality, sense of community, persistent hope, the support and love of family and friends and of God."

Perhaps you would like to look up a Jesuit who taught at your college or led your retreat. If you are interested in visiting or volunteering at Campion, please contact Meg Farrell, Director of Activities, at mfarrell@campioncenter.org.



Ginny Harris and Sr. Kathleen Foley have each written personal essays about their ministry. Visit our website to read more.



"I enjoy working with the Fathers. They are very educated and they never stop learning so I never stop learning," says William Ssebakiijye, RN, a former high school teacher in Uganda who has worked at the center for eight years and recently received his RN degree.



Beanne Guillaume, CNA, and Soleme Obei, CNA, have both worked at Campion for over 10 years, and often sing hymns to the Fathers while caring for them.