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United States - West Islip, NY - **Dedication of Memorial Plaque for Hospital Chaplains**

Today, 29 July 2013, at Good Samaritan Hospital in West Islip, NY there was a mass of thanksgiving and the dedication of a memorial to the Montfort Missionaries who had served as hospital chaplains since the hospital was opened in 1959. Today the hospital is operated by the local diocese and the hospital chaplain is a visiting priest from Nigeria.

Good Samaritan Hospital began as a ministry of the American Province of the Daughters of Wisdom who invited the Montfort Missionaries to accompany them in their service. For over forty years a number of Montfort Fathers from the American Province served as hospital chaplains, and others as interns learning basic medical skills that they brought to mission assignments like Borneo and Haiti. Hospital Chaplaincy is a long held ministry in the American Province and today it is a service rendered by two fathers and one brother from our retirement community at Bay Shore. They continue their service to the sick and wounded who come to nearby hospitals through visitations, communion calls and calls to the emergency room at all hours of the day and night, despite physical limitations and all of them being over 80 years of age.

This celebration, in some ways, honored a tradition that was begun by Father de Montfort: to be present to those who most need the tender and loving touch of Jesus at their weakest moment. Good Samaritan Hospital memorialized the selflessness of our fathers and, in some small way, the work of the Montfort Missionaries.

-Fr. James Paul Brady, SMM