

# PRESS RELEASE

April 21, 2009

The Franciscan Services Corporation (“FSC”), and the Sisters of St. Francis of Sylvania, Ohio, have consented to the separation of Trinity Community Medical Center of Brenham (“Trinity”) and its affiliated entities from the FSC System. The agreement includes a name change for Trinity and discontinues its Catholic affiliation. The ownership status of Trinity Care Center will be determined in the future by FSC and Trinity.

The Sisters of St. Francis of Sylvania, Ohio, came to Brenham in 1931 in response to a request for administrative services at the Brenham Hospital and Clinic. In 1935 the Sisters purchased the facility and changed its name to St. Francis Hospital. A new hospital was constructed in 1954, and its name was changed to St. Jude Hospital. The 1989 merger of St. Jude and Bohne Memorial Hospital placed Trinity under the sponsorship of the Sisters of St. Francis of Sylvania, Ohio.

Trinity is proud of the twenty year relationship with FSC and commends the Sisters of St. Francis of Sylvania, Ohio for their commitment and dedication to serving the healthcare community for the past seventy-seven years. During its affiliation with FSC, Trinity has grown its services and facilities and enhanced its reputation for quality patient-centered healthcare.

Under the sponsorship of the Sisters of St. Francis of Sylvania, Ohio, Trinity operated as a Catholic healthcare organization pursuant to the Ethical and Religious Directives for Catholic Healthcare Services promulgated by the National Council of Catholic Bishops.

Due to a recent clarifying interpretation of the Ethical and Religious Directives for Catholic Healthcare Services related to direct sterilization, Trinity was required to conform to a new interpretation. Trinity’s Board, in consultation with its Medical Staff, then chose to request to terminate Catholic sponsorship. The Trinity Board’s prerogative to make this request only existed as a result of the terms of the 1989 consolidation and does not exist elsewhere within FSC.

The FSC Board and the Sisters of St. Francis have concluded that an effective Catholic sponsored ministry effort cannot be attained when there is not full alignment of interests and commitment at all points in the partnership, and have granted Trinity’s request to end its Catholic affiliation and FSC system membership.

FSC and Trinity are committed to an orderly process for completing the separation in a manner which respects the concerns of the patients, physicians, employees and constituents of all of the Trinity entities as well as the Brenham community and the Sisters of St. Francis. This process will take several months to complete, and the parties ask for the continued support and cooperation of the community as the many complex issues are addressed and resolved.

Trinity will continue to serve the Brenham and Washington County area as a non-profit health facility with the same dedication to its patients and commitment to quality.

If you have any questions for Trinity, please contact John L. Simms, President/CEO at 979-836-6173, or for FSC, please contact Terence J. Schuessler, FACHE, Vice President/Operations at 419-882-8373.

*The Sisters of St. Francis of Sylvania, Ohio sponsor their health and human services ministry through Franciscan Services Corporation. The organizations, located in Ohio, Texas and Kentucky, include six hospitals, eight long-term care facilities, four assisted living facilities, independent senior housing, a counseling center, and a long-term domestic violence shelter.*