

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Saint Patrick's Center Announces New Executive Director**

*Sister Danielle Gagnon, RSM to Lead the Saint Patrick's Center as Executive Director*



**Wilmington, Del. – October 24, 2016 ---**

Danielle Gagnon, RSM, a Sister of Mercy, is the new executive director at St. Patrick's Center, Inc. in Wilmington, Delaware. A resident of Bear, Delaware, she earned her bachelor's degree from Harvard University. Prior to joining the center, she served at Medicines for Humanity, a non-profit organization that operates maternal/child health projects in developing countries. She also worked at Hope Partnership for Education, an education center in North Philadelphia founded and administered by the Sisters of Mercy and Karen House, a shelter for women and children experiencing homelessness in Saint Louis, Missouri.

“Sister Danielle brings extraordinary skills to the helm of the Saint Patrick's Center. We are fortunate to have her leadership and her compassionate vision” said Michael McDermott, chairman of the Board of Directors of the St. Patrick's Center. “It is clear that Sister Danielle's commitment to social justice and her deeply-held convictions to serve others align with the Center's simple mission--to provide food, clothing and critical services to those most in need on Wilmington's East Side.”

The Sisters of Mercy (RSM), is an international community of Roman Catholic women founded in 1831 in Dublin, Ireland committed by vow to serving the poor, sick and uneducated in our communities and advocating for social justice. In support of that mission, Sisters of Mercy take on professions and vocations in their surrounding communities—often in education, health care and non-profit administration roles.

In Delaware, the Sisters of Mercy serve in roles as educators and administrators at Christ the Teacher School in Glasgow and engage in health care ministry at St. Francis Hospital in Wilmington as well as regionally through Mercy Health System.

Since 1971, the non-denominational St. Patrick's Center has served the most basic needs of Wilmington's East Side community by providing a daily on-site meal, daily Meals-On-Wheels nutrition delivery, daily emergency grocery distribution. The Center distributes free produce twice weekly and offers a free clothing closet for men, women and children. Seniors are

provided transportation to medical appointments, and the homeless are provided shower and laundry facilities alongside social worker counseling and assistance.

The St. Patrick's Center receives critical financial support from Wilmington's St. Patrick's Day Society which hosts its 24<sup>th</sup> Annual St. Patrick's Day Society dinner and breakfast this year on March 16 and 17. <http://www.stpatrickscenter.org/event.aspx>

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