



## *St. Rita of Cascia Catholic Church*

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HEALTH FACILITIES &  
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

February 5, 2014  
Ms. Courtney Avery  
Administrator  
Illinois Health Facilities and  
Services Review Board  
525 W. Jefferson  
Springfield, IL 62761

RE: Letter of Support  
Holy Cross Hospital Proposed Psychiatry Unit  
Project 13-076

Dear Ms. Avery,

Due to a shortage of Acute Mental Illness hospital beds in the Holy Cross Hospital community, Sinai Health System has asked for the authority to open a fifty bed inpatient Psychiatric Unit at Holy Cross. Holy Cross Hospital is the only hospital in a very large and densely populated service area. It has one of the busiest emergency departments in the state and serves a very large Medicaid and uninsured population. It is often difficult to place emergency patients requiring inpatient behavioral health treatment. Many of these patients have excessive waits while the emergency department physicians and staff try to arrange inpatient treatment at any of numerous distant hospitals. Placements become even more difficult when a patient is either uninsured or underinsured.

Sinai Health System has demonstrated a strong commitment to address the mental health needs of the communities it serves and has provided high quality inpatient care and outpatient services for many years.

St. Rita Parish represents numerous households that may benefit from such a service at Holy Cross Hospital. As a pastor, I encounter several cases pastorally that need such attention. Our needs are many yet resources are limited.

The Parish community of St. Rita of Cascia strongly urges the Illinois Health Facilities and Planning Board to approve this needed Acute Mental Illness unit at Holy Cross Hospital.

Sincerely,

Rev. Anthony B. Pizzo, O.S.A.  
Pastor and Dean of Vicariate V - A



*Iglesia Católica de Sta. Rita de Cascia*

*Founded by the Augustinian Friars in 1905/Fundada por los Frailes Agustinos en 1905*

