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Saint Louis, MO, July 31, 2020 – ACPE: The Standard for Spiritual Care & Education Announces Sr. Sheila Hammond, RSCJ, ACPE, as the Honoree of its 2020 Distinguished Service Award

ACPE is proud to announce that their member, Sr. Sheila Hammond, RSCJ, ACPE, has been named the 2020 Distinguished Service Award (DSA) honoree. The DSA is ACPE's highest recognition bestowed upon members, and is awarded for long, outstanding service and leadership to the association.

A born and bred Midwesterner, Sheila Hammond was born in Nebraska and raised in Chicago. The eldest of five children, Sheila's personal and professional journey took her around the globe. A Sister in the Society of the Sacred Heart, Sheila's career began as a high school teacher. She learned during CPE at the State Hospital in St. Louis, Missouri with Serge Castigliano that education and her identity as an educator were not confined to a classroom. After recognizing her vocation within a vocation, Sheila became an ACPE Certified Educator in 1983. In 1995, she was certified as a pastoral educator by the National Association of Catholic Chaplains.

Sheila's religious order and CPE propelled her extensive career of service. Following her ACPE certification, she joined Dennis Kenny at Ypsilanti Regional Hospital in the former ACPE East Central Region. In the quiet moments of the 1000-bed hospital, Sheila and Dennis developed the Arts in Ministry program for which they were recognized as researchers of the year. Next, Sheila served in general hospital chaplaincy and supervision at Harper Grace Hospitals in Detroit, Michigan with Dirk Evans.

Sheila's religious congregation then called her to educate their newest members in ACPE's former Northeast Region. During that time, she served as Co-Director of Chaplaincy and CPE with Mary Martha Thiel at Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston, Massachusetts. Together, they developed the award-winning "CPE for Health Care Providers" which has been replicated across the country.

Once again called to administrative leadership in her religious congregation, Sheila relocated to ACPE's former South Central Region. While there, Sheila served as Director of Pastoral Care at St. Louis University Hospital in St. Louis, Missouri.

Throughout her career, Sheila has volunteered for ACPE and NACC leadership positions, serving on the Professional Ethics Commission, as ACPE North East Regional Chair, the Standards Committee, the Board of Representatives, the NACC Certification Commission, and the ACPE Board of Directors.

As the Spirit moves, so moves the sister. Currently, Sheila serves as CEO of the United States-Canada Province of the Society of the Sacred Heart. Sheila's ACPE certification continues to serve her well in this role where her responsibilities require personal pastoral care, navigating issues of grief and loss, and reflection on experience to plan and prepare for an unknown future.



It is with great honor that ACPE recognizes Sheila Hammond with the 2020 Distinguished Service Award.

About ACPE: The Standard for Spiritual Care & Education

ACPE is the premier, DOE-recognized organization that provides the highest quality CPE programs for spiritual care professionals of any faith and in any setting. We do this through a rigorous accreditation and certification process for centers and educators that provide CPE. The depth of our training enables students to realize their full potential to strengthen the spiritual health of people in their care as well as themselves. Visit www.acpe.edu to learn more.

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