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## Catholic Health Initiatives Names Peter Banko SVP, Group Executive Officer

*Longtime health care executive also will lead system's integration team*

ENGLEWOOD, Colo. – Sept. 17, 2014 – Catholic Health Initiatives has named longtime health care industry executive Peter Banko as senior vice president and group executive officer of the organization's east/southeast division as well as chief integration officer.

Banko, currently president and chief executive officer of CHI St. Vincent in Little Rock, Ark., will oversee CHI St. Vincent; CHI Memorial in Chattanooga, TN; CHI St. Joseph Health in Reading, PA.; and Saint Clare's Health System, Denville, NJ.

Banko also will direct the transition process for Memorial Health System of East Texas, which will become part of Houston-based CHI St. Luke's Health over the next several months; and will assume responsibility for the CHI national integration team. He begins his new role Sept. 22, and replaces M. Elizabeth "Beth" O'Brien, who left CHI last month for an executive position with PeaceHealth in Washington.

Before being named the top executive at St. Vincent in 2007, Banko, who has more than three decades of experience in health care, served for four years as chief operating officer and vice president of CHRISTUS Spohn Health System, Corpus Christi, Texas. He also served for three years as senior vice president for PhyAmerica Physician Group, Durham, N.C., a privately held, \$1.5 billion health care organization that included a large primary care physician group and the nation's largest emergency medicine revenue cycle company. Earlier, he held multiple leadership positions at Saint Clare's Health System in Denville, N.J.

**About Catholic Health Initiatives:** Catholic Health Initiatives, a nonprofit, faith-based health system formed in 1996 through the consolidation of four Catholic health systems, expresses its mission each day by creating and nurturing healthy communities in the hundreds of sites across the nation where it provides care. One of the nation's largest health systems, Englewood, Colo.-based CHI operates in 18 states and comprises 93 hospitals, including four academic health centers and teaching hospitals and 24 critical-access facilities; community health-services

organizations; accredited nursing colleges; home-health agencies; and other facilities that span the inpatient and outpatient continuum of care. In fiscal year 2013, CHI provided \$762 million in charity care and community benefit, including services for the poor, free clinics, education and research. Learn more at [www.catholichealthinitiatives.com](http://www.catholichealthinitiatives.com)