

Welcome to our latest eNews

I have to admit it. Getting recognition for a job well-done still makes my day. Receiving it in writing from the President and CEO of Alexian Brothers' impressive St. Alexius Medical Center made it all the more pleasing.

We knew we had a challenge packaging two major projects simultaneously in a high traffic area. Keeping to a tight schedule and a low construction profile (as close to no dust and noise as possible), then expediting the IDPH approval process kept us on our toes. When everything went like clockwork, we had a very appreciative client.

To add an exclamation point, we were invited to participate in the Blessing and Open House. While we are confident of our workmanship and materials, and of the equipment supplied by GE Healthcare, having the good graces bestowed by the faith leaders of this august institution made for a fitting project completion.

Also included is another successful project for our good clients at Resurrection Health Care's St. Joseph Hospital on Lake Shore Drive.

Sam W. Stowell
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Our Latest Projects

St. Alexius Medical Center Feeling truly blessed

St. Alexius Medical Center management and staff were understandably excited about the simultaneous installation of GE Healthcare's leading edge 64-slice CT and 3T MRI. We were equally excited about the opportunity to design and build the space to accommodate them.

Working with Martin Woods, St. Alexius's facility director, Chris Jones, consulting engineer, of Grumman/Butkus Associates and electrical engineer, Davis Dickerson, was professionally gratifying.



Father Domingo Hurtado-Badillo performs the blessing of the CT accompanied by Brother Valentino Bianco, C.F.A



- This was a challenging project in a number of ways. The MRI's strong magnetic field (3 Teslas) is essential for its high resolution capability which, in turn, supports neuro-imaging as well as greater speed and clarity for musculoskeletal system imaging. Still, as you might imagine, there's a direct correlation between the amount of magnetic force and the heat generated by this amazing piece of science and engineering.

Definitely not a poor cousin, the breakthrough 64-slice CT can perform 64 scans in a single rotation (relax, the imaging device rotates, not the patient). The speed and high resolution means that images of the heart can show blood vessel stenosis (narrowing) and plaque build-up with great clarity. As with the MRI, we had to be prepared for a very large increase in BTUs.



GE Healthcare 3T MRI System



GE Healthcare 64-slice LightSpeed VCT System

The answer was the addition of three roof-mounted chillers, with one dedicated to pumping a refrigerated glycol based water solution through the MRI itself. This system's cold enough to be called a cryo-cooler. That's cold! The other two chillers keep the suites, that also contain an array of computers and controllers, at a comfortable and effective temperature for the dedicated staff.

Patient comfort also required creating a feeling of spaciousness and brightness for what can be intimidating procedures. David Selinger, our architect, made sure that the rooms not only looked good but worked well ergonomically.

The smiles at receiving a photographic memento of the project suggest that we met our goal, another satisfied client. Of course, it may also have something to do with being, and feeling, "blessed". ●



From left to right, Stowell Project Manager, Elmer Littlefield, Stowell Architect, David Selinger, St. Alexius Director, Construction, Martin Woods, CT Supervisor, Julie Fisher, Stowell President, Sam W. Stowell, MRI Supervisor, Kim Ash, Stowell Project Superintendent, Roger Wiese and St. Alexius Director, Diagnostic Imaging, Georgine Lonson.

This photo and the shot on page one by Photographer Fred Pfeifer



● St Joseph Hospital

Where new meets old

Age is not slowing down this Chicago institution. Ideally located at 2900 North Lake Shore Drive, just a few miles north of the loop, this bastion of fine healthcare is still going strong. Founded in 1868, Saint Joseph Hospital is one of the oldest hospitals in Chicago yet offers a full set of services and a complement of nearly 600 physicians.

Keeping fresh means adding the very latest techniques and supporting technologies. The new Computed Tomography (CT) addition is just the latest project that we have undertaken for Resurrection Health Care. It's strategically located adjacent to the Emergency Department for quick response imaging. Given the hospital's reputation for orthopedic/sports medicine (they perform over 1000 orthopedic surgeries per year), we expect it to get a good workout. In between



- times, this CT will complement the Radiation Therapy Department's linear accelerator as a Simulator (creating the scans that identify the diseased tissue needing treatment).

According to Nancy Cummings, the Imaging Services Director, their design requirements were quick and easy access between the holding and control areas for their busy staff and a bright look to offset the lack of exterior windows. With creative input from the Hospital's interior design consultant, Rebecca Wright, our Design-Build team was able to fashion this practical and inviting space.

Meanwhile, we had to ensure that the shielding, the mechanical systems and the power met the high precision needs of this sophisticated equipment in a hospital built in much different times.

- It seems you can teach an old dog new tricks. ●

