Federal Agency Awards Marian Home 5 Star Rating

LOUISVILLE, Ky (June 15, 2009) – Marian Home was recently awarded five stars under a new federal system of rating long term nursing care facilities. The licensed health care facility is a ministry of the Ursuline Sisters of Louisville and is home to many retired and infirmed sisters as well as lay residents.

Marian Home

The new rating system put in place by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, also known as CMS, went into effect at the end of 2008. The new system compares nursing homes with others in the state as well as nationally. Only a small percentage of five star ratings are awarded.

"The care that's provided at Marian Home has always been five stars," said Kim Thieneman, Marian Home Administrator. "The way the new system compares and rates all Kentucky facilities doesn't always reflect all the goodness."

To rate a long term facility, CMS now looks at three factors:

- **Health inspections** or better known as the "annual survey" – CMS compares the number of and what type of deficiencies are found.

- **Quality Measures** – CMS looks at 10 of the publically reported such as how pain levels in residents are controlled and the number of foley catheters

- **Staffing hours scheduled** – the agency is specifically looking at the ratio of Registered Nurses (RN) to residents

"That is where Marian Home surpasses many other long term care facilities," Thieneman said. "The Ursuline Sisters have been so willing to provide the RN's to take care of their fellow
Sisters and other Marian Home residents. We are very blessed with the RN's we have here."

CMS looks at the Kentucky and national averages for all three factors they consider. Then, they compare each nursing home to those averages and award the facility a rating. This is the first time Marian Home has been evaluated under the new rating system and received five stars. Again, CMS only awards a certain percentage of five star ratings.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services oversees CMS. The agency's mission is "to ensure

effective, up-to-date health care coverage and to promote quality care for [medicare and medicaid] beneficiaries." For more background on the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) and the new nursing home rating system, please see the agency's website at http://www.cms.hhs.gov/.

Kim Thieneman has been administrator of Marian Home for five years. Prior to her employment with the Ursuline Sisters, she worked for the Meadows Group in nursing home administration. As of June 15, 62 residents are cared for at Marian Home. 39 of those residents are Ursuline Sisters.