

Thursday, October 6
Key Note Speaker



Patricia McDermott, RSM, D.M.

*A Dialog With
Our Wisdom Figures*

Vice President of the Sisters of
Mercy of the Americas, Leadership
Team, Silver Springs, MD

Sr. Pat has many years of experience in leadership and theology. She holds a Bachelor's Degree from Misericordia University, Master's Degrees from Creighton University and Washington Theological Union and a Doctor of Ministry from Catholic University of America.

Sr. Pat has taught at the high school and college level and has been serving the Sisters of Mercy in Leadership since 1986.

Friday, October 7
General Session AM



Dee Leahman, MA

*It's About How You Live –
and Die: Moral Conflicts
Related to End of Life Care*

Director, Community Partnership
for End of Life Care, a program of

Hospice & Palliative CareCenter, Winston-Salem, NC. Dee is a member of the National POLST Paradigm Task Force Board of Directors; Recipient of American Hospital Association's Society for Healthcare Consumer Advocacy's 2010 National Healthcare Consumer Advocacy Award; Recipient of Deborah D. Wood Patient Advocacy Award (2010); Certified Respecting Choices Advance Care Planning POLST Instructor; Member, NC Bar Association Task Force for Community Education on Advance Directives; Member, NC Medical Society's Advance Directives and MOST (Medical Orders for Scope of Treatment) Education Team; Author, "Why the Patient Self-Determination Act Has Failed," NC Medical Journal, July/August 2004 and Co-author, "Barriers to Hospice & Palliative Care Services Use by African American Adults," American Journal of Hospice & Palliative Medicine, Oct. 2009.

Friday, October 7
General Session PM



Julie E. Keaveney, Psy.D., ABPP

*Alzheimer's Disease:
Enhancing Communication
Skills in Dementia Care*

Clinical Neuropsychologist,
Physis Associates,
West Chester, PA

Julie Keaveney comes to us with extensive experience in the area of psychology and neuropsychology. She holds a Bachelor's Degree from Indiana State University and a Doctorate in Clinical Psychology. She is a frequent presenter on topics including social anxiety, alcohol expectancies, managing challenging behaviors in the Long-Term Care settings and diagnosis and treatment of dementia. She has been published in the Journal of Applied Social Psychology. She currently conducts adolescent, adult and geriatric neuropsychological evaluations.

Saturday, October 8
General Session



Richard Mary Burke, RSM, MS

*Our Wisdom Figures: Blessings
in Leading . . . and Being Led
on the Journey*

Mission / Mercy Services
Representative, St. John's Health
System in Springfield, MO

"I am a Sister of Mercy and co-minister in MERCY!"

With these words we understand immediately Sr. Richard Mary's focus for life. She holds a Bachelor's Degree from Maryville College in St. Louis and a Master's Degree from the University of Arkansas. Sr. Richard Mary has extensive experience in education and public speaking. She served for many years in both elementary and secondary schools as an educator and administrator. In the spirit of her Irish heritage, she is known for her storytelling and Southern greetings. She was President of the St. Louis Regional Community and subsequently completed an Internship in Healthcare in Springfield, MO.