

# SOLEMN JOY

NIGHTINGALE COMMEMORATIVE SERVICE  
AT WASHINGTON NATIONAL CATHEDRAL  
CELEBRATES GLOBAL NURSING

By Judith Mitiguy, RN, MS

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The towering stone arches of Washington National Cathedral in the nation's capitol rang out with the sound of nurses' voices April 25 at the Florence Nightingale Commemorative Global Service marking the 100th anniversary of Nightingale's death.

An aura of solemnity and joy suffused the church as more than 1,000 nurses, their friends, family members and the general public gathered to pay tribute to 15 million nurses around the world in this special celebration of the 2010 International Year of the Nurse.

The service opened with a formal procession of nurse leaders, healthcare professionals, student nurses and sponsors.

Lead speaker Leslie D. Mancuso, RN, PhD, FAAN, president and CEO, Johns Hopkins Program for International Education in Gynecology and Obstetrics, urged nurses to listen to the words of Mahatma Gandhi that we "must be the change we wish to see in the world." She cited nurses' transformative work across the globe and acknowledged how nurses reach out to those in dire need, especially women and children. She said this helps them cast off the shackles of poverty and illness and gain a foothold into a place of health and self-determination.

In an interview after the service, Mancuso said, "This was a day for nurses to come together to celebrate the critical role we play in the world." She also commented on the United Na-





tions' eight Millennium Development Goals, highlighted during the service, saying they were congruent with Nightingale's aspirations and vision during the 19th century.

"At the same time we were celebrating all that nurses have done, we were also grounding ourselves in how much we have yet to do to ensure health for all the people of the world," Mancuso said.

The event was organized by the Nightingale Initiative for Global Health, Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing and the Florence Nightingale Museum, all founders of the International Year of the Nurse project.

To view a video of the ceremony, visit [nationalcathedral.org](http://nationalcathedral.org). To learn more about the International Year of the Nurse, visit [2010inyurse.net](http://2010inyurse.net).

Photos: 1. Susie Kim, from left, APRN, president emeritus, Seoul Cyber University, and CEO, Korean Association of Psychosocial Rehabilitation for Mentally Ill; Leslie D. Mancuso, RN, president and CEO, JHREGO, an affiliate of Johns Hopkins University; Deva-Marie Beck, RN, international co-director, Nightingale Initiative for Global Health; Wayne B. Jonas, MD, president, Samueli Institute, Alexandria, Va.; Barbara M. Dossey, RN, international co-director, NIGH; and Beverly Malone, RN, CEO, National League for Nursing. - 2. Mancuso addresses the congregation. - 3. Patricia E. Thompson, RN, CEO, Sigma Theta Tau International, invites the offering for the Girl Child Education Fund. - 4. Offering prayers of petition and thanksgiving are, from left, Dossey; Doris Grinspun, RN, executive director, Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario; and Kim. - 5. Nurses view two original letters written by Florence Nightingale. Gannett Healthcare Group, publisher of Nursing Spectrum and NurseWeek, purchased the letters from a private collection in 2009. - 6. Teri Gaffney, RN, from left; Robert Hess, RN; and Judith Mitiguy, RN, of Gannett Healthcare Group - a gold sponsor of the event - and Dawn Wallerstedt, CRNP, scientific program manager, Samueli Institute - a platinum sponsor. - 7. National Student Nurses Association representatives from the U.S. and Canada. - 8. Karen H. Morin, RN, president, Sigma Theta Tau International, passes the light of nursing knowledge to a student.

Photos by Keith Weller

