

Karen Bussey is the founder and director of Mother Teresa House. She has a Masters in Social Work from Michigan State University with a Gerontology cognate and completed the Certification Program in Health Care Ethics with the

National Catholic Bioethics Center in 2020.

Karen Bussey of Lansing, MI, perceived the need for a more holistic approach to the care of the terminally ill based on understanding the dying person's inherent dignity. She is a consecrated virgin whom God called to provide "a place where people who had no family or hospital care could go to be cherished and treasured." With the assistance of the local diocese, she opened Mother Teresa House in 1997, shortly after the passing of the patroness for whom the home was named. Hospice nurses visit the residents as needed, but volunteers provide round-the-clock care working

3-6 hour shifts to complete a 24- hour cycle of care. Volunteers are required to exhibit a "willingness to be with a sick person, to learn to sit with the suffering face-to-face, knowing that the person being cared for is dying... challenging them to set their daily cares aside so that they can focus on the guest they have come to serve." Ms. Bussey operates the facility in full compliance with the ethical and religious directives of the USCCB.

- Dr. John Lane shared these insights about Karen and her model of care in a 2014 article in Issue Four of the Quarterly Review of the Pontifical John Paul II Institute.