

April 11, 2019**Immediate Release****Contact:** JoAnn Cavanaugh, Director Public Relations**Office:** (716) 706-2061 | **Cell:** (716) 228-4886 | **Email:** jcav@chsbuffalo.org

Catholic Health to Become Sole Owner of Sterling Surgical Center

With an eye toward growing outpatient surgical services in southern Erie County, Catholic Health has filed plans with the New York State Department of Health to become the sole owner of Sterling Surgical Center, LLC, a multi-specialty ambulatory surgery center in Orchard Park, NY. Catholic Health acquired a 40 percent stake in the independent outpatient center in 2017. The transfer of ownership is expected to take about 90 days to complete as part of the state's Certificate of Need review process.

"We're committed to meeting our patients' needs where they want to receive care, whether it's providing great inpatient care for Southtowns residents at Mercy Hospital of Buffalo or exploring ways to meet the growing demand for outpatient care," said Mark Sullivan, President & CEO of Catholic Health. "We look forward to working with the physicians and staff at Sterling Surgical to expand services at the site to provide safe, high quality ambulatory surgery where our patients live and work."

Sterling Surgical opened in 2002, primarily focusing on outpatient Ophthalmology and Gastroenterology procedures. Today the center, which employs 28 clinical and administrative professionals, sees about 6,500 patients each year and perform about 8,600 surgeries annually.

Patricia Davis, President & CEO of Sterling Surgical Center and majority owner of the facility, felt the time was right to make this transition. "Catholic Health has been a trusted partner for the past 16 months and has strong ties to the Southtowns community," she said. "I know I am leaving the center in extremely capable and caring hands. We will spend the next few months working together to make this a seamless transition for our patients, physicians, and staff."

With the Mercy Ambulatory Care Center in Orchard Park; a Southtowns radiation oncology center partnership with Roswell Park and Buffalo Medical Group; and other outpatient centers in West Seneca, East Aurora and Lackawanna, the sole ownership of Sterling Surgical will expand Catholic Health's ambulatory presence in southern Erie County.

"This is a natural progression for Catholic Health as we continue to expand services in a community that has relied on us to provide high quality healthcare for generations," Sullivan continued. "We're eager to add to the complement of procedures currently offered at Sterling Surgical Center to make these services more comfortable, convenient and accessible for area patients and their families."