

March 30, 2005 Wednesday
in Easter Week

Statement by the Rector and Vestry of St. John the Evangelist Church
Regarding Saint Luke's Hospital, San Francisco

When the Rev. Dr. Thomas Brotherton, M.D., rector of the Episcopal Church of Saint John the Evangelist, founded St. Luke's Hospital in 1871, he was clear about its mission: *"St. Luke's doors are open wide for the reception of all colors, nationalities and creeds. Its benefits, refused to none, will be limited only by its means."* When St. Luke's affiliated with Sutter Health in 2001, it did so with the understanding that Father Brotherton's vision would not be compromised, and that the hospital's commitment to community-based, accessible, culturally competent health care would be enhanced.

As the founding parish of Saint Luke's Hospital, which remains an institution of the Episcopal Diocese of California, we call upon Sutter Health to renew its commitment to St. Luke's original vision to serve the poor in San Francisco's Mission District and surrounding neighborhoods. We know firsthand how important St. Luke's Hospital is to the quality of life of our neighborhood. It provides essential services that make the difference between life and death, hope and despair, for many of our neighbors.

As a public witness to its continued faithfulness to St. Luke's mission, we call upon Sutter Health to fulfill its social obligations as a non-profit institution by taking the following actions:

- Provide structures for community input in planning for the hospital's future
- Preserve St. Luke's core set of inpatient and outpatient services
- Maintain St. Luke's current level of care for the uninsured
- Ensure culturally and linguistically appropriate services for our community's diverse population, including chaplaincy services
- Fully disclose hospital finances so that the public can be assured that Sutter Health is fulfilling its social contract as a non-profit institution

We look to Sutter Health to support St. Luke's mission and preserve, if not enhance, its core services.