



### **Virtua Cardiothoracic Surgery: Experience & Leadership**

Earlier this year, Arthur T. Martella, MD, Virtua's chief of cardiothoracic surgery, performed his 1,000<sup>th</sup> robotic-assisted heart surgery. He is among an elite group of surgeons, nationally and internationally, to achieve this milestone.

"We are fortunate to have a surgeon as skilled and experienced as Dr. Martella performing such advanced procedures so close to home. When Virtua and Lourdes came together last year, we considered the cardiothoracic program, led by Dr. Martella, to be among the most important and complementary services we could now offer to a wider community. Dr. Martella's achievement reinforces our belief that Virtua and Lourdes are truly better together," said Virtua Health EVP and Chief Clinical Officer Reginald Blaber, MD, FACC, MBA.

Dr. Martella strives to provide the highest-quality outcomes through the least-invasive methods. His clinical outcomes demonstrate the advantages that robotic surgical systems and other enabling technologies provide to both providers and patients. For surgeons, the robotic equipment offers greater flexibility, visualization, and precision – which often benefits patients through less pain, reduced risk of infection, faster recovery, and minimal scarring. Dr. Martella and the Virtua team perform common, though highly complex, robotic procedures, including mitral valve repair or replacement, lead placement for pacemakers and defibrillators, and coronary artery bypass graft (CABG) surgery.

In addition to robotics, the cardiothoracic team has been working with Virtua's interventionalists to expand the use of hybrid coronary revascularization options. According to Dr. Martella, the hybrid approach "offers the best of both worlds by combining coronary stenting with minimally invasive approaches that reduce risk for complications and speed recovery for patients." This translates into shorter intubation times, fewer days in ICU, quicker return to activities and better overall patient satisfaction. He adds that this less-invasive approach is potentially available to a much larger group of patients.