



St. Joseph's Hospital, Elmira

Nurses Carrying Wagon

St. Joseph Sisters - Elmira's 'Angels of Mercy'

255 patients receive modern medical and surgical care in St. Joseph's Hospital. Three clinics, nursing school, interns program provide up-to-date services to community.

ST. JOSEPH'S HOSPITAL, located in Elmira, Southern Tier city of the Rochester Diocese, was founded in 1908 under the direction of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Rochester.

It was Dr. Daniel P. Murphy who first advanced the suggestion for a Catholic hospital in Elmira. He carried his plea to Reverend Mother Agnes, then the superior of the congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph.

As the Sisters of St. Joseph were primarily a teaching order and were totally unprepared for this work, the plea was not enthusiastically received, but later when Mother Agnes was convinced of the need, she promised to send Sisters to undertake the hospital founding. Realizing the magnitude of the problem, Mother Agnes prayed for direction and selected the first Sister entering the chapel (Sister Rose Alice) as administrator.

A building then known as the "Academy of the Angels" was purchased and remodeling began. At the time of its opening, September 24, 1908, it had a capacity of thirty-five beds and all of the work including the nursing was done by the Sisters themselves.

Sister Rose Alice served in the capacity of administrator until her death, May 1, 1939. With the assistance of Sister Jerome, Sister St. Ann, Sister Ruth, Sister Caroline and Sister

Hedwige, she founded a hospital that is now a flourishing institution extending charitable nursing care to God's sick both within the city of Elmira and the surrounding communities.

But the task was not easy, and the years between were difficult. It was only by the undaunted faith, courage and sacrifices of those early nuns with the support of the loyal citizens of Elmira that the goal was finally achieved.

The growth of the hospital, however, was so rapid that the original facilities proved inadequate within the first few years. The first annex was erected on High Street in 1915 for surgical, medical and obstetrical patients increasing the capacity to seventy-five beds. This building of two floors has recently been remodeled into a modern obstetrical unit.

AS THE YEARS passed, advances in scientific medicine created a demand for greater and more modern hospital facilities. In 1922, St. Joseph's opened a new and complete surgical building containing six modern operating rooms, pathological laboratories and a complete X-Ray unit, with four wards, six semi-private wards and thirty-one attractively furnished rooms and three

This expansion of clinical facilities increased the enrollment in the school of nursing and the problem of more adequate housing and facilities for the education of students arose. A number of separate residences had been purchased for this purpose but were now inadequate.

In 1931 a most generous donation from Mr. Edward J. Dunn, a long standing friend of the hospital, made possible the construction of a nurses' residence.

Immediately after the completion of the nurses' residence, a new medical building was started and completed in 1932. At this time the original hospital was demolished.

St. Joseph's Hospital, from its humble beginning of a small hospital of thirty-five beds and a nursing school of four students has grown and expanded into the splendid institution as we know it today, a hospital of two hundred and fifty-five beds and a nursing school averaging one hundred students.

During these years of hospital expansion, a deep x-ray department, a coffee shoppe, a modern laundry and a new laboratory were added. At present the hospital and school occupies an entire city block.

With the growing of nursing service, similar strides have been made in education. Simultaneously with the development of the hospital, has run the progress of the nursing school. Fully approved by the Board of Regents of New York State, its graduates are prepared to take their place in community nursing including hospital, private duty, industrial, school and public health services.

THE HOSPITAL, also, boasts of an approved interns program and has recently furnished a medical library for its staff. It also has approval for laboratory and x-ray courses for students interested in these specialties.

It serves the community through the medium of three clinics—Catholic Family Service Foster Children Clinic, Joseph S. Lewis Tumor Clinic, and the Plastic Surgery Clinic.

Today, as St. Joseph's Hospital approaches the half-century mark under the administration of Sister Margaret Adelaide and a staff of thirty-two sisters and five hundred lay persons, it is still advancing toward greater goals.

Manger Rochester HOTEL

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE

Sisters of ST. JOSEPH

100 YEARS

Of Service To The Diocese of Rochester

ONCE UPON A TIME A LITTLE student, whose father was an automobile mechanic, was given a BIG book by a Sister of Saint Joseph. . . .

It was a beautiful book, full of pretty pictures and most any little student would have enjoyed it from cover to cover. . . .

But this little student just couldn't take her eyes off the Sister, as she seemed to float silently about the room. . . .

And that night in her prayers, after "God bless Mamma and God bless Papa," she added a prayer just for herself. . . .

"and please God," she pleaded with eyes blinked tight, "make me fly like my Sister, without a motor."

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