

St. Mary's Hospital 'Citadel of Faith'

Bishop James E. Kearney opened centennial observances of St. Mary's Hospital, Rochester's first permanent hospital, at a solemn Mass Sunday in Sacred Heart Cathedral.

Sisters of Charity who staff the hospital, student nurses, doctors and members of the hospital lay groups attended the jubilee Mass, first in a series of events marking the 100th anniversary of Rochester's oldest hospital.

Bishop Kearney, after celebrating the pontifical afternoon Mass, told a crowded cathedral audience that the pioneer band of three Charity nuns established St. Mary's to be a "citadel of faith, hope, and charity."

Hearing the Bishop were Sisters of Charity from Syracuse and Buffalo, nuns of the many communities in the Rochester Diocese, and the administrators of Rochester hospitals General, Genesee, Strong Memorial, Park and Highland.

BISHOP KEARNEY described St. Mary's Hospital as a "citadel of faith" where "the great Healer, the great Physician of the hillsides of Galilee" continues His care for the bodies and souls of the sick.

The Bishop also termed the hospital a "citadel of hope" where patients hope not only for physical recovery, but follow the example of our Lord in the Garden of Gethsemane and trust that a "far more beautiful" life awaits the patient who steps from the Sisters' Hospital into eternity.

Priority is not a mere title for the Sisters who staff St. Mary's, said the Bishop, but has been demonstrated through the century in the day-to-day service of nuns, doctors, and nurses at the 100-year old institution.

Highlight of their century of charity was the sum of a million dollars in erecting the present six-story building to serve the sick of the Rochester area, Bishop Kearney stated.

Assisting Bishop Kearney in the pontifical ceremony were priests of the Rochester Diocese and also Rev. Thomas O'Connor, C.M. who served as chaplain at the Ermitage Motherhouse of the Charity nuns.

Rev. Francis J. Dadd, Vincentian superior over the Sisters of Charity, and Rt. Rev. Abbot Walter Helmstetter, O.C.S.O., of Our Lady of the Genesee Abbey, Piffard, were in the sanctuary for the Mass.

Established originally in two stone stables, the hospital today is a 335-bed six story structure.

with construction already under way to expand its facilities.

Last year the hospital cared for over 42,000 patients, and current plans will allow for an eventual annual total of 50,000, according to Sister Martina, Hospital administrator.

Bishop's Portrait Unveiling Listed

A new portrait in oils of His Excellency Bishop Kearney will be unveiled at St. John Fisher College on Monday, May 20 by the Very Rev. John F. Murphy, C.S.B., college president.

The painting is the work of local artist John C. Dienhan and was presented to the college by Jeremiah G. Hickey Sr. in memory of his late wife, Constance J. Hickey.

Bishop Kearney will pontificate at Mass and bless the senior class rings in the college auditorium prior to the unveiling ceremony.

Breakfast will follow in the cafeteria.

Carmelite Veil To Be Received By Rochesterian

Sister Teresa of Jesus (Cynthia Marie Balconi) daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Henry F. Balconi of 2219 South Clinton Ave., Rochester, will make her solemn profession as a Discalced Carmelite nun in the Carmel of St. Therese of Lisieux, Loretto, Pa., today, May 10.

Relatives and friends will attend the public veiling ceremony in the Chapel of the Loretto Carmel on Thursday, May 16 following the high Mass at 9 a. m.

Sister Teresa of Jesus graduated from Our Lady of Mercy High School, Rochester, in June 1932 and entered Carmel on August 15 of the same year. She received the Holy Habit of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel on May 9, 1933 and made her temporary profession on May 10, 1934.

Dr. and Mrs. Balconi also have another daughter, a cloistered Dominican nun in the Monastery of the Perpetual Rosary at Elmira.

Girls High Schools List Registration Dates

Official registration for the next Fall term will be held simultaneously in Nazareth Academy, Our Lady of Mercy High School and St. Agnes High School on the following three days:

- Friday, May 17 from 3 p.m. to 9 p.m.
- Saturday, May 18 from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.
- Sunday, May 19 from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.

All eighth grade girls planning to enter one of the above schools next September must register during the official registration days. At the time of registration each girl must be accompanied by either a parent or guardian.

Monsignor Charles V. Boyle
Superintendent of Schools



'Our Lady of the Smile'—a copy of miraculous French statue which smiled to St. Therese, Carmelite nun known as the Little Flower of Jesus—stands in Rochester's Holy Family convent garden, typical of May shrines decked with Spring blossoms to honor the Mother of God.

Our Lady Of The Smile

By ROBERT SMETT

In a quiet corner of the garden at Rochester's Holy Family Convent is a statue of the Blessed Virgin with the unusual title of 'Our Lady of the Smile.'

The statue was purchased in Canada and presented to the convent some years ago by the mother of one of the Sisters of Notre Dame who staff Holy Family School.

The image portrays God's Mother with her hands outstretched, standing on the globe of the world and crushing the reptile representing Satan.

It is copied from a sterling silver statue of Our Lady cast in Paris in 1750 for the Church of St. Sulpice.

But it is another copy of the statue, much like the one in the Sisters' garden, rather than the original which has a remarkable history.

Seventy-four years ago, on May 13, 1863, a little girl named Therese Martin, later to be known as St. Therese, the Little Flower, lay dying in the family home in Lisieux, France.

For weeks doctors had tried to help the little ten-year-old who had fallen victim to a strange and untreatable fever. Gradually the blonde, blue-eyed youngster lapsed into delirium. The end seemed near.

As the last ray of hope seemed to dim, Therese's three older sisters spontaneously dropped to their knees. They turned their eyes to a beautiful statue of Our Lady placed at the bedside of the dying child and begged the Blessed Mother for a cure.

Aware of what her sisters were doing, Therese tried to rally enough strength to join in their prayer. In her autobiography, she writes: "Utterly exhausted, and finding no help on earth, I sought my Heavenly Mother's aid and entreated her with my whole heart to have pity on me."

Suddenly Our Lady's statue, looking down on the feverish patient, became animated. Mary's countenance grew bright. Her lips moved. She smiled. At that very instant, the Little Flower was miraculously cured.

ST. THERESE herself recounts the moment in her life's story: "Suddenly the statue became animated and radiantly beautiful... with divine beauty that no words can convey... but what penetrated to the

very depths of my soul was Our Lady's gracious smile."

Twice before her death at the age of 16 in 1877 the Little Flower's mother was granted visible signs of Our Lady's affection when praying before her statue. As a result, this image of Mary became an especially loved treasure of Monsieur Martin and his five daughters.

Each morning the girls knelt before the statue to ask Mary's blessing. Family rosary, May devotions, Christmas ceremonies, night prayers, in fact every practice of spiritual life, centered around this beautiful image of God's Mother.

So strong was the devotion of the Little Flower's household to "Our Lady of the Smile" that St. Therese's mother, before her death on August 28, 1877, pleaded insistently: "Never let this statue be taken from our family."

THIS MONDAY, on the feast of Our Lady of the Smile, the Sisters of Holy Family Convent will gather before their garden statue of the Blessed Mother to pray "... that in all places and at all times the Mother of God may smile her favor upon us!"

On any countenance, a pleasant smile is a universal sign of approval. But on the incomparable lips of Mary, a smile is the unfailing Sign of Grace, of Unbounded Love—of Final Perseverance.

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SECOND CENTURY of service to the sick was launched by St. Mary Hospital with the celebration of the 100th anniversary Mass by His Excellency Bishop Kearney in Sacred Heart Cathedral last Sunday. Bishop Kearney also delivered the sermon.

Bishop To Bless Spencerport School

Bishop James E. Kearney will bless Spencerport's new eight room parochial school building and auditorium this Sunday, May 12, at 12 o'clock noon.

THE JUST completed school for St. John the Evangelist parish, according to Rev. Francis E. Hester, pastor. Parishioners and villagers are invited to inspect the school which has a capacity of 400 pupils.

Built by the Anthony LeCasse Corporation, construction and equipment costs have totaled \$340,000, said Father Hester. Currently 235 pupils are enrolled in the Spencerport school.

St. Francis Xavier School '32 Class Slates Reunion

The 1932 graduating class of or husbands. Dinner will be served from 7:45 to 9 p.m. Music will begin at 10 p.m. at the Hospitality House, 2226 Penfield Road, and continue until 2 a.m.

Chairman Charles Siragusa, will open the program. The party will begin with a gram and George F. Lawless, reception from 6:30 to 7:30 for chairman will give the invocation. They are being assisted by Mrs. Ann Zarcane Platania, Miss Mary Perrone, Mrs. Geraldine Keenan Walsh, Mrs. Madeline Napoli Ange, Mrs. Emma Dilling Fisher, Steve D. Girolomo, and Philip St. George.

Members of the class seeking further information may contact any one of the committee members.

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