

# Tranquilizers Replace Strait Jackets

By REV. L. JAMES CALLAN  
Chaplain  
Rochester State Hospital

Religion does not just exist by toleration or permission in the modern Mental Hospital. It comes with the patient into the hospital, is with him while he is here and stays with him when he leaves. The hospital takes advantage of this fact that here is one of the great basic strengths of life and health, and tries to reinforce it while one is a patient here.

And while all will acknowledge this truth, it is of course the particular role of the priest assigned as chaplain to re-emphasize and renew this in the lives of those in his charge.

What has created an entirely false impression, and indeed has obscured the whole picture of mental illness, is the sensational emphasis of movie, novel, and daily paper on the dramatic impact of violence, fear and abuse. The "Snake Pit" narrative may have served in its day to call attention to the terrifying, but in doing so it completely ignored the dedication

A chapel honoring St. Jude will be built to serve patients at the Rochester State Hospital. Launching the project will be a Mass at the Hospital this morning, Friday, at 9 a.m. Monsignor John E. Maney will be celebrant, assisted by Father L. James Callan, chaplain. The accompanying article is the third in a series explaining the role of religion in the treatment of mental patients. Other articles will appear in subsequent issues of the Courier.

of thousands of professional people and the great humane care they gave to the sick.

An actual revolution in treatment, care and dramatic result has gone on for a decade in our mental hospitals, yet an astonishing number of people don't even know about it. In the minds of many, the strait-jacket is still the symbol of mental illness.

Religion in the State Hospital is all too often judged by this same "strait-jacket" mentality. So it comes not only as a surprise but a revelation of sorts to realize that almost half the Catholic patients in the Rochester State Hospital go to

Confession and Communion on a monthly basis, that is about 700 of a total of 1500 — that about 380 will go to Mass on Sundays and holidays in the hospital auditorium, with many others going to the neighboring parish or their home parishes. An average of some 200-250 will also attend Mass in the same auditorium on First Fridays.

But there is a more sensitive, even more critical area of need, in the sudden agony of doubt and fear and emptiness which can afflict the life of any man or woman or child. There is the sometimes desperate need to know that life has meaning, purpose and goal, and that God has not forgotten, and that "I can do this with God's help." The techniques and art of the psychiatrist are absolutely necessary, without question. No one can overlook their importance. But skilled as he may be and necessary, he does not supply to man the values and prin-

cles by which he can live. Only religion can do this.

So man comes into the hospital. He does not come in without his faith. He may come in as a daily communicant, or as a stranger to a faith he may have neglected. He may be learned or ignorant of its teachings. He may be strong or weak, all doubt or certain. He may be innocent or full of weaknesses. He may be in an agony of error and mistaken judgment or a hell of remorse and guilt. And he is sick. Now there is the task of consoling, counseling, correcting—or renewing, directing and guiding—of strengthening, rebuilding and fortifying. This is not done by tens or twenties or hundreds. It is done, one person at a time, as the need exists and the degree possible. It is done by the priest a thousand times in his parish. Here it is done at a time when the need is acute and pressing and must be done skillfully.

We want the Catholic not just to find renewal here but to leave the Hospital aware of his faith, practicing it, supported by it, anxious to find his strength in it and live by it. It is a task which in the Mental Hospital runs the gamut from child to old man, from teenager through the twenties and the mature years, from the problems of marriage and family to the problems of weakness, addiction and failure. And all these are set against a background of self-castigation and the crisis of depression and need.

From the community more and more frequently come the calls for advice and counsel and support, as though there were a growing awareness that much more can be done. And the need for the priest today to be more aware and skilled in coping with these problems becomes more evident each day.

It is a never ending task which is never done perfectly. The grace of the Sacraments and Mass, the human skills of the priest, and the familiar surroundings of the altar and the Blessed Sacrament are the essentials. The first two are present here at the Rochester State Hospital but not the third.

Missing is the very refuge itself—the Church with all its familiar elements of altar, sanctuary, Stations of the Cross, the presence of the Blessed Sacrament. Missing is the quiet, the peace, the comfort in the presence of God.

The need exists seven days a week in fitting and proper surroundings—a place for daily Mass, a place to pray, to remember and renew ideals and resolves. We hope that the Chapel of Saint Jude will supply the need.

## Storefront

### Clinic in Brooklyn

Brooklyn—(NC)—Moved by the need to bring medicine to the people immediately, the Brooklyn diocese will open New York City's first storefront medical clinic within the next six weeks.

Msgr. James H. Fitzpatrick, director of the health and hospital division of Brooklyn Catholic Charities, also announced three additional clinics will be opened in deprived neighborhoods in Brooklyn and Queens in the next few months.

The novel clinics will be staffed by personnel attached to "mother-hospitals" operated by the Brooklyn diocese in these areas. Each clinic will have six doctors, four nurses, a clerk and a social worker. They will include treatment rooms, x-ray equipment and facilities for immediate laboratory work. Msgr. Fitzpatrick said the clinics will treat between 500 and 700 patients a week with a minimum of waiting time.

"It is necessary to break down the walls and get medicine to the community. The hospital must move outside its own walls to truly serve the community and make their special personnel and facilities more effectively available to those who need them," he said.

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### Vietnam Chaplain Honored

Father Gerard J. Gefell, a lieutenant colonel paratrooper chaplain in Vietnam, was recently honored for completing more than 100 air trips to accompany troops to battle sites. Chaplain Theodore Koepke, at right, made the presentation in Saigon. Father Gefell, in a letter to the Courier, asked for prayers for the safety of U.S. military personnel in their hazardous duties.

## Bishop Kearney's Appointments

NOVEMBER

- 4 Friday—St. Joseph Church—St. Monica Sodality Mass—9 a.m.
- 5 Saturday—Mercy Motherhouse—L.F.C.A. Mass in honor of Our Lady—8:30 a.m.
- 6 Sunday—St. Mary of the Lake Church, Ontario—Blessing of new church—10:30 a.m.  
Sacred Heart Cathedral—Confirmation—3 p.m. and 4:30 p.m.
- 7 Monday—St. Francis of Assisi Church—Confirmation—7:30 p.m.
- 8 Tuesday—St. Mark Church—Confirmation—7:30 p.m.
- 9 Wednesday—St. Anthony Church—Confirmation—7:30 p.m.
- 11 Friday—Good Counsel College, White Plains — Month's Mind Mass for Dr. Leo I. Kearney
- 13-19—Washington, D.C.—Annual Meeting of the American Bishops
- 20 Sunday—St. Cecilia Church, New York City—Alumni Mass and Breakfast
- 26 Saturday—Nazareth Hall Cadet School—Confirmation — 10 a.m.—Manger Hotel—Seton Banquet—7 p.m.
- 27 Sunday—St. Joseph Church—Sibley Employees' Mass and Breakfast—9 a.m.  
St. Philip Neri Church—Confirmation—3 p.m.  
Most Precious Blood Church—Confirmation—5 p.m.
- 28 Monday—St. Plus X Church—Confirmation—7:30 p.m.
- 29 Tuesday—St. Andrew Church — Confirmation — 7:30 p.m.
- 30 Wednesday—Sheraton Hotel—Serra Club Banquet—7 p.m.

## U.S. Catholic Parishes In 16 Church Councils

New York—(RNS)—Councils of Churches which include Roman Catholics as well as Protestant and Orthodox congregations in their membership are to be found in at least 16 communities across the nation, according to statistics released by the National Council of Churches here.

Latest Council to "go ecumenical" is the Council of Churches of Greater Seattle. Six parishes of the Catholic Archdiocese of Seattle have accepted invitations to join the council on the same basis of financial support and delegated lay activity as the Protestant members.

Archbishop Thomas A. Conolly of Seattle declared that Catholic membership in the interdenominational body "constitutes a step in the right direction; that it successfully crowns our cordial relationship in various ecumenical activities over the past few years."

The archbishop's statement reflects the contention of Dr. John B. Ketcham, executive di-

rector of the NCC's Department for Councils of Churches. Dr. Ketcham, who attempts to keep records on the ecumenical activities of councils, stated that the trend toward Catholic membership in the previously all-Protestant councils was stimulated by Catholics and Protestants working together in joint projects.

"All of these represent developments since 1964—most of them since January of this year," Dr. Ketcham said. He pointed out that statistics in this field "are out of date as soon as they can be compiled."

In Texas, for instance, Catholic dioceses are considering applications for membership in local councils. Similar consideration is underway in such areas as Yonkers, N.Y.; Kansas City, Mo., and Elyria, Ohio.

Dr. Ketcham pointed out that in some cases the entrance of Catholics into the councils required name changes, particularly if "Protestant" was a part of the original title.

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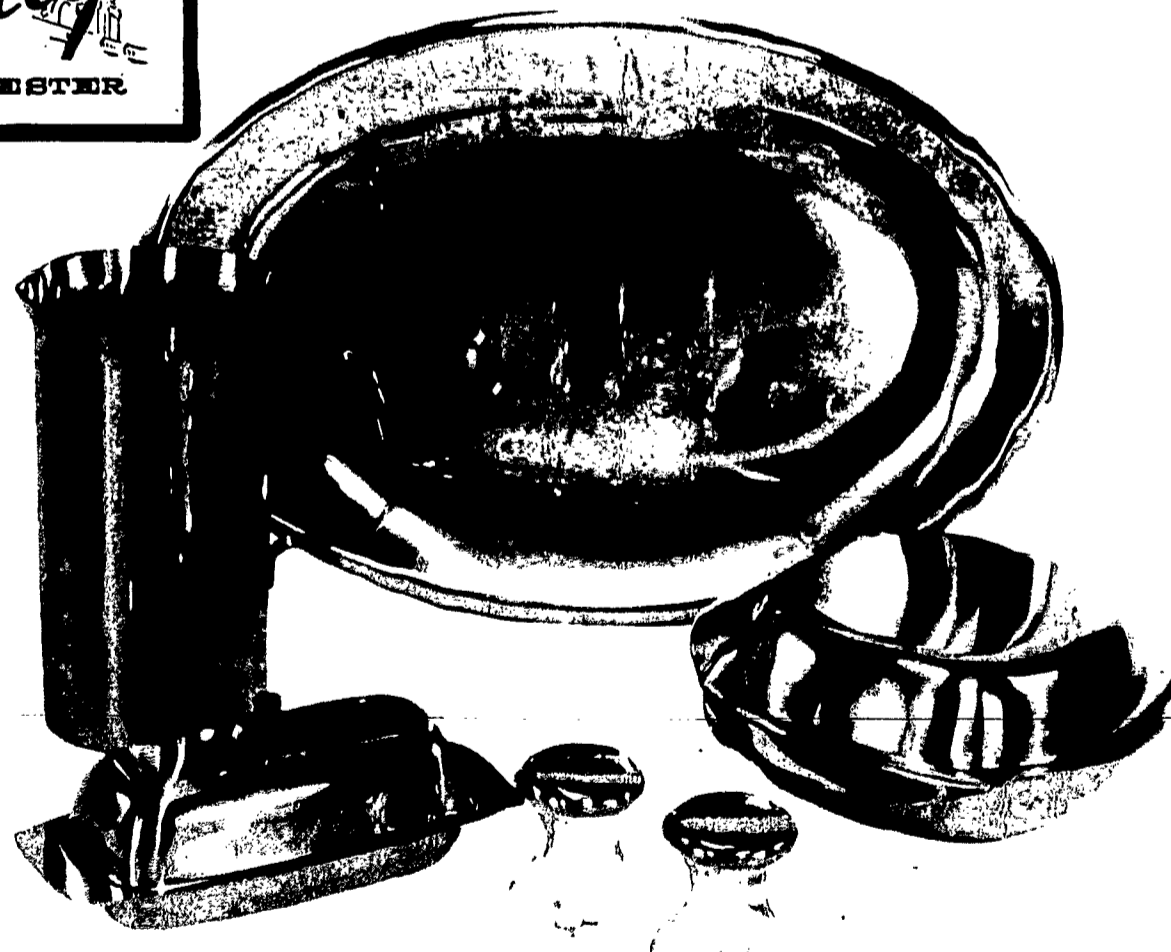
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