

Lutheran Hospital Site For Pastoral Training

Techny, Ill. — (RNS) — The course is titled simply "Pastoral Theology-Special Course 556-A: Pastoral Care of the Sick" and one would hardly guess that it is one of the most unusual ecumenical programs ever given to Roman Catholic seminarians.

Offered here by the Divine Word Seminary, the 10-week course is conducted at Lutheran General Hospital at nearby Park Ridge, Ill. First presented on an experimental basis last Spring, the course is now listed in the school's curriculum.

Thus Divine Word seminarians gain a working knowledge of what might be expected of them in a typical hospital ministry and have ample opportunity to acquire experience on the floor of a hospital ward.

Working with various members of the hospital staff, seminarians spend three-week periods in the psychiatric, medical and surgical services. At times, a visitor to the hospital would find it difficult to distinguish the members of the medical profession from those of the clergy as the seminarians don surgical caps and gowns to observe operation techniques.

The Rev. Lawrence Holst, director of Lutheran General's Clinical Pastoral program, is responsible for setting up the ecumenical project. Commenting on the pilot-program last Spring from which this year's course evolved, he said:

"The presence of the priests in our program has been very helpful to us in at least two ways: first, it has deepened our ministry to the Catholic patients in our hospital; secondly, it has brought our Lutheran chaplains into a closer personal relationship with our brethren of the Catholic faith.

"We have come to see in this short time how much we can

give to and receive from each other personally and professionally. Institutionally and personally it has been one of our most rewarding experiences at Lutheran General Hospital."

Father Roger Arnold, S.V.D., faculty coordinator for the program, predicted that the course would help to eliminate two weaknesses in seminary formation: "the lack of consistent contact with people and an almost exclusively 'textbook' approach in dealing with human problems."

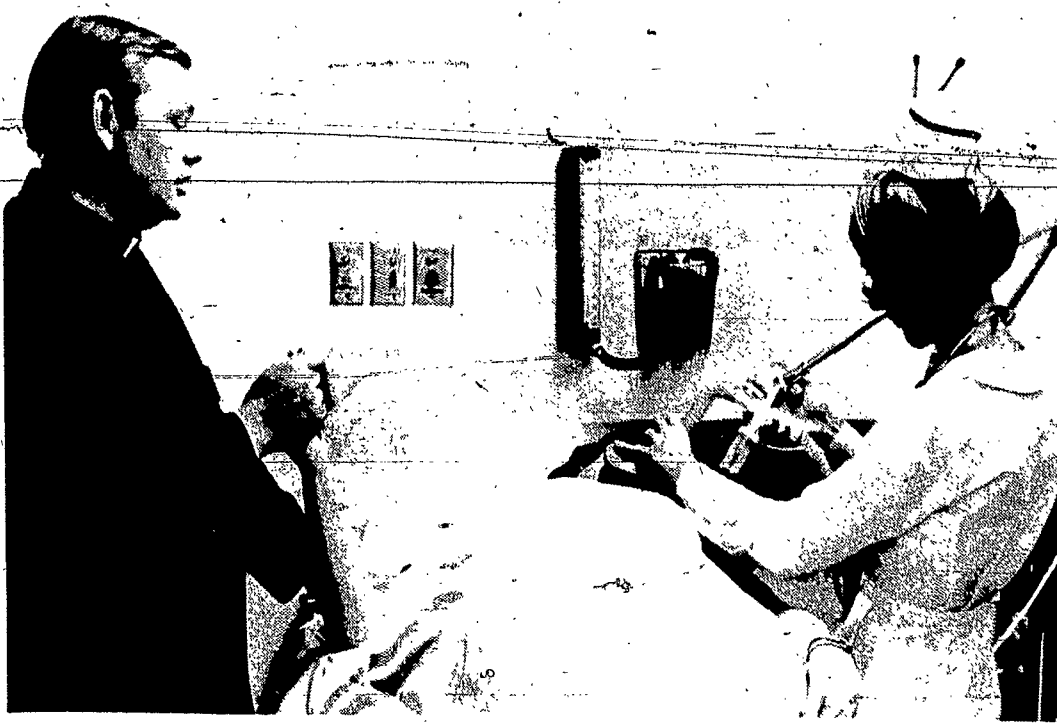
"Our men," he said, "meet and work with the resident Lutheran ministers on a person-to-person, day-to-day basis, thus avoiding the superficiality of many present-day 'lecture-discussion' ecumenical meetings. The patients at Lutheran General take these seminarians from the abstractness of theology texts and brings them face to face with the hard facts of personal pain and death.

"We hope that both these experiences will heighten the sensitivity of our young men and, in so doing, make their future ministry more effective."

Six priests were enrolled in the six-week pilot program. This year the entire 22-member class will take the course, divided into one group of six students and two groups of eight.

According to Mr. Holst, the seminarians, or "priest-interns" as they are called, receive on-the-job training in observing the hospital's "team approach" to healing the sick.

The hospital emphasizes the study and treatment of the total human being, he noted, attempting to heal the "person" rather than merely curing his physical or emotional ills. The healing process may necessitate the services of surgeon, psychiatrist, nurse, social worker, or spiritual counselor, or of all five combined, he said.



Park Ridge, Ill. — Father Vince Ohlinger of Panama, Iowa, is one of 22 Divine Word seminarians serving as priest-interns at Lutheran General Hospital where they are studying the pastoral care of the sick. The seminarian is shown calming a patient as oxygen is administered by Nurse Joanne Czagy. Launched last year, the clinical pastoral training program gives seminarians a working knowledge of what to expect in a typical hospital ministry. They attend seminars on counseling, ministering to the alcoholic and emotionally ill, and get first-hand knowledge of medical, surgical and psychiatric services. (RNS Photo)



Park Ridge, Ill. — Two Divine Word seminarians taking a ten-week course on pastoral care of the sick at Lutheran General Hospital, Park Ridge, Ill., are briefed on surgical procedures they will be observing as part of their on-the-job training. From left are: Father Edward Delaney of Dubois, Pa.; Pastor Arthur O. Bicke, supervisor of chaplains at the hospital; Mrs. Patricia Heuer, head surgical nurse; and Father Walter Miller of Ottawa, Ill. Launched in 1966 when only six Divine Word priests were enrolled, the course this year is being attended by the entire 22-member class, divided into one group of six seminarians, and two groups of eight students. (RNS Photo)

Cardinal Still A Great M.C.

Boston — (NC) — Richard Cardinal Cushing did it again—played host to some 1,200 men and women ranging in age from the 60s to the 90s at a daytime dinner in Blnstrub's night club.

As the Boston archbishop has done for years, he "emceed" the entertainment—also gave a demonstration of a few of the latest rock 'n' roll steps, and strummed "Bye-Bye Blues" on a guitar (Nov. 26).

It was the cardinal's annual Thanksgiving dinner of turkey and all the trimmings for the elderly. He passed out stuffed animals, some of which he said were "loaded with fifties," to those who entertained with dances, poem recitations and skits.


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Park Ridge, Ill. — Father Lothar Kretz of Roetgen, Germany, shares a lonely vigil with a distraught mother in the emergency waiting room at Lutheran General Hospital, Park Ridge, Ill. The priest is one of 22 Divine Word seminarians receiving on-the-job training in clinical pastoral ministry at the hospital. During the ten-week course, the priest-interns participate in the hospital's "team approach" to healing the sick. The healing process may necessitate the services of a surgeon, psychiatrist, nurse, social worker and spiritual counselor. (RNS Photo)

Bishop Urges Laity Action

Hitchin, England — (NC) — The revolution in the Catholic Church which the Second Vatican Council started will not be completed until the laity exercises a fully responsible role in the life of the Church, a bishop said in a talk at St. Michael's College here.

Describing the Church before the council as a cone with all initiative coming from above from the Pope through the bishops to priests, Auxiliary Bishop Basil Christopher Butler, O.S.B., of Westminster said the laity was on the receiving end with the function of providing the money and doing what they were told.

However, he said that the

council Fathers had asked for total reorganization of the Church, allowing the laity to exercise initiative, too. The bishop stressed the importance of parish councils, which, he said, should not be mere discussion groups but should take responsibility for policy in parish activities.

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Paulist Press Publishes Dialogues

New York — (NC) — The Paulist Press and the National Council of Churches of Christ in the U.S.A. announced publication of "Second Living Room Dialogues," a continuation of an original ecumenical publishing project in the United States.

The book examines problems such as race relations; world poverty, war and peace, the new morality and other areas where Christian principles need to be applied. To be used as a discussion guide by groups of Catholic and Protestant laymen, "Second Living Room Dialogues" urges participants to make to the world a Christian response that has been nurtured within their religious groups. In this way Catholics, Orthodox and Protestants are made more aware of their essential Christian unity, the book states.

The Paulist Press and the National Council of Churches launched the first volume of "Living Room Dialogues" in 1965. This book provided a framework in which the laity of various Christian denominations, Catholic, Protestant and Orthodox, could meet and discuss their traditions in order to better understand what separates them in matters of faith and worship and what should unite them.

Easing Restrictions
Berlin — (RNS) — Mayor Klaus Schuets of West Berlin has sent an urgent request to East Berlin authorities for an easing of entry restrictions to permit Christmas visits across the wall, dividing the city.

In a televised speech he said the West Berlin government would act promptly to cooperate in such a gesture.

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