

# Welcome to the Maternity Ward, Dad!

Husbands are now being welcomed at St. Mary's Hospital for the birth, delivery and postpartum care of their children.

They are no longer required to pace back and forth in the lobby, awaiting word from someone that they have become the father of a boy or girl—or twins?

Their new role is part of the hospital's Family Centered Maternity Care Program, which provides a series of pre-natal childbirth classes allowing the father's later presence at all stages of the experience, including the actual delivery.

If the couple wishes to be together, they need only the agreement of the attending physician. Husbands must have attended the childbirth classes; must agree to leave the labor/delivery room if the wife receives medication which will make her unaware of his presence, or if the delivery requires operative procedures, and must be aware of the importance of maintaining the privacy of other patients.

Family-centered postpartum care makes it possible for both



**SISTER STELLA, D.C.**  
Internationally known nurse-midwife

parents to get to know their baby during the hospital stay. Husbands receive extended visiting privileges, from 10 a.m. to 11 p.m., and may hold and feed the baby.

Classes for expectant parents are held throughout the year. The course involves five evenings over a three-week period.

Details of St. Mary's family program were highlighted Feb. 4-5 by a visit of Sister Mary Stella Simpson, D.C., a Daughter of Charity on leave from St. Mary's Hospital, Evansville, Ind. She described the program at a meeting at the hospital for staff members of St. Mary's and other Rochester hospitals and agencies.

Sister Stella started nursing in 1931 when many babies were delivered in homes. In 1935, at the request of her religious community, she became a nurse-midwife in New Mexico, later serving in rural Texas. For several years she has been director of the maternal and child division of the Rural Delta Project in Mississippi, where she helped establish the first comprehensive health care center in a rural poverty area. The center, funded by the federal Office of Economic Opportunity (OEO), serves nearly 20,000 residents in a 500-square-mile area.

Sister will leave the Mississippi center next summer to resume her 37-year nursing career at the University of Mississippi medical center in Jackson. She will be ending 10 years of lecturing around the nation and abroad on family centered maternity care.

"So many hospitals have the program now and know about it, like St. Mary's," she said.

Explaining the need for the program, Sister Stella commented:

"You don't have a family if you don't have them together. Before, by the time the father took the mother and baby home, he had just paid the bill and wondered what his place was."

Referring to her present endeavors, Sister Stella remarked: "I've never understood why people go to foreign countries to volunteer help — there's so much need here."

Sister said that when she started the maternity care system in Mississippi four years ago there were 56.9 deaths per 1,000 births. Nationally there were 20 to 30 per 1,000, she noted.

"It's a poverty area. There was little food and no health care. Many babies were born prematurely, or lost — there was no food for them and they drank water right out of the bayous."

At the new center, nurse-midwives now deliver babies with mothers helping out. "There aren't enough doctors, and we give just as good care if it's a normal delivery."

A cooperative farm, with about 1,100 members, has been started to supply food and work, and residents now are in training to take over the center's professional positions within five years.



**Dr. Joseph Infantino, resident physician, is shown with doting new parents.**



**Mrs. Delta Ferenbaugh, licensed practical nurse, describes for new parents proper care of infants.**



**Sister Kathleen Marie Christopher, D.C., acting supervisor of the medical floor at St. Mary's Hospital, confers with mothers of newborn babies.**

## Soviet Persecution of Jews Described

The issue of Soviet persecution of Jews was dramatized here last week with the arrival of Dr. Esther Aisenstadt and her husband Leizer Nepomnashty.

The couple, both Jews, left Moscow Nov. 6, 1970, to take up residence in Israel. Their appearance here was sponsored by the Jewish Community Council of Rochester.

"Jews have no possibility of living in community in Russia," Dr. Aisenstadt said, even though there are about 3½ million Jews there.

She described the aura of aloofness which alienated her and her husband from their Soviet friends and relatives, when the couple had applied for a permit to leave for Israel.

"Your friends and relatives, they are afraid to have known you, they are afraid of arrests. They look down when you pass them on the street."

Dr. Aisenstadt was professor of philology at Krupskaya Pedagogical Institute in Moscow from 1949-1969, as soon as it became permissible, she applied for an exit permit to Israel. She was allowed to leave in October of last year.

Dr. Aisenstadt and her husband were among the 10 signatories to the first collective appeal addressed by Moscow Jews to Jews elsewhere in the world in September 1969. She was dismissed from her position after signing the appeal.

The couple also was among the signers of the "Letter of the 39", in which they repudiated a press conference held by the USSR's foreign office at which 52 Soviet Jews denied official persecution of Jews. The letter was widely circulated outside of the Soviet Union.

Dr. Aisenstadt said that anti-Semitism in Russia received a new impetus after the six-day war between Arabs and Israelis.

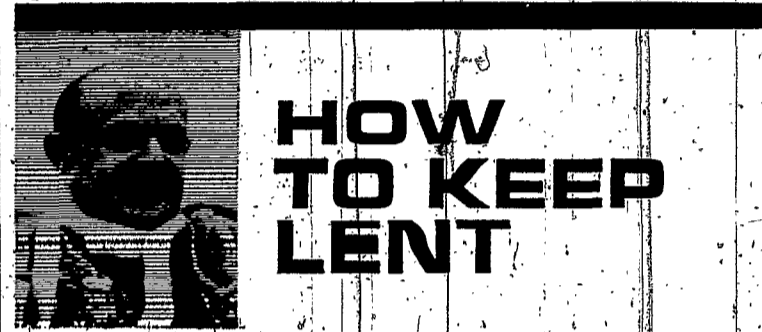
She recalled the imprisonment and execution of Jews during the late 1940s and early 1950s in which a group of Jewish doctors were accused of attempting to poison Soviet officials and a group of Jewish writers were imprisoned for "anti-Soviet writings."

She also cited and called "impossible" the hijacking charges leveled against Jews in Leningrad last year.

The purpose of her visit to Rochester was to help to arouse world opinion against such persecution. "The Soviet Union is very concerned with world opinion," she said.

**NUMBER OF PRIESTS**  
Vatican City — (RNS) —  
During 1970, the Vatican announced, the world's priests totaled 351,709, a loss of 1,476 in a year.

Wednesday, February 17, 1971



## HOW TO KEEP LENT

THE HOLY FATHER'S MISSION AID TO THE ORIENTAL CHURCH

With the season of Lent, comes the question, "How can I best keep Lent?" The answer is we must make sacrifices on our own and nothing is a sacrifice unless it hurts. What will be your sacrifice? . . . Just think of the missionaries in our 18 emerging countries who keep Lent all year long. Sacrifice something big this year. When helping others hurts a bit, you know you've made a sacrifice.

**GOOD WHEN IT HURTS**

**FEED THE HUNGRY**

**TRAIN A SISTER**

**HELP A CHILD**

**MASSES FOR LENT**

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In India, our priests and Sisters subsist on ounces of rice each day so they can share what they have with lepers and orphans. \$10 will feed a family for several weeks at least. \$50 will feed five families. \$100, ten families . . . Only \$975 gives a priest a two-acre "model farm" to raise his own food and teach his parishioners how to raise more food. Archbishop Mar Gregorios will write to thank you.

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For only \$10 a month (\$120 a year) you can make sure that an abandoned child has food, clothing, a blanket and love . . . We'll send you a photo of the boy or girl you "adopt".

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