

Pastoral Perspective**St. Joseph's, Elmira — Sixty-five Years of T L C**

By Bishop Joseph L. Hogan

I offer these words of tribute in a spirit of profound gratitude. I am writing not primarily as Bishop of Rochester, but as one who has personally experienced a generous dosage of the tender loving care that for sixty-five years has been the daily blessing of St. Joseph's Hospital to all who have entered her doors to seek the healing powers of skilled hands, of warm compassion, and of profound understanding of human dignity and of human needs.

Any bishop would be proud to have such a great institution in his diocese. And as bishop, I feel blessed and I am grateful that we have in our Southern Tier such a living witness to the healing hands of the compassionate Christ. A young student nurse from California must have sensed my pride and gratitude as I met her at the recent rededication ceremonies at the hospital. When I asked her why she had come such a distance to attend St. Joseph's School of Nursing, she replied: "St. Joseph's enjoys an excellent reputation which has reached to the West Coast." Its school of nursing, by the way, has at present the largest enrollment in its history.

On September 24, I was privileged to preside at a liturgy of Thanksgiving inaugurating a week of celebration of three events in the life of the hospital: the completion of sixty-five years of dedicated health

service to the community, the rededication of the facilities after recovery from the Flood of 1972, and the installation of a new administrator. While the invitation was sent to me as Bishop of Rochester, I responded as a personal friend in gratitude for personal blessings.

A brief historical sketch of the hospital and school of nursing has already been written. It appeared in a special centerfold coverage in this paper on September 26, and paid special tribute to prominent people who made extraordinary contributions to the birth, growth and development of St. Joseph's. We would have no history to celebrate today without their initiative, their capable administration, and their generous personal contributions. The recorded history of the hospital will always include the names of Dr. Daniel Murphy and Attorney J. John Hassett who first presented the urgent need for a health facility to Bishop McQuaid. But the Bishop's approval would have remained unproductive were it not for the acceptance of the challenge by the Sisters of St. Joseph who generously agreed to extend themselves beyond the educational apostolate to which they were already deeply committed. Among the generous financial contributors, the name of Edward Dunn will always deserve special mention. The nine-story Nursing Home, the skyscraper of Elmira at the time of its construction, stands as a memorial to his generosity.

But unmentioned in any history is that mighty force of 'behind the scene' people. We can never forget them — doctors, nurses,

volunteers, maintenance staff. Their individual contributions may have been relatively small but, cumulatively, they form the substance of this success story. Their gifts will probably remain those of anonymous donors until history is fully revealed in the Book of Life. But they were very much in my intentions as I offered the Mass of Thanksgiving, for there would have been no history to celebrate without their sacrifices.

I remembered, too, the spiritual father of St. Joseph's for almost half of its history — the beloved chaplain, Monsignor McGhan. His life was a selfless dedication to the sick. He who bore the sufferings of Christ in his own body so patiently easily identified with the sufferings of the patients. His was a tireless mission of mercy and compassion which touched the lives of countless people.

The names of Sister Rose Alice Conway from my native Lima, and Sister Margaret Adelaide Owen are synonymous with sixty-two years of most capable administration equally divided — thirty-one year for each. And now Sister Martha Gersbach has assumed the responsibilities of leadership for another chapter of history to be written. If the pattern of durability continues, Sister Martha will hand over the reins to a worthy successor in 2004 A.D. If I survive to see that day, I shall be happy to emerge from retirement. And if some kind soul will wheel me into the sanctuary of the Dunn Memorial Chapel, like John of Ephesus I shall praise God and renew publicly my abiding personal gratitude for His mercy incarnated in the life of St. Joseph's Hospital.

vatican news**Pope Paul Welcomes Dalai Lama**

Vatican City [RNS] — Tibet's exiled Dalai Lama, on his first visit outside Asia, was received by Pope Paul VI on Sept. 30 for an historic meeting, the first between the spiritual leader of Tibet's Buddhists and the head of the Roman Catholic Church.

In a 30-minute private meeting with the 38-year-old Dalai Lama, the Pope stressed the Vatican's efforts to improve relations with non-Christian religions.

"You come to us from Asia, the cradle of ancient religions and human traditions which are rightly held in deep veneration," the pontiff told the Lama. "The Catholic Church sincerely respects those ways of conduct and those teachings of other religions which mirror the rays of eternal truth enlightening all men."

"Since the Second Vatican Council," the Pope went on, "our Secretariat for non-Christians has been especially charged with fostering relations with followers of other religions.

"The beneficial effects of our greater contact and cooperation can serve to strengthen the brotherhood of all the human race."

Pope Paul recalled "with joy" his visit to southeast Asia in 1970, and the "wonderful welcome" he said he had received not only in predominantly Christian countries, but also in those which "mainly profess other religions."

Thanking the Dalai Lama for his "most courteous gesture in coming to see us," the Pope expressed hope that the Buddhist

leader's European visit would contribute "to the furtherance of mutual love and respect among the adherents of different faiths."

The Dalai Lama replied that he was happy to be able to discuss with a man of peace the problems pertaining to humanity, of how to contribute to creating a sense of brotherhood among men.

The Dalai Lama, who has been living in India since 1959, following a nationwide revolt against the Chinese who had taken over the Himalayan country in 1950, told newsmen on his arrival here that his visit was "purely cultural, religious, and private, with no political implications whatsoever."

Before meeting with the Pope, he toured the Vatican gardens and museums.

**Futurists Hear Papal Accolade**

Vatican City [RNS] — Pope Paul told participants in a world conference on research into the future that the Catholic Church encourages contributions "toward the full and harmonious development of man," which he said are necessary to fulfill the spiritual potential of man and the human family.

Receiving about 150 researchers, sociologists and scholars in a special audience, the pontiff expressed his awareness of the importance of the conference taking place at nearby Frascati.

He said, "You are in a position to offer the coming generations an authoritative prospectus of development and to contribute to the improvement of human life."

Observing that the conference

is addressing itself to the economic, demographic, cultural and technological aspect of man's future, the Pope asserted that the Church, "as bearer of a transcendent and revealed doctrine, certainly has something to say" as well.

"She already possesses a science concerning future and final realities, the science of eschatology, and she continually urges her children to study the sublime truths which it embodies so that they may prepare themselves for the final decisive meeting with the Creator," he said.

Comparing the Church science, which is "concerned with a future that lies beyond space and time," and the work of the conference, Pope Paul told the

research experts, "yet, there is no contradiction between the two forms of research. Indeed, the Church is deeply aware of the problems of the temporal and earthly future."

Citing an experience of "2,000 years," the Pope said the Church, "is an expert on mankind and it is her wish to be present in this branch of research." He added:

"She cannot, of course, offer technical solutions to problems. But when it is a question of spiritual moral values, she willingly encourages those men of science who work for man's development in the future."

Praising the conference's commitment to research that is "more human," the pontiff stressed the need for interest in

the human personality, "not in opposition to but in coordination with technical progress."

"This will contribute towards a full and harmonious development of man who must be helped to achieve the fullness of his psychological and spiritual potentialities, as an individual and in the context of the family," he stated.

He also called the conference's attention to the developing nations, which he said must be respected and given effective aid for the "full flowering" of their potential and in order to safeguard that other transcendental human value, peace.

Speaking of ecology and noting that the human environment is more and more threatened, the

Pope said "the earth, which the Creator entrusted to man must be a fit place to live, a worthy home for the whole of human society."

Terming the conference participants "pioneers" blazing a road for future generations, Pope Paul said he did not doubt that their labors and commitment will be fruitful and win the gratitude of the world.

'KING' VISITS POPE

Vatican City [RNS] — Ex-King Constantine II of Greece and his wife were received in private audience on Oct. 1 by Pope Paul VI. An official Vatican bulletin said the deposed king was received "as a private citizen."