


Father Daniel Lyons, SJ, the well-known conservative columnist and editor who is leaving the priesthood, has acknowledged that he has been married in a civil ceremony and has been named editor of the Christian Crusade Weekly, a journal of the Christian Crusade movement founded by the fundamentalist preacher Billy James Hargis. Mary Ann Van Hoof, self proclaimed visionary in Necedah, Wis., has been informed by Catholic authorities in the area that she and her followers are no longer welcome in area churches. Some of her followers are saying they may start a church of their own. For the last 25 years, Mrs. Van Hoof has been claiming visions of the Virgin Mary. She has been under the interdict of Bishop Frederick Freking since last April.

Distributors of wine made by Trappist Monks in Tel Aviv, Israel, have filed suit against that city's chief rabbinate claiming that the rabbinate is discriminating against the monks by refusing kosher status to places where the wine is sold. The Vatican has denied a contention made in an Italian Court that the cause for beatifying the late Pope Pius XII has been held up because of controversies over his actions during World War II. A libel suit is now being heard against writer Robert Katz and movie producer Carlo Ponti over the movie Death in Rome which alleges that the pope could have prevented a massacre of 335 Italians during the war. The suit was brought by Countess Elena Rossignani, the pope's niece.

Life, Liberty and Law



Nancy Murphy
[Third in a series]

I regret to inform you that I have found what I was looking for a pattern. Painfully, it isn't what I wanted because it concerns itself not so much with the phraseology and methods employed in the attacks on Catholic hospitals as with the reactions to those attacks. reactions from within the Catholic community itself.

The pattern lies in the degrees of resistance to the ugly and insidious realities of the sterilization-abortion-euthanasia syndrome.

St. Mary's in Rochester. St. Francis in Olean. St. Joseph's in Cheektowaga. Mercy in Kenmore. St. Clare's in Schenectady. The Benedictine in Kingston. Our Lady of Lourdes in Binghamton. St. Francis in Poughkeepsie. Of these eight Catholic hospitals under seige to perform sterilizations and abortions, or to merge with pro-abortionist public hospitals, or to consolidate-concentrate medical services, only one has actually closed its obstetrical unit. St. Francis in Poughkeepsie. And therein lies an essential point of the pattern.

According to news items appearing in the Poughkeepsie Journal and verified through the courtesy of the NYS Right to Life office in Albany, the St. Francis Board of Trustees voted in mid 1974 to close their OB unit and merge maternity services with Vassar Brothers Hospital where sterilizations and abortions are performed regularly. This action was taken by St. Francis with neither prior warning to the Catholic pulpits nor prior joint discussions with Vassar. When the announcement was made public, thousands of protesting signatures were collected; a community drive was initiated; bumper stickers were donated by a local printer; doctors, nurses, priests, technicians and attorneys joined the massive effort to keep the OB unit open; the archdiocese was petitioned for

support. The lay-sponsored Committee for St. Francis Maternity Services, under the able direction of Charles Menk, seemed assured of victory.

But Sister Mary Ann Elizabeth, president of St. Francis, for some reason voted consistently against any extension of the closure deadline. She refused to discuss the matter by phone or post with committee leadership. And though petitioned to keep the facility open, the state board of health and the local planning board were "reluctant" to act against the expressed desires of the hospital board. Thus on Tuesday, Dec. 31, 1974 at exactly 1:48 a.m. Kenneth William Lang was the last baby to be born in St. Francis Hospital.

It was later revealed that Ms. Marilyn Michaels, public relations director for St. Francis, was a member of the National Organization for Women (NOW).

Of the other seven hospitals referred to herein, the Benedictine and Our Lady of Lourdes both had planned to discontinue obstetrical services due either to the then-declining birth rates, potential state aid for a new mental health wing, or a merger-consolidation of medical facilities. Both reversed their plans when vast community support became evident. The remaining five — St. Mary's, St. Francis in Olean, St. Joseph's, Mercy, and St. Clare's — have vowed to keep open their non-abortion non-sterilization obstetrical units.

Thank God. But the pattern, I believe, though frightening in its emergence, is clear. When there is total support by the hospital staff and administration, the local Church hierarchy, the medical-legal professionals, the pulpits, and the community through increased use of the OB unit, our Catholic hospitals remain fully operative. If any of these fails, regardless of the justification phraseology, we forfeit the right to deliver our children in a total Catholic atmosphere.

I hope we will now rise with the Daughters of Charity to defend St. Mary's Hospital.

NEXT WEEK: Sister DeChantel La Row.

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Development Committee Completes Priority List

A steering committee for the study of development needs in the diocese has completed its work according to the chairman, William E. Cutler, president of Dollinger Corp.

"We have taken the material information furnished from the budget review committee of the diocese and several goal setting groups and studied them with the first recommendations of the Diocesan Pastoral Council," Cutler reported. "The result of this has been a list of priorities which our committee then sent back to Bishop Hogan and his staff for clarification."

"The results of their input and several rewritings by the Steering Committee is a clear indication of 16 areas of concern under three headings," Cutler said.

The major headings, Cutler explained, are Education, Youth Ministry, and Pastoral Administration. Within them are such needs as a Permanent Diaconate, Special Ministries, Special Internships for Chaplaincies, and Special Religious Ministry and Education to deliver services to the elderly.

The Steering Committee included John H. Coleman, recently appointed vice chairman of the Diocesan Development Committee and executive director of the Genesee Regional Professional Standard Review Organization.

Also working with the group were Thomas Byrne, partner of Cashette, director of leasing at Wilmorite Inc.; John Ermatinger, chairman of Executive Committee of Security Trust; Louis Langie, president and chief executive officer of Lincoln First Bank; Elliott Horton, attorney with Harris, Beach, and Wilcox; Anthony LeCesse, chairman of the Board of LeCesse Corp.; Father Joseph Reinhart, diocesan director of the Propagation of the Faith; Frank Wolfe, retired; Saverio Vasile, president and treasurer of S.P. Vasile & Sons, Inc.; Robert Kennedy of Canandaigua; William McDonnell, president of Wilmac Corp.; Anthony Palermo; James Ryan, president of Ryco Management; Mark Tuohy, director of Industrial Safety of Eastman Kodak; Thomas Tranter,

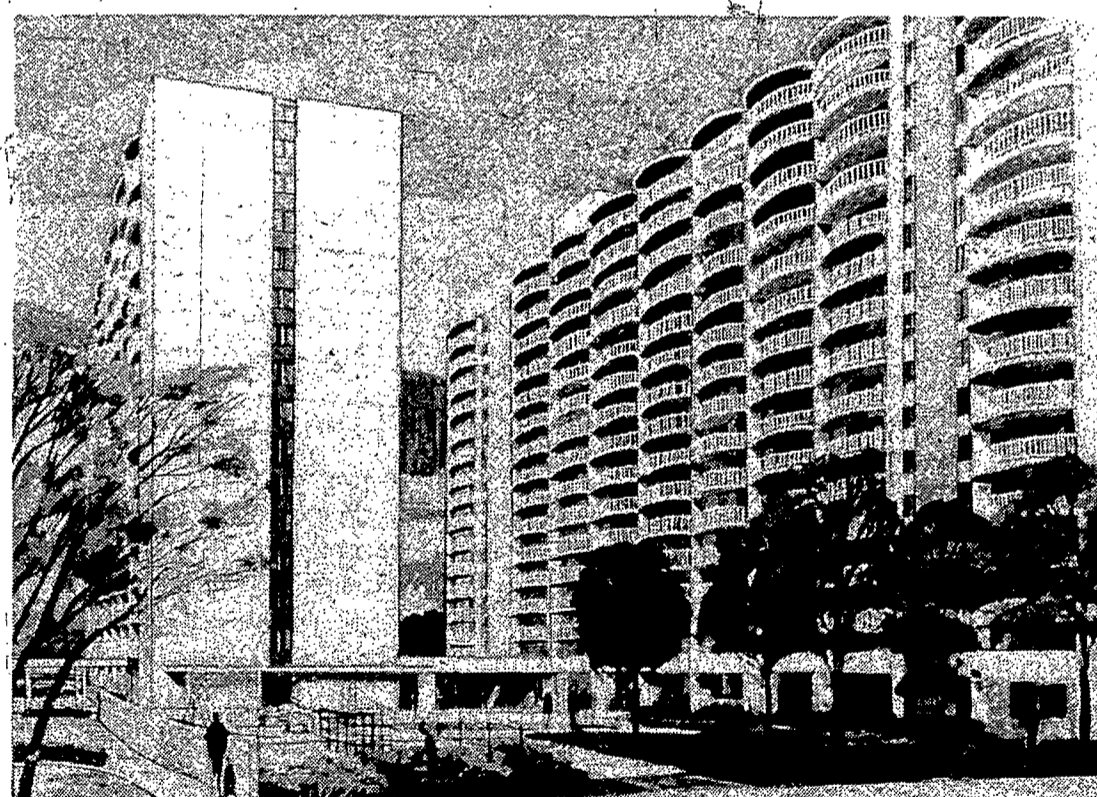
manager and vice president of First Albany Corp.; Joseph Bride, senior vice president of Darcy Communications; William Myers, vice president of marketing of Lincoln First Bank; Robert C. Odenbach, treasurer of Dolomite Products Co.; Father William J. Flynn, chancellor of the diocese, and Auxiliary Bishop Dennis W. Hickey.

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Julia Gowveia of the Mount Carmel Studio died early in the morning of November 20, 1975 after a lingering illness.

"Julie" as she was lovingly known to her countless friends among the clergy and religious, spent thirty-five years of her life in selfless, dedicated service to priests, sisters and laity. Her presence and gracious service will be sadly missed in the diocese.



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