

St. Joseph's OB

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Directors stated, "we are officially requesting a waiver of penalties under Part 86 for the obstetrical service. As a private, voluntary, not-for-profit, Catholic hospital, we wish to continue to operate within our religious and ethical convictions, and to provide full services for the needs of the members of the

religious denominations concerned and to all members of the community who may wish to use this hospital in exercising their guaranteed freedom of choice."

The letter to Dr. Whalen points out that "we are one of only three Catholic hospitals in the entire Diocese of Rochester. We

are the only Catholic hospital in Chemung County. There are no Catholic hospitals within one hour's driving time in any direction.

"The Sisters of St. Joseph's are dedicated to providing a facility for obstetrical care and treatment in accordance with the religious and ethical convictions of a very large percentage of the areas we serve," the letter noted.

Sister Martha explained that the waiver request is being made under sections of the Public Health Law covering religious-sponsored institutions. The law states that the needs of the members of the sponsoring religion shall be a "public need."

"I think the community is anxious for us to make this kind of statement," Sister Martha said. As the discussion on obstetrical services has progressed, the hospital has received

support from persons in the area, she noted; "we hope that through this public effort we will receive additional support."

Concerning the state's presumption of financial savings, Sister Martha stated that "I have seen no proof that regionalization and consolidation of obstetrical services will either improve quality or save money."

Concurrent with the discussions has been an opinion voiced by some that St. Joseph's obstetrical unit is handicapped because of its number of births. Sister Martha refuted any such statement, emphasizing that "we have quality obstetrical service, we have an excellent facility, a professional and competent nursing staff and medical staff. We are in a position to offer quality obstetrical services." She added that other hospitals, such as Schuyler County hospital, have fewer births, but are not being considered for closing.

St. Mary's Board Vows To Persist

In the midst of community discussion over a controversial plan proposed by an association of hospital administrators which would consolidate acute care health facilities in Rochester, the Board of Directors of St. Mary's Hospital last week issued a resolution reaffirming the board's "commitment to the continuation of St. Mary's Hospital at its present location and under the sponsorship of the Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul."

presented by the Steering Committee of the Rochester Regional Hospital Association not be accepted as a plan for acute health care delivery since there is insufficient data to warrant its acceptance."

The resolution states however that St. Mary's "is actively participating in regional planning and will continue active participation in the planning process in the Rochester region."

St. Mary's was the first hospital in the Rochester area. It was founded 120 years ago. The proposed consolidation plan would have assured "the availability of a Catholic health care component in the system," but details of how that would have been realized were not definite at the time the plan was unveiled.

The resolution, the board stated, came "in response to questions and comments of the medical staff, employees, recipients of health care and local community groups as a result of recent news releases."

The board also declared: "That the conceptual model for health planning as



New Indian Prime Minister

India's new Prime Minister, Morarji Desai, 81, (right), with son Kantibhai, is a devout Hindu, a staunch anti-Communist and a firm believer in the ideas of Mahatma Gandhi. Desai has declared that religion means more to him than anything. When talking about Gandhi, the founder of the Indian republic, he stresses that his belief in Gandhian ideals is related to his religious beliefs.

Bus Plan

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Gary Smith, president of the Rochester School Board and according to reports this transportation cut is one of the many areas which the city is investigating to lighten a six million dollar budget deficit. But it is Sister's contention that this particular cut is a short term saving. Ninety per cent of the city's cost in transporting private and parochial students outside its boundaries is reimbursed by the State. However, once this program is cut there will be no further revenue in that area.

Brother is the principal of Cardinal Mooney High School and if the program is cut it will affect 28 per cent of his students who come from the city. With our Lady of Mercy's city pupils numbering 43 per cent of the student body, St. Agnes' at 50 per cent, Bishop Kearney's one-third and McQuaid's 25 per cent it will be the Catholic high schools which will be predominately affected if the proposal passes.

The City School District, unlike the suburban districts which are mandated to transport private and parochial students, is within its legal rights to curtail this particular program. The diocesan administration is hopeful, however, that public reaction and pressure will nullify the proposal which they see as another infringement on the parents' constitutional rights to freedom of education.

"It's just an unwise priority to cut at that level," observed Sister.

Brother Aubert concurred by speculating if that number of students should transfer to the city schools the budget cost would be that much higher.

Teams Dubbed

The Golden Flyers will be the official nickname of Nazareth College's new athletic teams, according to Renee Scialdo, president of the Nazareth Undergraduate Association.

college community. They were asked to suggest names that were "descriptive of the bird-like symbol which is part of the college's official logo.

"Flyers" was one of the most popular nicknames given by members of the

"Golden" was added in keeping with the school colors, purple and gold.



THE OPEN WINDOW

Fr. Louis Hohman

Dear Father Hohman:

I was with a little group and we got talking about having Communion in the hand and everyone was in favor of it. Some had partaken in that way in Canada and it seems so much more natural and we were wondering why it isn't adopted here in the U.S. If you haven't already discussed this in your Open Window column, will you, please? Perhaps if more people understood just how it is received in that manner they would be asking for it. My original conception of it was almost queer, for I had visions of everyone's hand dipping into the chalice, not as I saw it in Canada where it is placed in a person's hand and the person uses the other hand to place it in the mouth.

Many thanks for the good learning we get from your explanations in The Open Window. Each week I look forward to the column.

Signed, M.M.

Dear M.M.,

The question of receiving Communion in the hand is one which is ultimately up to the various national Bishop's Conferences. The right to receive in the hand has been adopted by over 50 countries throughout the world. Whenever it has come up before the United States Conference of Bishops it has been defeated. I am quite sure

that the reasons the bishops defeated it was that they felt too many people would be disturbed.

My own thought is that it is a much more sanitary and adult way of receiving Holy Communion. It does not seem to me that the hand is any less dignified than the tongue. Besides, we can be relatively certain that Jesus did not place the bread in the mouths of the Apostles at the Last Supper. So in the long run, what we are really trying to do is to overcome a rather deeply rooted custom which was fortified by the teaching which identified reverence for the Blessed Sacrament with not touching it with the hand.

This subject will be coming up before the Bishop's Conference again. Perhaps many of you would like to write a letter to the bishop explaining your own thoughts on the matter and perhaps giving him support in his vote in favor.

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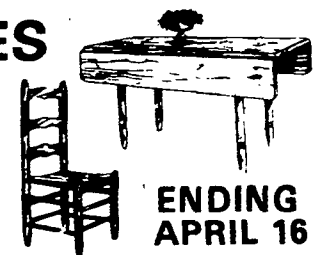
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