

# COURIER-JOURNAL

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## May 24 Vote May End OB At St. Mary's

A recommendation to close the obstetrical service at St. Mary's Hospital will be presented to the members of the Executive Committee of the Finger Lakes Health Systems at the May 24 meeting in Canandaigua. If it is passed by the Executive Committee, the regional plan for obstetrical services in the Rochester area will not include the option of a Catholic-sponsored obstetrical service in the Rochester area.

The basis for the decision to recommend closure of the service at St. Mary's Hospital is the criterion of 1,500 deliveries per year. St. Mary's had 948 in 1976.

The second criterion for regionalization and consolidation of services is to reduce the costs of health care for the state, third party payors, e.g. Blue Cross, industry and ultimately the public or the consumer of health care.

St. Mary's officials point out that selecting St. Mary's to close on the basis of cost is inconsistent with fact and logic. By New York State law, the full cost of hospital

maternity care must be paid through insurances such as Blue Cross and the State Medicaid program. These insurers do not pay the hospitals the direct cost of rendering care, but rather a per diem reimbursement rate established by the state for each hospital. In Rochester, the daily Medicaid rates effective April 1, 1977, for each hospital are: Strong Memorial \$196.54, Genesee \$194.94, Rochester General \$179.09, Highland \$171.45, and St. Mary's \$157.63. St. Mary's officials said, adding that Blue Cross rates are comparable.

Depending on the hospital, insurers and the public financing that insurance have to pay anywhere from \$14 to \$39 more per day at any hospital other than St. Mary's for comparable care. In a year St. Mary's saves Blue Cross, Medicaid and the public as much as \$156,000 for maternity care alone. If the state and regional planners really want to reduce the costs of health care, St. Mary's officials contend, they should consider these facts very seriously before

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Photos by Ben Susso

## Busing Cut Protested

On Friday May 13, a protest march, led by the Bishop Kearney Marching Kings wound its way from the Liberty Pole to the Board of Education building on Fitzhugh St. where Rochester School Board of Education members met to formally vote on the 1977-78 educational budget. The marchers, including students, parents and faculty from the seven Catholic high schools, protested the cutting from the budget funds for transporting private and parochial students outside the city limits. Before the meeting, a petition signed by 1600 people against this cutback was presented to the board. The budget, however, was approved and passed and the City Council now has 30 days in which to recommend changes or to vote on it as it stands. Final vote will be on June 14 and will be preceded by a public hearing on June 7.



## RapAround 'Best' in U.S.

New Orleans -- The Catholic Press Association has awarded its 1977 first prize for youth coverage to the Courier-Journal and its RapAround section devoted to high school news.

The award commentary termed RapAround "contemporary looking, tightly written, concisely contained." It said the editors "compress school sports news, student-opinion column, serious youth news and advice, and a photo contest — among other things — into this section. It was RapAround's sense of center which placed it ahead of its two other very close rivals."

Joan M. Smith is editor of RapAround, now in its

## Gallup Cites Need Of Youth Coverage

third year as a weekly Courier-Journal feature.

The judges indicated that other Catholic newspapers do not take the youth market seriously. "Evidently," they said, "the answer of most Catholic newspaper editors to the W.C. Fields question, 'How do you like kids?' is still 'Well done.' Sad, isn't it?"

The opinion of the judges was echoed by pollster George Gallup who addressed the CPA meeting here.

He told the convention that Catholic newspapers must give their readers what they want, especially the

young adults who make up nearly a third of the total Catholic population.

Gallup attributed a dip in newspaper popularity to the loss of young adult readers, calling the situation serious enough to "warrant an aggressive and continuing program to combat the downward trend."

"The youth problem for the Catholic press is particularly acute," he said, adding that it should pay close attention to the basic needs of the young adult group, which he said accounts for a third of the more than 48 million Catholics in the United States.



RapAround editor Joan M. Smith and first-place award.

## Seven Deacons Named to Parish Internships

Seven men who will be ordained to the priesthood next Spring have been appointed to deacon internships, Father Edward E. Steinkirchner, director of interns, announced last week. Each will serve as a special assistant to a pastor designated a "supervisor" for the training program in parish work begun seven years ago by Bishop Joseph L. Hogan.

The deacons are the Rev. Mr. John DeSocio, who goes to Assumption, Fairport;

Robert Doell, to Holy Ghost; John Gagnier, to St. Mary of the Lake, Ontario; Christopher Linsler, to St. Andrew's; James Peters, to St. Margaret Mary; Leo Reinhardt, to St. Columba, Caledonia. Robert Schrader, who will be ordained to the diaconate Oct. 14, has been assigned to Holy Family. The appointments are effective June 28.

"The deacons will perform all the duties of the ordinary assistant in the parishes, with the exception

of celebrating the Eucharist and the Sacraments of Penance and of the sick," Father Steinkirchner said. "They will baptize, preach, distribute Holy Communion, take Communion to the sick, witness marriage, and direct Scripture Services.

"They also will be expected to assist in parish youth work, help in pre-marriage instructions and investigations, assist in religious education programs of children and adults. For his services, the

deacon will receive from the parish a basic salary plus room and board and a car allowance."

Father Steinkirchner reported also that 11 priests would complete their internships this year and thus would be considered fully professional, qualified to become co-pastors or associate pastors. Ten others are in the three-year priest-internship program, and the six ordained this Spring are awaiting assignments.

**Prize-Winning  
RapAround  
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