

Sr. Schantz Takes Hospital Post

A large void in the pastoral ministry to hospital patients for the diocese was filled June 26. Sister Susan Schantz, SSJ, was appointed chaplain of Highland Hospital. The Highland post had been vacant for over a year as Father James Moynihan was reassigned as pastor of St. Joseph's Parish, Penfield.



SISTER SUSAN

Sister Susan is the only woman religious currently serving alone as a hospital chaplain in the diocese. Funding for her post is made available from the Sisters of St. Joseph and the Sisters of Mercy

In an interview last week Sister Susan explained that a good deal of her time is spent with long term patients, visiting, taking Eucharist to them or helping solve any personal problems they may have. Highland Hospital has an ambitious

radiation program for treatment of cancer victims. These patients, and their families, have very special needs, she explained and often require counseling.

She also meets regularly with hospital staff members to discuss in-

dividual cases and together they plan for each one's care. She added that her services are not for Catholic patients alone. Nor are they for patients only. People of all faiths who want counseling, and hospital staff members who are experiencing problems are always welcome in her office.

Sister Susan's preparation for her new ministry include a Masters of Divinity and pastoral ministry training at St. Bernard's Seminary, one year's work at Rochester General Hospital, under the tutelage of Father James Schwartz, and an orientation program with Highland Hospital staff.

She is now working toward certification with the National Association of Catholic Chaplains, an agency of the United States Catholic Conference.

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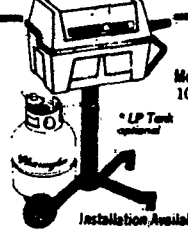
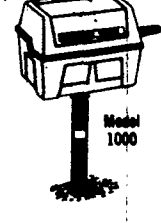
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On The Right Side

By Father Paul J. Cuddy

Speaking Through Symbols

To: Msgr. John Duffy, Rochester

Father Larry Murphy, the beloved and athletic Catholic chaplain of Genesee Hospital, invited me to fill in for him while he was on retreat with the Spencer, Mass. Trapepists, July 1-7. I have filled in there before, and stay at Old St. Mary's, downtown, in his quarters.

On Monday, July 3, the Protestant Chaplain Hooten, who has always been kind and helpful, told me: "A group of Vietnamese sponsored by the Lutheran Church just arrived in Rochester. One was just admitted. He is a Catholic." So I jogged to the fourth floor, and en route met a nice Lutheran pastor who said: "He has been here only three weeks and knows no English. But he is a Catholic."

The patient's room looked like a scene from Medical Center on the TV, with doctors, nurses and interpreter gathering data from the sick man. When they finished I returned. My friend was alone. What followed is a lesson in communication through symbols.

Entering his room I smiled at him. He undoubtedly wondered: "Now what?" Pointing to my ample self, visibly a cleric in black suit and Roman collar, I said: "I am a priest." His English was about zero, but the

clericals were a sign. He queried cautiously: "Catholic?" "Yes." I had a folder in my pocket. How to Say the Rosary. It is a pretty triptych with a picture of Our Blessed Mother encircled by a rosary on the front page. I gave it to him. His face brightened and he kissed the picture. He had found another link of unity. Later I returned. He took the picture of the Virgin Mary, traced the rosary with his finger and said something in Vietnamese. I reached into my pocket, handed him a set of yellow rosary beads, which I got from the Auburn Legion of Mary. His face beamed. Another symbol of unity: the rosary.

That afternoon I found a Vietnamese girl who worked in the dietary department, and brought her as my interpreter. She said: "I am not a Catholic but I like to help people." One great good came from their conversation. There is a telephone in the patient's room, but he did not know he had to dial 9 to get the outside line. The girl showed him. He was like a man released from solitary confinement, reunited with family and friends.

The next morning I went into his room. Smiled broadly, that reassuring ingredient needed for uncertain people, and said: "I have brought you Our Lord." He looked blank until I opened the little golden Communion pyx, and showed him the Sacred Host. He exclaimed: "Eucharist!" and dropped to his knees. I began the prayers with the Sign of the Cross in Latin. He signed himself, and as I continued: "Confiteor Deo Omnipotenti, Beatae Mariae semper Virgini," he joined me with perfect pronunciation of each word. He recited the

"Domine, non sum dignus," and after Communion he joined me with the "Pater Noster" and the "Ave, Maria."

How many lessons this teaches. 1. While some heedless priests would shed the very garb which makes them identifiable as special servants of God and the people, my friend read the sign and verified it. 2. Our Blessed Mother and her rosary, another sign of our common Catholicism was perfectly read by the man who knew no English. 3. The Latin prayers joined us in common prayer through a universal tongue. I marvel with great regret that the Vandals who took over much of the Liturgy of the Church and most of the music have been so successful in robbing a generation of young Catholics of a common tongue in prayer and hymnody. People who go to Lourdes are thrilled to recite the Creed in Latin with their co-religionists from Poland and England, Italy and Hungary, Germany and South America and Africa and Vietnam. I recall when the revolution, with its hatred for tradition, first hit the Church in the diocese in the 1960s, one progressive choir director took every Latin Mass, motet and Hymn and destroyed them by fire. The pastor was never consulted.

I am confident that some who read this letter to you will conclude: "That stick-in-the-mud wants to go back to the Latin Mass." They will not, of course, the least understand that I and others believe that good vernacular music and prayers should be retained, but also that the splendid Latin hymns and prayers should be returned and retained.

Thank you for lunch at the Spring House last week. The hash browned with the poached egg hit the spot. And your observations on the contemporary scene rejoiced my soul.

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JoAnne Hartman, famed throughout the Catholic diocese as a singer and leader in Church music, this week has released her latest album, "May I Introduce You to a Friend", a collection of the most inspiring songs and hymns in her repertoire. The album, JoAnne's first to contain entirely religious music, includes, besides the title song, Prayer of St. Francis, Listen to the Children, and the Bach-Gounod Ave Maria, among others. JoAnne considers the album to be produced by God, with her help. A co-sponsor of May I Introduce You to a Friend is the Courier-Journal. The album is now on sale for \$6.98 at all McCurdy's Stores.

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