

Lease Signed On St. Michael's; 'Holistic' Center Envisioned

Hemlock — Two area chiropractors have signed a five-year lease on some of the buildings at St. Michael's Mission, the former Divine Word seminary, to open the Hemlock Lake Holistic Health Center.

Dr. Albert Cera of Rochester and Dr. David Redding of Dansville will use the entire north wing of the facility as the health center which will employ the "holistic" approach. Such an approach "looks at the entire body and personality, seeking wellness as the goal rather than just relieving symptoms," an announcement from the doctors read.

The doctors expect to open the center on Feb. 1 of next year.

Father Richard Thibeau, rector of the institution, stated that "this diversification will not interfere with our present program including Marriage Encounter and other Christian retreats which will continue to provide for the care the retired priests and elderly who have made this their home."

The doctors' statement said, "The facility will initially accommodate 60 patients with plans for expanding to 100."

"Most of man's illnesses used to be treated by the general practitioner according to the physical symptoms," Dr. Cera stated in a telephone interview last week. "Then came the era of the



Father Thibeau signs the lease as Dr. Cera and Dr. Redding look on.

specialist. The patient became a passive recipient of treatment."

"Today," he said, "the physical, emotional and spiritual needs of patients are considered," in the holistic approach.

Dr. Redding stated that "the nationwide goal of developing an adequate public health system will never be reached unless

patients begin to change from passive recipients of medical care to active self-responsible participants in the healing process."

Dr. Cera said that the center will employ a variety of professionals in the health field including clergymen.

A Rocky Road

Hemlock — For the past 10 years, St. Michael's Mission, the former seminary for the Society of the Divine Word, which overlooks Hemlock Lake, has been the subject of many reports of pending sale to a variety of groups.

from about Rochester to Chicago."

In recent years St. Michael's has become a center for retreats and for Marriage Encounter activities. The south wing of the facility will continue to be used in that capacity.

None of those reports, in the long run, proved true. Back in 1968, it was said, and then denied that Xerox was planning to purchase the buildings for use as a think tank.

A year later, a group of businessmen were negotiating to purchase the properties for use as a nursing and convalescent home. The sale was called off in mid-1970.

Then in 1973, an outfit called the Benedictine Brothers of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, which described itself as an interdenominational religious group working with drug addicts, alcoholics and homosexuals, called a press conference to announce plans for the mission's purchase. The provincial of the Divine Word Fathers, however, said on the night before the slated conference, that any announcement of agreement would be "stretching the truth

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