

Your Turn

Mission in a New Age

By Sister Ann William Bradley
President, St. Mary's Hospital

In 1857 when the Daughters of Charity established St. Mary's Hospital in two stone stables at West Main and Genesee Streets, their mission was to reach out and serve those for whom no one else cared. The first patients were cholera victims. This was truly a daring mission for women of that day to undertake. The work was carried out with a strong spirit of faith and commitment to the Church. St. Mary's Hospital became the first hospital in Rochester and a Catholic Hospital.

Today, just as in the early days of St. Mary's history, we must respond to our environment. Centers for health care face many of the same problems as the cities in which they are located. One of the unique qualities of a community hospital in the 1980s is its ability to be a good neighbor.

Urban Rochester has seen a number of changes over the years. Deteriorating neighborhoods, rising crime rates and the subsequent "flight to the suburbs" all have contributed to an urban setting which needs to regroup, renovate and build. City living, and the variety of opportunities and options it offers, is once again becoming popular in Rochester. People are becoming aware of the values to be gained from living in neighborhoods which mix race, age and life style. A new pattern of revitalization and growth is emerging.

Since the availability of good health care is vital to any area involved in growth, St. Mary's has become an integral and innovative part of the effort to bring a high quality of life back to the city. Not unlike the earlier Daughters of Charity, we have a commitment both to our patients and the neighborhood of which we have been a part for 123 years to reach out and provide healing support to the Rochester community.

Hospitals in cities cannot stand alone. They must be an integral part of city life. Looking toward this goal we have, in recent years, joined with our neighbors in the Bullshead area to work toward a rebirth of the area. St. Mary's has recently become a voting member of the 19th Ward Association, and is energetic in support of that group's goal of maintaining an excellent residential area which is attractive to prospective home owners. With an eye toward the commercial viability of our urban setting, St. Mary's participates in the Bullshead Southwest

In this series, widely known persons, at the newspaper's request, will present their thoughts on varied issues. The opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the newspaper. Other readers are also invited to submit articles for "Your Turn" and the decision as to whether they are used will be the editor's.

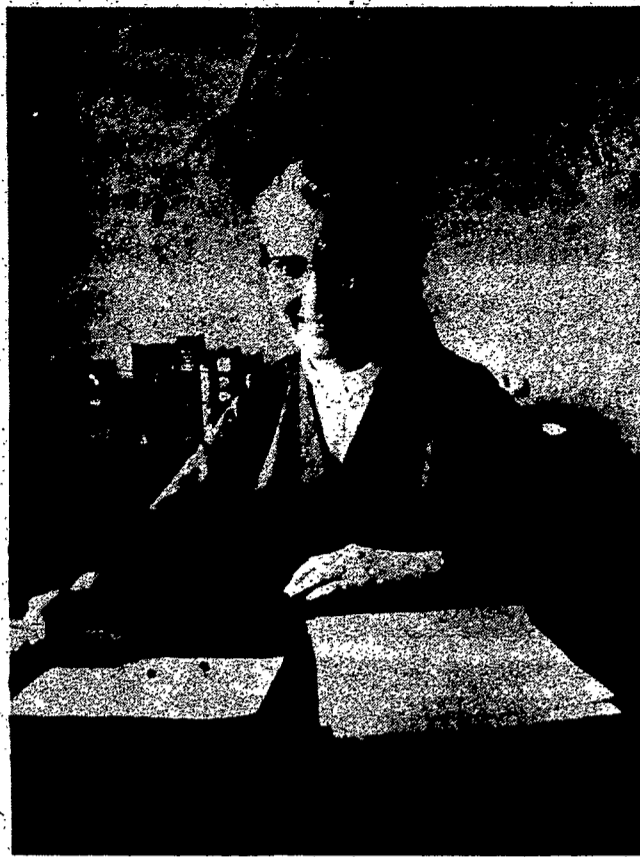
Development Corporation in its commercial redevelopment activities. Sister Kathleen Natwin, DC, is the Bullshead representative to the A.B.-19 Steering Committee which coordinated entire neighborhood development plans for the Arnett-Chili focus area.

Believing that preventive health care is to everyone's benefit, the hospital sponsored a Health Fair with other neighborhood groups last spring. The event was a joint project of St. Mary's, the 19th Ward Community Association, the Bullshead Southwest Development Corporation, the Arnett Area Alliance, SWAN, the DePaul Mental Health Clinic and Westside Health Services. Close to 1,000 free tests and examinations were provided and area residents were educated in good health practices from a wide variety of the community's health sources. A similar event is in the planning stages for October of 1980.

In other related activities, Sister Nancy Vendura, DC, who is currently caring for the Cambodian refugees in Thailand, has also become involved in the reaching out from St. Mary's to the community. She is working on a program which will provide support services from the hospital to area families who have elderly members living at home with them.

St. Mary's Hospital began a unique concept in Rochester for delivery of care to others. I believe if the future of health care in our community is viewed imaginatively and creatively, it can be a rich, exciting and important decade for our health care institutions, and particularly for our Catholic health facilities.

As an affiliated hospital of the University of Rochester, St. Mary's combines the medical sophistication of the University's Medical Center with the values of the Catholic Church. This has long been an important element of care for Rochester.



SR. ANN WILLIAM BRADLEY

Past achievements, however, are not an acceptable substitute for present responsibilities.

Health care services must focus on the needs of the present and the future if they are to be relevant and responsive. Thus we see in Rochester unique groups like the Rochester Area Hospitals' Corporation and the Upstate Health System (UHS), the focus of which is to improve the planning process in health care delivery as well as to assure the continuity of health care through our institutions.

Through and with these groups, St. Mary's is planning, reorganizing, and strengthening our commitment to providing quality health care in keeping with our mission of service.

Looking Back . . .

75 years ago this week — Not often that local news made the front page back in 1905 but on June 10, was this story: "St. Monica's People Rejoice over Clearing of Debt." That was the headline; the story told how the parishioners had a reception to honor the 10th anniversary in the priesthood of Rev. John P. Brophy and to observe the raising of enough money to clear the church debt.

But the Courier of that day was more likely to publish such stories as this one from Page 5 describing the origin of the word Piccadilly as in the famous London thoroughfare. Seems it came from "the ruffs, piccadils — or piccadilloes worn by the gallants of the time of James I and Charles I, the stiffening points of which resemble spear heads of picardils, a minutive of 'pica' from the Spanish and Italian."

50 years ago this week — Would you believe? A good portion of Page 1 was devoted to the 100th anniversary of Mother of Sorrows. That's right. Fifty years ago, the 100th anniversary. Several thousand people turned out on Paddy's Hill to hear Charles H. Tuttle, the U.S. district attorney for the Southern District of the state, representing the federal government, deliver a fine speech despite "the fact that Mr. Tuttle is not a member of the church." The rector of the church, already historic back in 1930, was the Rev. Daniel B. O'Rourke.

Gov. Franklin D. Roosevelt, who was later to become a bit of a figure himself in Washington, also took part in the celebration. And a story on Page 3 quoted Al Smith as predicting that the governor would be re-nominated and re-elected. The beginning.

And from the wonderful world of commerce — Edwards was selling wool-lined ties for 69 cents and the Magnolia Dairy was sloganizing, "You can whip our cream but you can't beat our milk."

25 years ago this week — Growth. "Another step toward formation of a mission in St. Mary of the Lake parish will take place Sunday, June 12, when ground will be broken for a new chapel in Odessa, N.Y. The ceremony will be conducted by the Rev. Benedict Ehmann, pastor of St. Mary of the Lake parish."

10 years ago this week — A report prepared by Robert H. Alshemer and Robert M. Clewell for the diocesan schools office, said that "nearly 44 out of 60 parochial schools in Monroe County may have to be closed by 1975 unless public subsidy is made immediately available."

And Bishop Hogan asked that on Father's Day, diocesans pray for the 1,450-Americans that were listed as missing or imprisoned in Southeast Asia.

And it was only 10 years ago that Star Markets was able to sell several varieties of beef roasts for 99 cents a pound, bacon, 89 cents, and three cans of tuna fish, 6 1/2 ounce size, for a buck.

Who Should Make the Rules?

The Vatican's Congregation for the Sacraments has just issued an instruction which insists on a whole set of details regarding Eucharistic worship.

When I was ordained in 1952, seminarians were drilled in precise detail on every element of the liturgy; how far to bend in each of several bows, hands at shoulder height and width during the orations, where the right hand was to be when the left hand was turning pages of the missal, and on and on.

That was the way things

were done. I didn't question them.

In the years after the Council, when creativity, adaptation and free-wheeling became the style for many liturgical celebrations, I did have a lot of questions.

Some of the changes clearly enhanced the liturgical celebration, were consistent with the theological reality, contributed to an appreciation of this unique form of worship.

Other adaptations just seemed flaky, distortions of the theological reality, examples of bad taste.

But gradually I became accustomed to the greater flexibility which allowed the liturgy to express the situation of a particular congregation, its concerns and needs. In fact, I found myself very uncomfortable going out to a parish to lead the Eucharistic worship and proclaim the gospel to a group of parishioners who were complete strangers to me.

The feeling was something like trying to be part of an emotional family celebration when I didn't really know the members of the family or its history.

On the other hand, some of my most deeply felt celebrations of the Eucharist occurred with special groups, on occasions of joy or sorrow or anxiety, when the human concerns brought the people together so that they

Guidelines

Letters intended for publication must be addressed to Opinion, Courier-Journal, 67 Chestnut St., Rochester, N.Y. 14604.

Expressions of opinions should be brief, no longer than 1 1/2 pages, typed, double-spaced, with names and addresses.

We reserve the right to edit as to length, offensive words, libelous statements, or to reject altogether. Generally speaking, however, only limited grammatical corrections will be made and letters will reflect the writer's own style.

We encourage readers to submit opinions but since we try to print letters from as many different contributors as possible we will publish no more than one letter a month from the same individual.

Fr. John Reedy



Looking for the Lord

were a true community celebrating the Lord's act of worship.

In some of these special celebrations, I did not observe all the liturgical rules, either because the circumstances made it impossible or because they became obstacles to the central experience of the celebration.

I was not indifferent to the rules or the authority behind them. My interpretation was that they were designed to improve and guard the act of worship. If circumstances contradicted that purpose, I thought, adaptation was justified.

On the whole, the more bizarre forms of liturgical expression seem to have faded. My impression is that most of today's liturgy is far superior to that which prevailed when I was ordained.

There are still expressions of bad taste, insensitivity, but these were also present in the way some priests rattled through the Latin and gave the impression that they were competing in time trials for the fastest Mass in the diocese.

Liturgical laws, like most laws, are formulated for the exceptions, for those who are guilty of abuse. These laws are necessary even if they do place additional

limitations on people who don't really need them.

I suppose my real concern about this instruction, is where it comes from. It now seems very unlikely that such detailed regulations can be effectively formulated for the whole world.

The needs and circumstances of the various cultures are too different to allow such instructions to be truly effective in improving the liturgy.

It would seem appropriate that general guidelines and cautions should be given to conferences of bishops. But the specific problems and emphases should be dealt with by church authorities who are living with the local churches.

I accept the authority of the instruction, though I still believe that some exceptions can be justified by extraordinary circumstances.

My point, however, is that in practice the church is still a long way from that respect for the local church which was proclaimed by Vatican II.

But, as I've remarked before, we are still only 15 years away from the Council. Delays are irritating, but it would be naive to expect such a tradition-bound institution to adapt easily to a new vision.