

COURIER-JOURNAL

SOUTHERN TIER-AUBURN GENEVA

Southern Tier Editor:
Martin Toombs
208 W. 13th St., B-1
Elmira Heights, N.Y.
14903
(609) 732-3371

Hospital Launches Pastoral Care Television

By Martin Toombs
Southern Tier Editor

Elmira — "Pastoral Care Television" made its debut at St. Joseph's Hospital this week.

The religious programming channel is the second in the hospital's closed circuit system to be put to use, providing eight hours of programming each day on a seven-day cycle.

St. Joseph's is a pioneer in the use of closed circuit programming for patients, and now has added 56 hours each week of religious programming to its channel four presentations of health advice and medical information.

The channel two programming is not health- or hospital-related, but consists of educational films on religious issues, and of meditative sequences of slides and music.

The work toward the pastoral programming began in November 1977, when Father Theodore Centala, a hospital chaplain and a

Carmelite priest from the monastery in Waverly, did a feasibility study on using channel two on the hospital's system.

Father Theodore explained that the programming is collected from several sources, including audio-visual libraries of the Syracuse and Rochester dioceses. Programs include films on various religious questions, on the Bible, and meditative presentations.

Each day starts with a general discussion of God, Father Theodore said, and includes a series on the world's religions. At 10 a.m., a segment on the Old Testament is shown, and at 11 a.m., the focus moves to the New Testament, which continues until 4:30 p.m.

While most of the material comes from the Catholic perspective, Father Theodore explained, it was selected for its suitability for persons of various faiths.

Of the series' 56 hours of programming, 40 are taken up with educational films, he

said, and 16 are of sacred music and slides.

The program cycle begins on Monday; the seven-day period is based on the average length of stay in the hospital.

The programming makes it possible for a hospital patient to "bone up on your religion," Father Theodore said. "In a sense, you can get a mini-course in seven days," he stated, although he expects that most patients will not see the entire series.

Stanley Douglas, hospital Community Relations Director, added that the programming is an extra opportunity for someone who is hospitalized.

Mass will be broadcast from the hospital chapel on Sundays; technical difficulties prevent it from being shown every day.

Father Theodore also remarked that the programming in the series is of excellent quality, and that he found interesting the various ways the films treat religious issues.



This will be the logo for the pastoral care programming on the closed circuit television at St. Joseph's Hospital. The symbol includes representations of the world's great religions, and the shepherd's crook, representing the Pastoral Care Department.

Douglas pointed out that the two closed circuit stations are available to patients whether or not they rent the television in their room.

By "adopting and adapting" programs from other sources, Douglas said, the entire project is being accomplished with a minimum of cost or commitment of staff time. Douglas added that in the

future, they hope to evaluate the use of the two channels, and to look at ways to attract viewers from the other 10 stations on the dial to the hospital's offerings.

When the St. Joseph's staff members looked for information on such programming, they discovered that they are pioneers in the field. Douglas described a 1978 survey which found that less

than 15 percent of the nation's hospitals do any closed circuit programming. He also pointed to other sources which speak of in-house programming as a new idea.

For St. Joseph's, Douglas said the channel four health programs began operating in 1977. That service has grown, and more doctors are giving their patients "television prescriptions" to see a program on the channel four service which will help them with their illness or health need. That may also occur with the channel two programming, Father Theodore said, as the chaplains will be able to recommend programming which may help answer patients' questions.

Douglas also said that St. Joseph's is willing to participate in a network of hospital programming, noting that the technology is readily available for such an effort.

Father Theodore called the new effort a "small step" which has the potential for much wider use in the future.



Participants in the prayer service of thanksgiving for the return of the hostages during the opening song at Trinity Episcopal Church, Elmira.

Services Celebrate Hostage Release

Elmira — Two prayer services of thanksgiving in Elmira at the release of the hostage Americans counseled against uncontrolled anger arising from the treatment the hostages received.

Cabaret Night In Apalachin

Apalachin — The Covenant Players, a California-based group which tours the world in a faith ministry, will present a number of short plays on the themes of "Values" and "Family" in a cabaret atmosphere from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m., Friday, Feb. 6 in the St. Margaret Mary's Church Hall.

Sponsored by the Family Life Committee, the program is open to all who are juniors in high school or older. A voluntary offering may be made.

On Friday, Jan. 23, 110 persons participated in an ecumenical service at Trinity Episcopal Church. Prayers during the service were in thanks for the hostages' return, and for the men who died in the failed rescue attempt. Readings included the instruction in Matthew to love one's enemies: "My command to you is: love your enemies, pray for your persecutors." (Matthew 5:44)

Participants included Father Timothy McGough, St. Joseph's Hospital chaplain; Rev. Clinton Barlow of First Baptist Church, and Rev. John C. Humphries, host pastor.

St. Anthony's Church was decorated with yellow ribbons for a Mass of thanksgiving the following morning. Sponsored by the Chemung-Schuyler Region, the Mass attracted 150 persons who prayed in thanks for the hostages' return.

In his homily, Father Albert Delmonte, host pastor, noted the lesson that could be learned from the hostage experience, in that one should never give up hope. Noting the intense suspense just before the release, he said that just when the situation seemed most desperate, God "manifests Himself," and we realize that "He was always there."

Americans now must deal with their feelings of anger, he said, stating that evil must not be fought with evil. He added that God "will take care of any injustice in this world."

Also celebrating the Mass were Father Paul McCabe, regional coordinator and pastor of Our Lady of Lourdes; Father Bartholomew O'Brien, pastor of St. Mary Our Mother, Horseheads; and Father Joseph McCaffrey of St. Patrick's.

Youth Group Gets Start

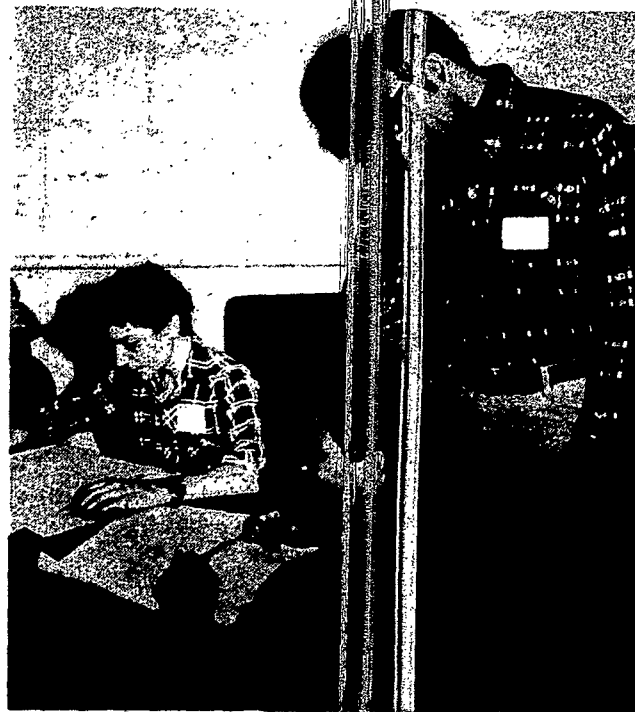
Elmira — A "Search" for a program to involve the teenagers of St. Peter and Paul Parish apparently hit the mark.

Of the 70 teenagers in the parish, 28 attended the "Search" program at St. Peter and Paul Jan. 25, and at the conclusion of the day's program, they all expressed an interest in meeting again.

Conducted by Anne Wegman of the Catholic Youth Organization, the "Search" program is designed to strengthen each person's self-identity and build relationships among the group, Miss Wegman said. She led the teenagers through exercises designed to help them get to know one another, and activities such as a personal "banner," which gave each person the opportunity to identify items important to their lives, and their goals.

The program included Mass at mid-day.

Working with the group in the future will be Chuck Prettyman, a parishioner and a teacher at Ernie Davis Junior High School. Pret-



Chuck Prettyman, standing, offers some assistance to teenagers working on a project at the St. Peter and Paul, Elmira, "Search" program.

tyman said that getting the program started "has been somewhat of a struggle," as they don't know what the teenagers themselves will be interested in.

Prettyman said that he

Scouting Awards To Be Presented

Corning — The Steuben Area Council Catholic Committee on Scouting's annual Scout Sunday Mass will be at 3 p.m., Sunday, Feb. 8, at St. Vincent DePaul's Church.

Concelebrating the Mass will be Father Andrew Teuschel, of St. Mary's, Dansville; Father Robert Beligotti of St. Vincent's, and Father Philip Billotte of St. Patrick's.

He hoped the future activities will make the teenagers "as much a part of parish life as they would like to be." And a brainstorming session at the end of the day used many suggestions for future programs, including a career art classes, and social activities.

NFP Session

Elmira — A Natural Family Planning session is scheduled from 7:30 to 9 p.m., Friday, Feb. 13, at St. Joseph's Hospital here.

Further information may be obtained from Sister Dorothy Mulcahy or Dr. Walter Ervin at the hospital or from Father Daniel Holland at St. Patrick's Church here or from the NFP office, 89 Genesee St., Rochester, N.Y. 14611. (716) 4-8705.