

Southern Tier Auburn-Geneva

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Bed Count a Problem For Hospital Merger

Hornell — An attempt by a Finger Lakes Health Systems Agency (FLHSA) task force to reduce further the number of acute care beds in the merged Hornell hospitals may threaten the entire merger agreement.

The hospitals' application to merge and for a major reconstruction project is being reviewed by several task forces. One, looking at the number of medical-surgical beds in the region, has unanimously recommended that the application request 22 fewer beds.

The application proposes a reduction in medical-surgical beds from 234 to 200. Using methodology promulgated by the state, the task force is seeking a reduction to 178 beds.

Sister Rene McNiff, St. James Mercy Hospital administrator, criticizes both the number arrived at by the state methodology, and its application at all.

The FLHSA region has no oversupply of beds, she said, and therefore hospitals should not be asked to reduce. But she also notes several problems with the methodology.

The system for calculating

bed needs based population ignores differences in hospital use by those who are over 75 years of age, she said, by considering all those over 65 as one group. Steuben County has a much larger share of those 75 and over, she said, than Monroe County, for example.

And the Southern Tier's higher admissions rates are often criticized, she said, but the influence of the nursing home shortage in the area is not taken into account. Monroe County, she said, has an "enormous overutilization" of nursing home beds. That reduces the number of hospital admissions, she said, but does not reduce costs.

The pattern in the Southern Tier, she said, is for elderly patients living at home to enter the hospital for brief stays as needed. That is more efficient than providing nursing home care, she said.

Sister Rene called the merger proposal "the negotiated plan, and it's the only one that's going to go through." She said the hospital boards and medical staff, which have supported that position, are not being stubborn, but are holding to the agreement they reached last fall.

The number of medical-surgical beds is just one facet being studied.

The End Stage Renal Disease task force has approved the merged facility for the requested four renal dialysis stations. A group examining the legal merger of the two facilities has approved it in concept, while it is continuing to look at the service configuration proposed in the plan.

The plan to construct a 60-bed skilled nursing facility has received approval.

Right to Life March Planned in Corning

Corning — The Corning Area Right to Life Action Committee has scheduled a march and rally for May 22.

The march will begin at 1 p.m. at the corner of State and Market streets and proceed east on Market. The group will enter the Nasser Civic Center Ice Rink where the rally will take place.

John H. Brennan, spokesman for the group, said, "The purpose of the life rally is purely educational, to point out the legal, moral, and medical aspects of abortion."

Among the speakers

Hebrews to enjoy the revelation of this superb prerogative of the Lord. Here we find his entry to the Father compared to the entry of the Jerusalem high priest into the Holy of Holies each year with the Blood of Atonement (chapter nine). The Holy of Holies which Jesus enters with his own Blood of Atonement is the sanctuary of his Father's ineffable glory, and there he now lives, always making intercessions for us (7:25).

Jesus told his apostles: "It is much better for you that I go. If I fail to go, the Paraclete will never come to you, whereas if I go, I will send him to you." (John 16:7) In a way beyond our feeble vision to understand, the Lord's return to the Father was necessary for the sending of the Holy Spirit. It would be through that mission of the Spirit that the light and fire of Christ would descend upon his disciples and faithful, embodying itself in them, endowing them with his lordship and priesthood and magisterium. In them now he would continue his saving work until the endtime. Consecrated by the Spirit, they would be rulers, priests and prophets in his Name. Not a word of theirs as teachers in his Name, nor a liturgy of theirs as priests in his Name, nor a direction of theirs as rulers in his Name, but would find its source, and vibrate with the energy, emanating from its fountainhead in him who is one with the Father, in glory above the heavens.

St. Cecelia's Bazaar June 6

Elmira — St. Cecelia's Annual Summer Bazaar will be Sunday, June 6, from noon until 10 p.m. on the church grounds at 950 Lake St.

There will be a chicken barbecue with take-out service, international foods and used items will be sold in the Country Store.

There is no admission charge.

Correction

The associate pastor of St. Casimir Church in Elmira was incorrectly identified recently. He is Father Joseph M. Egan.

Cabrini Circle

The annual smorgasbord dinner of the Mother Cabrini Circle will be 2:30-5:30 p.m. Sunday, May 23, at Immaculate Conception School

hall, 70 Glasgow St. Tickets are \$4.50 for adults and \$2.50 for seniors and children. Further information is available by calling Cynthia Powell, 436-5126; Nola DeRouen, 671-1748.

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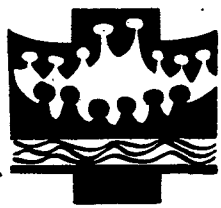
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Insights In Liturgy

By Father Benedict A. Ehmann



Mindful Of Christ's Ascension

"The Lord Jesus, the king of glory, the conqueror of sin and death... the mediator between God and man, judge of the world and Lord of all, has passed beyond our sight, not to abandon us but to be our hope. He is the beginning, the head of the Church: where he has gone, we hope to follow." (Preface for the Solemnity of the Ascension)

In such words we of the Church give thanks and praise to God on this splendid, springtime holy day. In this marvelous Mystery what incentives we have to wonder and awe, humility and adoration!

The Lord's Ascension is far more than a routine closing of the chapters of his earthly sojourn among us. It is a majestic consummation which ushers in a new era of salvation.

The Ascension proclaims the universal lordship of Christ. We see in it how, after the profound "emptying out" of God's Son in

taking the form of a servant and dying such a death on a cross, the Father now "exalts him and gives him a name above every other name" — a name at which every knee shall bend... and every tongue proclaim that JESUS CHRIST IS LORD." (Phil. 2) The Incarnation now comes full cycle: the passover of the Lord is completed, from heaven to earth into littleness, poverty, contradiction, suffering, death, and thence into resurrection, life, power, glory and the welcome home in heaven.

This return home to the Father is a whole world different from his coming among us. He returns as conqueror of sin and death, bringing in his train the principalities and powers. Clothed now in his humanity, he sets it at the Father's right hand, to the amazement of the angels. They may well cry out: "Who is this King of glory, for whom the eternal doors must open wide?" He is enthroned now, the vice-regent of the Father.

The Ascension introduces Christ into the full scope of his high-priesthood. One must read the Letter to the



Chairman

N. Jackson Learned has been elected chairman of the board of directors of St. Joseph's Hospital, Elmira. He succeeds Judge Daniel J. Donahoe who served as chairman since 1974. The president and chief executive officer of LeValley McLeod also holds a membership on the board of Marie Midland Bank, Midstate Region.

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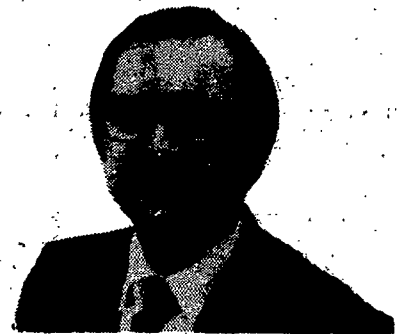
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THOUGHTS TO CONSIDER



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How do I help the elderly at the time of a funeral?

Death of a loved one is painful. There is a tendency to believe that the elderly adjust more easily because they "should" anticipate the loss. Having more time to prepare does not guarantee that grieving will be easier. The elderly may have fewer resources such as friends, money, or good health. Losing a partner or long-time friend may mean living life alone at a time when a person may be least able to be independent. Support from family and friends at this time is most important. Being over-protective or taking away a person's independence by making decisions for them is not desirable and may be harmful. Help the elderly begin their adjustment by attending the funeral and offering specific help.

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