



### Alumnae Anniversary

More than 160 alumnae of St. Mary's Hospital School of Nursing gathered recently at the annual Spring Dinner Meeting at the Mapledale Party House to honor four members of the Class of 1932 on their 50th anniversary. They are, from left, Hildagarde Kraft Stellwagen, Sister Margaret Adelaide Owen SSJ, Florence Hauck Wisotzke, and Elizabeth Kavanaugh McGuinn. Alumnae association president Mary Ann Murphy Palermo also presented a check for \$150 to Sister Ann William, president of the hospital, to go toward the current modernization program at St. Mary's. The hospital hopes to raise \$3 million toward the \$30 million renovation of patient care units.

## Hornell Hospital Merger Gets Local Approval

Hornell — The merger of St. James Mercy and Bethesda hospitals has completed another hurdle.

On June 7, the merger received the approval of the Southern Tier Subarea Council, and on June 8, the Regional Review Council of the Finger Lakes Health Systems Agency gave its unanimous approval to the planned merger.

Also approved were a skilled nursing facility of at least 60 beds, and the construction project, including an added provision calling for the merged hospital to have as a goal the consolidation of acute services in one site.

The approved plan calls for specific services to be located at either Bethesda or the St. James buildings. The arrangement was a major part of the merger agreement between the two hospitals.

Left without approval is the number of beds which the new facility is allowed to have.

The merger proposal seeks 184 medical-surgical, obstetrics and pediatrics beds, a reduction of 34 from the current complement of the two hospitals.

But through application of the state's methodology for predicting bed need, the

FLHSA groups sought a further reduction of 22 beds, to a total of 162.

Sister Rene McNiff, St. James administrator, said the Southern Tier SAC is continuing to work on a plan for meeting the state's proposed regulation. That is due in July, she said, and may have an impact on the state's review of the merger proposal, expected to take place sometime in the fall, possibly October.

The state Hospital Review and Planning Council will make a recommendation on the proposal to the state Health Commissioner, who must approve such matters.

Should the state Health Department approve its plans, Sister Rene said, the two hospitals could merge Jan. 1, 1983. It would take another year before the construction which is part of the plan could get under way, she said. Final drawings still need to be done.

The merger proposes \$20.4 million worth of renovations. In testimony to the Regional Review Council, Sister Rene said if the hospitals did not merge, it would cost \$23.5 million to accomplish the same goals. Plans placing all acute services at one or the other of the proposed sites, she said, would cost from \$25.1 to \$26.2 million.

Sister Rene noted she has prepared a study showing why the hospital should receive the number of beds it is requesting.

The Hornell area has a greater population of those above age 75 and 85, she said, who use the hospital more frequently. They also are less apt to be in nursing homes in the area, she said, than in places like Monroe County. The additional admissions and care days for the elderly, non-institutionalized patient actually is more cost effective than full-time institutionalization, she said.

In a separate action, the hospitals have had an application for a four-station dialysis unit approved. Kidney patients needing dialysis who live in the area now must go to Elmira or Rochester for their three or four times a week treatments.

### D.N. Klem Ordained Deacon

Daniel N. Klem, son of Mr. and Mrs. Norbert W. Klem of Solmar Drive, was ordained a deacon for the Diocese of Richmond, Va., May 23 by Bishop Walter F. Sullivan.

Rev. Mr. Klem attended King's Prep and graduated from St. John Vianney Seminary in Richmond. He attended Northern Virginia Community College, and took a degree in social work from Radford University. He has worked as assistant director of St. Francis Home for Adults in Richmond, has studied at St. Mary's University in Baltimore, Md., and is now working on a master of divinity degree at Theological College of the Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C.

### Priest Observes 40th

Hornell — A priest who grew up in Hornell celebrated the 40th anniversary of his ordination May 29.

Father Benedict F. Riccardo was honored by the parishioners of the Cure of Ars Church in Merrick, Long Island, where he is associate pastor.

Born in Jamaica, Long Island, he moved with his family to Hornell when he was three. He attended St. Ann's School and Hornell High School. He studied for the priesthood at St. Joseph's Seminary in Callicoon, St. Bonaventure Seminary in Paterson, N.J., and Holy Name College in Washington D.C.

He was ordained in Immaculate Conception Shrine in Washington.

He is the son of Felix Riccardo, Hornell, and the late Mary Riccardo. He has three sisters: Sister Mary Antoinette of the Sisters of Mercy, caring for her father at home; Jean Alexin of Hornell, and Mary Theresa Sheridan of Wyckoff, N.J., and a brother, Peter of Wellsville.

### Irish Festival Under Way

The second annual Irish Festival which began June 22 will continue through Saturday, June 26, at the Downtown Festival Tent, Woodbury Boulevard, between Clinton and South avenues.

Irish entertainment featuring the Sons of Erin and the Dady Brothers will be highlighted. Irish food, souvenirs and green beer are also available. Hours are 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and 5 p.m. to midnight. No admission is charged at lunchtime and a

Sister Patricia T. McDonald, RSM



Viewpoint: Sisters Reflect

### Counseling — A Specialized Ministry

What do I do when I meet a problem I cannot solve on my own? In the "good old days" I turned to a family member or a friend. Today, I contact a lawyer if the matter is legal. If the matter is money, I consult a financier. I make an appointment with the optician if my eyes grow dim. I take my car to Midas when my muffler wears thin.

Services multiply to provide for every trouble under heaven, be it alcohol or cancer, depression or drugs. The generalists of yesterday give way to the specialists of today.

But what if a life-crisis occurs? Many of us today, as in the past, turn to a pastor: a priest or minister. Today, however, pastors in parishes, large or small, are caught in the complexities of life that affect us all and find their time segmented in many ways. The pressing need of someone in crisis and in search of counsel often requires more time and expertise than even the most caring and capable pastor can give. Thus, as in other areas of life, the need for specialists in pastoral counseling has become a reality.

In response to the growing need for competent, caring professionals to guide persons in crisis toward growth, some priests, Sisters and clergy-persons have become trained psychotherapists. Their number is growing in Catholic and Protestant circles alike. As trained professionals, these pastoral counselors, myself included, counsel in

agencies, parishes and private practice, drawing on the combined resources of psychology and theology in working with individuals, couples and families toward achieving wholeness and health.

Each day we see in our offices people of every faith and non-faith. Men and women of all ages come: single, couples, celibate, married, separated, and divorced. A couple comes to repair a relationship or improve a marriage. A man comes to deal with a painful loss through death or divorce. A parent seeks help with a troubled teen. A mother faces an empty nest; a mid-life father, a change of job. A young adult looks for a life direction to take. Each one comes to resolve some inner confusion or outward stress.

For me, pastoral counseling is a ministry of presence and intimacy rather than proclamation and authority. For me it is the practice of psychology and theology but, most of all, pastoral care, in the context of a live relationship.

I prize the privilege, in my ministry as a pastoral counselor over the past 10 years, of sharing with someone a critical time. I have learned firsthand that "the loving hand of God is forever touching our lives." Often that touch of God is a time of crisis or confusion. The mystery and joy of my ministry is that I can be an instrument God uses to administer to another His healing touch.

Sister Patricia T. McDonald, RSM, is a pastoral counselor in private practice.

### Sarah Child



All in the Family

### To Quit Smoking, Ya Gotta Believe

Some universal truths discovered to indeed be true:

- If a person does some job over an extended period and strives faithfully and diligently to improve, it is impossible not to become better doing it whether it be writing a novel, designing a cathedral or baking a cake.
- Almost all learning processes benefit by following a period of intense concentration with a break. For example, if you are learning a new piano piece or dance step and practice assiduously three days in a row you will be more accomplished on the fifth day if you rest the fourth than if you had no respite. (It has something to do, I think, with patterns being traced on our nervous systems.)
- The reason most people cannot diet, quit smoking, or submit themselves to some other discipline has nothing to do with being weak. Rather, it

is because they lack belief in their own-willed powers.

- Mild depression, also known as having the blues or being down in the dumps, can be fruitful if we can remember that it is a temporary situation and use it to evaluate rather than castigate ourselves, then build on the evaluation with constructive plans.

- We only grow up (no matter how long it takes) when we finally decide to forgive our parents for not being perfect.

- Self-pity and self-determination (the positive kind) cannot exist at the same time in the same person. The first, a perversely rewarding emotion, effectively blocks out any constructive stirrings. Happily, the reverse, is also true.

- Absolutely nothing has a greater influence on a child's mind or on actions than the example set in front of him day after day for the first 12 years of his life. Fortunately, bad example sometimes, although not often enough, has the effect of putting him on the right path, too.

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