

Chaplain Cites Rochester General For Commitment to Spiritual Values

By John Dash

What has been called a "major commitment" to providing health care in both the physical and spiritual planes has been made by Rochester General Hospital.

According to Father Donald Schwab, the hospital has elevated its pastoral care program to full departmental status, has expanded the offices for pastoral care personnel and has bolstered the staffing of the department.

Father Schwab is thus not only a chaplain at the hospital, he is department head.

The pastoral care department has not only become responsible for the patients at the hospital, but also serves RGH's 3000-strong staff.

The developments have come within the past year, Father Schwab said. Prior to

last May, he said, chaplains were considered a part of the hospital administration, having a voice in management deliberations; but their work was definitely considered an adjunct to the general work of the facility.

Father Schwab's confrere, Rev. Ken Veazey agreed with that assessment. Rev. Veazey, a Southern Baptist, is Protestant chaplain in the department.

The advantages of the new situation, Rev. Veazey said, include the opportunity for "more influence in the broad decisions on health care policies . . . That's important."

"It's an excellent move," Father Schwab said, "both for status and for teaching."

"We really think of the hospital as a secular parish," he said, "with 3,000 employees and more than 500 beds, we're called on to

provide pastoral care for."

In such a situation, he said, "we don't presuppose faith or common tradition. But we try to keep alive issues of spirituality."

On the expanding "teaching" role that chaplains find them selves in, Father Schwab said, "It can be expressed negatively. The priest, minister or rabbi was once seen solely as coming in to do a specific sacrament or a prayerful thing. But here we have 30 die a week. Just working at death education, we're in a particularly good spot to serve in this sacred event."

Rev. Veazey cited the "vulnerability" of hospital staff at the time of a patient's death, and said that the chaplain's presence at the death offers a strong opportunity to teach the eternal verities.

Both men were asked how chaplains divide responsibilities between hospital staff and patients.

"That can be a hassle," Father Schwab said, "dividing time between patients and staff. That's a juggling act — just prioritizing time among three large intensive care units."

The two men once calculated that by simply giving each patient a "howdy-doo" call (an "in and out" visit, Father Schwab explained), it still would be physically impossible to cover the hospital in a day.

The pastoral care department includes Father Schwab and Rev. Veazey, Rabbi Henry Hyman, who also serves the congregation at B'nai Israel; Elinor Messner, secretary; and Sister Gemma Palermo, RSM, pastoral visitor.

The department is also looking for a woman religious to fill a full-time position of pastoral associate. According to Father Schwab,



Photos by Terrance J. Brennan

Loosening up a stiff pose for a formal portrait of the three chaplains, Rev. Veazey (left) hands Rabbi Hyman a pot of plastic posies. Father Schwab is at right.

the Diocese of Rochester will pay for half of the salary and

the Sister's congregation will pay the other half. Inquiries

on the position may be directed to him, he said.



Photos by Terrance J. Brennan

Elinor Messner confers with volunteer staffer Barbara Bullock.

Marketing Schools Is Focus of Talk

Sister Carol Cimino, director of development at Nazareth Academy will be speaking on "Marketing and Alternate Funding for Catholic Schools" during workshops for Catholic school administrators on April 13, in Amsterdam, and on

Wednesday, April 27, in Batavia. According to Sister Carol, "the future for Catholic schools has never been brighter. People are realizing more and more that Catholic schools deliver what they promise — quality Catholic education — and they are willing to invest in that product to see that it stays that way."

Other workshop topics will include dealing with school boards, the principal as spiritual leader, and computer literacy.

Sister Carol has been with Nazareth Academy for four years, and is vice president of the Catholic School Administrators Association of New York State.

Deadline

Items intended for publication must be typed and in the Courier-Journal offices by noon Thursday before the Wednesday publication. The Courier-Journal is located at 114 S. Union St., Rochester, N.Y. 14607.

Fr. Paul J. Cuddy



On the Right Side

At Prayer With Book In Hand

On March 13, I celebrated Mass at the 540-bed Rochester General Hospital for Father Donald Schwab. An important apostolate of mine is to encourage people to pray — mentally, vocally, and with prayer books.

For several years I have talked about prayer, including the reason for using prayer books. I said to the RGH congregation:

"In the 60s and 70s when the religious revolution was going full blast in the Church, radicals succeeded in wasting so much of our spiritual and esthetic inheritance. They scoffed: 'Throw away your prayer books. Who ever heard of reading prayers to God!'"

Yet these same disturbed people declaimed: 'Read the Bible. Pray the psalms,' oblivious that the Bible and the psalms are prayer books. These prayer books often record what we cannot think of or express.

"I have available for you in the back of church a little 32-page 'Treasury of Prayers,' published by the Liturgical Press. It is a collection of the traditional prayers which all Catholics should know as well as other prayers; e.g., for the sick, the dying, the souls in Purgatory. The books are available at five for \$1, less than the price of three cups of coffee. I do not sell one, but five, in order to spread devotion. They are less than cost. If one peach tree gives good fruit, five give five times more. So five people using prayer books is five times better than one."

At RGH, more than 100 books were bought by a congregation of 140 persons.

Another ancient devotion, uprooted by the vandals, is the recitation of the litany prayers: litanies of the saints, the Sacred Heart, the Precious Blood; and the Litany of Our Lady of Loretto — so full of scripture, theology, piety and poetry.

When I was a child our family in Auburn practiced an Irish Catholic tradition. After supper, father, mother, grandmother and five sons knelt in sundry positions in the living room. Our father led in the recitation of the rosary. The Litany of the Blessed Mother followed, led by our mother. We all ended up with the communal recitation: "May the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen."

Where would you find litanies today? Father Joseph M. Egan, quondam professor of dogmatic theology at old St. Bernard's Seminary, now custodian of orthodox Catholicism in the

Elmira area, has published a prayer book entitled "Aleiua." It has the traditional prayers of the Church, spread out each day of the week. Each day includes a different litany, concluding with the Litany of Our Lady of Saturday. The print is large, the text familiar. The price is \$1, less than three cups of coffee.

Military Viewpoint At Fisher

Capt. Michael Wilcomb, a member of the philosophy department at the United States Military Academy at West Point, will lecture on "The Ethics of Nuclear Armament," 7 p.m., Tuesday, April 12, at St. John Fisher College's Key Hall.

The next day, Capt. Wilcomb will lead a seminar on the forthcoming U.S. bishops' pastoral on war and peace, 9:30 a.m., in room 800 of the Kearney Building, also on the Fisher campus.

Group Asks For Broken Rosaries

Tepeyac II prayer circle which meets Wednesdays at St. Ambrose Church has asked for broken rosaries.

The group will repair them and give them to recent immigrants here, according to Stella Masuzzo, spokesperson.

In addition, she asked parish rosary societies to publish the need for rosaries at their regular meetings.

Persons wishing to donate such rosaries are asked to call Mrs. Masuzzo, 334-5516.