

Hospital Celebrating 75 Years

Elmira -- St. Joseph's Hospital will observe its 75th anniversary and begin a year of commemorative events Saturday, Sept. 24, according to 75th anniversary Chairman Martin M. Harrigan.

Bishop Joseph L. Hogan will be the celebrant and homilist at the liturgical celebration of thanksgiving and rededication at 11 a.m., Saturday in the Little Flower Chapel of the Edward Dunn Memorial Building.

Those in attendance, by invitation only due to the limited space accommodations, will be representative of 75 years of hospital histo-

ry. A cross section of the hospital family from board membership to founding sisters, to medical staff, to hospital employes and volunteers will comprise the gathering.

Bishop Hogan will be assisted by clergy from various parishes. The Cantata Singers under the direction of William Payne will provide the choral accompaniment.

Following the liturgy, guests will be shown a program of historical background that traces the hospital from the seeking out of a hospital sponsor by Dr. Daniel Murphy, through the



The Academy of Our Lady of the Angels -- 1908, the first home of St. Joseph's Hospital.



Dr. Daniel P. Murphy

A commemorative diamond artifact will be presented to the 105 society members by Sister Margaret Adelaide Owen, SSJ, president of the Board of Directors.

Also attending will be Mrs. Alice O'Brien of Corning, the daughter of the founding physician of St. Joseph's, Dr. Daniel J. Murphy.

She is expected to reflect on her father's life through a little girl's eyes during the formation period of the hospital.

Sister Margaret Adelaide, whose tenure at St. Joseph's equaled that of the founding superintendent, Sister Rose Alice Conway, also will be feted for her many contributions.

Charles F. Kennedy, former chairman of the board, will serve as toastmaster.

The first day's activities will be climaxed with the fourth annual Key Club benefit at the Clemens Center. Proceeds from the event support the equipment fund at the hospital.

purchase of the first ambulance and the trials and tribulations of the founding sisters. The same program will be broadcast over two area television stations Sun-

day, Sept. 25. Saturday afternoon, the Founders Society of St. Joseph's Hospital will be established at the first annual reception and dinner in the

Learning Center at the Edward Dunn Memorial Building. Members in attendance will be recognized for their support of the hospital.



Sister Rose Alice Conway 1908-1939



Sister Rose Miriam Smyth 1939



Sister Valerian O'Hare 1939-1942



Sister Margaret Adelaide Owen 1942-1973



Sister Martha Gersbach 1973 to present

Father Bruce Ritter

SUSAN'S MAGIC CARPET



The bait: child stardom in a movie to be called "Susan's Magic Carpet," a weekly salary of \$1,800, and a trip around the world. The catch: the young girl chosen to star would have to "perform brief scenes of nudity." The patsies: seven sets of well-meaning parents with no other fault than ambition for their daughters.

Enter Richard Cross, a platinum-tongued Englishman jailed in Avon Park, Florida since 1975, for a sexual assault on two nine-year-old girls he had taken on a "tour" of Disney World. Duping prison officials, a modeling agency, a photographer, his attorney, and several local businessmen, Cross masterminded an international child pornography business from his prison cell!

When police in Seattle, Washington arrested his sidekick, Robert Lodge (a seventh grade school teacher), on May 31, 1983, they found 20,000 allegedly pornographic photographs of children in his house. Later arrests of men linked to Cross in Albuquerque and Alexandria, Virginia, turned up 1500 more nude photographs of children and a collection of over 2500 "kiddie porn" videotapes.

For the seven little girls in St. Petersburg, the story did not have a tragic ending. Their photos were apparently recovered before Cross could enter them into the underground network which distributes child pornography. Credit for that small silver lining must go to investigators for Senator Paula Hawkins of Florida who raised questions about Cross' activities, to a few law enforcement officials who didn't fall for Cross' line, and to two exceptional reporters for the St. Petersburg Times—Robert Barnes and Doreen Carvajal—who broke the story and forced a full-scale official investigation.

On reading of the tangled, pathetic affair—Cross claims to have been doing "undercover" work for out-of-state child protection organizations—I felt a twinge of desperation. It is, after all, one full year now since the United States Supreme Court gave its approval to an all-out attack on child pornography. That was in the case *New York v.*

Father Bruce Ritter, OFM Conv., is the founder and President of Covenant House/UNDER 21, which operates crisis centers for homeless and runaway youth.

Ferber, in which Covenant House participated as representative of sexually-exploited children. And yet we still have no adequate federal law on the books to stop the marketing of "kiddie porn."

Congress, it's true, has been working on it. The Senate has approved a bill—the Protection of Children Against Sexual Exploitation Act of 1983—which would ban the production and distribution of virtually all child pornography. In addition—and extremely important—the bill (sponsored by Senator Arlen Specter [R-PA]) raises the age limit of children protected from use in pornography to 18. (It has been 16!) The House Judiciary Committee, headed by Representative Peter W. Rodino, Jr. (D-NJ), is considering a very similar proposal.

"We need firm, thoughtful, and vocal support to wake Congress up!"

But the Cross case points up dramatically one serious flaw in the current federal proposals. The problem is simple: nothing in current law, and nothing in the leading Congressional bills, allows the victims of child pornography to recover any compensation from their exploiters. To make matters worse, nothing in the current proposals would allow for special punishment of those who pursue child pornography as a business, with profit as their motive. Unless the bills currently pending are amended, those who organize to make and distribute child pornography will have nothing special to fear.

As the Cross case shows, child pornography is a business, and a highly organized one. And none of the children used by Cross have the effective right to sue the pornographers for damages.

A very simple change in federal law could make all the difference. We have asked Congress to include sexual exploitation of children as a crime covered by the Racketeering Influenced and Corrupt Organizations provisions. "RICO" makes it a crime to make a business of other crimes—such as transmitting gambling information; shipping contraband cigarettes, or transporting children for use in prostitution. It gives victims of those businesses the right to sue for three times their actual damages plus attorneys' fees.

At present RICO doesn't cover child pornography. This is

the perfect opportunity to correct that oversight. But Congress is going to miss that chance unless concerned voters around the country send a message to Washington. They've got to know that we will care.

You're the ones who can make that difference. I ask a lot from you, and I would never ask you to support something you don't believe in. But this is not a complicated issue—no one has made any sort of case against adding RICO as a tool against sexual exploitation of children. It only needs the firm, thoughtful and vocal support of voting citizens to wake Congress up.

So if you can, call your Congressman and Rep. Peter Rodino (202-225-3436), the Chairman of the House Judiciary Committee, to express your support for adding child pornography offenses to RICO. The address is: U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, DC 20515.

Nothing we do now can repair the damage inflicted on tens of thousands of children in making "kiddie porn". But we give them our prayers and we can do everything possible to protect kids from now on. Please join me in your prayers, in your letter-writing and, of course, in your financial support. We can only be here for them if you are.

Let's continue to hope and work together for a world kinder in its treatment of children. Here's my gift of \$_____ please print:

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____

ZIP: _____ AP (ORE)

Please send this coupon with your donation to:

COVENANT HOUSE
Father Bruce Ritter
P.O. Box 2121
Times Square Station
New York, NY 10108

Because the street is NO PLACE FOR A CHILD