

Rochester Sister-Surgeon Heads National Unit

Sister Marguerite Dynski SSJ MD, a general surgeon in private practice, was elected president of the Association of Sister, Brother and Priest Physicians at the group's second annual meeting held earlier this month in Omaha.

Sister Marguerite has also

assumed the post of editor of the group's monthly newsletter, "Lifeline."

The group was formed to develop a communications network and support systems for those who combine the professions of Roman Catholic religious and physi-

cian, a news feature from the Sisters of St. Joseph of Rochester stated.

The members are often the only physicians in their congregations, the release said; and represent such diverse geographical areas as rural Mississippi; New York City; the Hispanic community of Camden, N.J.; and the New Orleans bayou. Members also represent diverse medical specialties including family practice, internal medicine, psychiatry, surgery, pediatrics and obstetrics/gynecology, the release said.

Others elected at the meeting are Sister Roseanne Cook CSJ MD, St. Louis, Miss., vice president; Sister Patricia Ann Thomas OP MD, Jamaica, N.Y., treasurer;

and Sister Alice O'Shaughnessy CSJ MD, Brentwood, N.Y., secretary.

The meeting focused on broader aspects of healing, personal and communal prayer life, problems of social justice as it affects the health care system and the role of physician-members of religious congregations in the public life of the Church.

The group is now drafting its constitution and by-laws. To be held in its 1985 meeting, to be held in St. Louis, include coverage of the topics of meeting the medical needs of the poor, spirituality of healing, medical ethics, the Catholic Health Care System, and development of prayer and interpersonal relationships.



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Foot in Hand

Sister Patricia Carroll, SSJ, principal of St. Patrick Junior High School in Elmira, receives the Bronze Foot Award from James Mirando, president of the Chemung County General Education Board. The Bronze Foot is awarded to the school which brings in the highest percentage of ticket sales at the Chemung County Catholic School Systems annual "Walk-a-thon," held this year Oct. 10.



Mooney Follies

Tom O'Rourke and Edie Quenell will be among the performers saluting "Crazy Rhythms" in the eighth annual Cardinal Mooney Follies opening at 8 p.m., Thursday, Nov. 8, with a special Senior Citizen Guest Night. Other performances are 8 p.m., Friday and Saturday, Nov. 9-10; 2:30 p.m., Sunday, Nov. 11; and 8 p.m., Friday and Saturday, Nov. 16-17. Tickets are \$4 at the door. On Saturday, Nov. 10, a 5:30 p.m. dinner show will be sponsored by Cephas for \$15 per person -- for reservations, call 663-4366, by Nov. 6. The show will trace the roots of popular music from the 1920s through 1980.

Fr. Louis J. Hohman



The Open Window

A Role In Politics

As we approach the time of election there is a great deal of talk about the relationship of the church to the state, especially in terms of the elections and the issues thereof.

Today I would simply like to share with you some sections of a statement of the administrative board of the United States Catholic Conference, the arm of the American bishops. This is from the revised edition of March 22, 1984.

The statement, first of all, quotes from the Second Vatican Council, "The laity, by their special vocation, seek the Kingdom of God by engaging in temporal affairs and by ordering them according to the plan of God. They live in the ordinary circumstances of family and social life, from which the very web of their existence is woven. Today they are called by God, that by exercising their proper function, and led by the spirit of the Gospel, they may work for the sanctification of the world from within as a leave."

The document goes on to say that the church's role in the political order includes the following:

- education regarding the teachings of the church and the responsibilities of the faithful;
- analysis of issues for their social and moral dimensions;
- measuring public policy against gospel values;
- participating with other concerned parties in debate over public policy;
- speaking out with courage, skill and concern on public issues involving human rights, social justice and the life of the church in society.

The document goes on to say, "it is the role of Christian communities to analyze the situation in their own country, to reflect upon the meaning of the gospel, and to draw norms of judgment and plans of action from the teaching of the church and their own experience. In carrying out this pastoral activity in the social arena we are confronted with complexity. As the 1971 Synod of Bishops pointed out: 'It does not belong to the church, in so far as she is a religious and hierarchical community, to offer concrete solutions in the social, economic and political spheres. for justice in the world'."

Later the statement says, "We specifically do not seek the formation of a religious voting bloc; nor do we wish to instruct persons on how they should vote by endorsing candidates. We urge citizens to avoid choosing candidates simply on the basis of personal self interest... We seek to promote a greater understanding of the important link between faith and politics and to express our belief that our nation is enriched when its citizens and social groups approach public affairs from positions grounded in moral conviction and religious belief."

The conclusion we arrive at is the church is not meddling in an area where it does not belong but it is merely asking Christians to proclaim their principles in the marketplace as well as in the church building and to act according to the beliefs which they themselves have. In no way does that constitute interference in the political arena, nor is it in any sense a violation of the principle of the separation of church and state.

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