

St. Mary's Hospital yesterday and today: Continuing a

By Jeanne Gehret

Appearances can be deceiving. Although St. Mary's Hospital hides its age well — thanks to a recent \$40 million renovation of facilities and services — this fall it will nevertheless mark its 130th anniversary.

Living out their motto, "The charity of Christ urges us," three Daughters of Charity established the hospital in a pair of rented stables on Genesee Street. From that humble start, the Daughters have maintained a strong commitment to the poor who inhabit the hospital's urban neighborhood.

"Our mission at St. Mary's is to offer excellent care, regardless of patients' ability to pay," said Sister Eileen Kinnarney, who heads the hospital's board of trustees.

This tradition of health care began in 1639, when the Daughters of Charity, founded by St. Vincent de Paul, took over the administration of St. Jean Hospital in Angers, France. In the United States the order of women religious is closely associated with St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, who founded the first American community at Emmitsburg, Maryland. The community spread to Buffalo in 1848, and during the next 21 years pioneered a number of other hospitals in western New York state.

Poverty and war

In response to the cholera epidemics of 1855 and 1856, Bishop John Timon invited the Daughters of Charity of Buffalo to found a hospital in Rochester. Two deserted stables in a wheatfield at the corner of Genesee Street provided the first facility for three sisters who arrived in 1857 to nurse the sick.

From their initial announcement of services, the sisters set forth their intent to care for the sick regardless of race, creed, or ability to pay: "The Sisters of Charity have just opened a hospital ... to the sick of all denominations or

of none. No distinction will be made," the announcement stated. "Patients who desire spiritual help from pastors of other beliefs shall have every necessity afforded them to obtain this consolation. The Sisters are very willing to admit the sick poor gratis ... but they have no funds or endowment. They can do but little at present except to give gratis their time and kindest attention ..."

The sisters themselves were so poor, an early historian noted, that "they used a large dry goods box by day for a table, while at night they turned it over, took from it their mattresses and slept by its side upon the floor. Day by day the Sisters went out into the city ... and sought alms for their work (and) supplies for their patients ..."

During their first year of operation, the

Daughters of Charity treated 250 citizens and in 1858 erected a two-story building to connect the stables. The following year they added a wing, bringing more patients — and more expenses. "There were (many) nights when the Sisters did not know where the food for the next day could be obtained. More than half the patients at the Hospital were charity patients," the historian wrote.



One of St. Mary's first ambulances is depicted in this vintage photograph, taken sometime around 1896.



DINING AROUND THE DIOCESE




Advertisement Advertisement

Agatina's
Italian - American
2967 Buffalo Rd.
(490 W. to N.Y. 33 W. Exit)
426-0510

One of Rochester's finer Italian restaurants. Featuring a large selection of individually and custom prepared Italian and American favorites. Veal, beef, poultry and seafood plus homemade soup, pasta, eggplant and other specialties. Serving dinners six nights a week, Monday through Saturday. Private party rooms available. MasterCard and Visa honored; accessible to the handicapped. At Agatina's, "You Are Special."

Cannon's
1551 Mt. Hope Ave.
(1 minute north of W. Henrietta Rd.
exit of Rte. 390.)
461-1026

A Rochester favorite for 23 years, featuring a diverse menu including seafood, steaks, chops, veal, and Italian dishes. For the late night diner we serve until 1 am Mon.-Sat., and midnight Sun. Lunches are served daily from 11 am till 3:30.

Conesus Inn
2170 East Lake Road
(East side of Beautiful
Conesus Lake)
(716) 346-6100

Now is the perfect time to take a leisurely drive to the Conesus Inn. Located on Conesus Lake, the Conesus Inn serves dinners Tuesday through Saturday from 5 pm and Sundays beginning at 4 pm. As always you'll find the same spectacular Prime Rib, Alaskan King Crab Legs and Australian Lobster Tail that you've come to expect and enjoy from the Conesus Inn. The beautiful surroundings and atmosphere of the Conesus Inn make it an ideal spot for dinner. Whether it's an intimate evening for two or a large gathering of friends... the Conesus Inn has a perfect evening of dining waiting for you.

While you're there, remember to choose a fine wine from their extensive wine list. Re-open for yet another season of splendid dining, visit the Conesus Inn soon... "For The Prime Of Your Life." Just ten minutes from exit 9 off 390. Call today for reservations.

Crystal Barn
Corner Clover & Jefferson
at the Barn Bazaar in Pittsford
(716) 381-4844

A pleasant blend of crystal chandeliers and Victorian motif set in an authentic country barn, creates a memorable atmosphere... for lunch, cocktails or an enjoyable dining experience. Your hosts George and Katherine Gerakos and Chef Russell Brindisi pride themselves in presenting you with the most carefully selected and prepared lunches and dinners as well as unique special daily creations. We most sincerely hope that you'll find our quality uncompromising and our service unsurpassed. Reservations are appreciated.

Fornataro's
1255 Long Pond Rd.
(corner Longpond &
Spencerport Rds.)
426-1240

Along the streets of Rome or in the Italian countryside, the word "trattoria" conjures up images of a family-like dining room just off a kitchen, fragrant with the rich aroma of simmering meat sauces, tomatoes and fresh peppers. Such could be a description of Fornataro's. Serving dishes like Filet Fornataro (beef dressed in a sweet sauce with melon balls and grapes), Saltimbocca, Veal Marsala and Madeira, Fettucine Alfredo in its golden cheese dressing, and Beef Tenderloin flavored with spices and cognac in a marinara sauce. Most pastas are homemade. Wines and liqueurs are used liberally in the cuisine as are artichoke hearts and fruits. Lunches served Monday through Friday, dinner seven nights a week. Banquet and private party rooms are available.

Glen Edith Restaurant
1078 Glen Edith Drive, Webster
(On The Irondequoit Bay)
671-6200

Accessible by land or sea, the Glen Edith has always been one of Rochester's favorite spring, summer and fall restaurants. Boasting a tremendous view of the Irondequoit Bay from their exquisite dining

room or marvelous outdoor cocktail patio, the Glen Edith features a large selection of beef and seafood entrees. With over thirty four menu items to choose from, it may be difficult to decide between their fresh Norwegian Salmon or the Sautéed Beef Tenderloin with Lobster Dainties.

But one thing is for certain, whichever you choose, you're sure to be delighted. Then Glen Edith also features daily specials and their "Whim of the Chef", (the chef's daily specialty). Jackets are required in the dining room; a casual attire is appropriate for the lounge. Boat docking is available for access via the waterways. The Glen Edith is open and serving dinners Tuesday through Saturday, 5-10 pm, Sunday, 1-9 pm. No reservations taken. Visa and MasterCard are accepted.

Glen Iris Inn
Letchworth State Park
Castile, N.Y. 14427
(716) 493-2622

Located in picturesque Letchworth State Park, the Glen Iris Inn is open for another season of fine dining. Hours: Breakfast, 8:00-10:00 am, featuring a new Sunday Breakfast Buffet; Luncheon, 12:00-2:00 pm; Dinner, 5:30-9:00 pm, Sat. Dinner, 5:30-10:00 pm, Sun. Dinner, 12:30-9:00 pm.

(Oswald's) Hof Brau Haus
406 Lyell Ave.,
5 min. from downtown
254-9660

Authentic German cooking in an olde world Gasthaus decor. Specializing in German wines, and featuring more than 50 imported beers. Special arrangements for groups. Serving lunch and dinner. Live Bavarian entertainment on weekends.

Irondequoit Town Lounge
705 Titus Ave.
342-3465

Serving lunches 11:30-3 p.m. daily except Sunday. Featuring an Early Bird Special every night but Friday, Fish Frys every Friday. Our party room can accommodate up to 60 people for your next gathering. Clip out this ad and receive \$5.00 off two dinners (specials not included), any Saturday night during the month of September.

National Hotel
Rte. 20A & 39
Cuylerville, N.Y. 14481
(716) 362-3130

Built in 1837, the 150 year old National Hotel is a landmark in and of itself. Serving dinners only, Tues.-Sat. 4:30-10 p.m. and Sundays, 12-8 p.m. A special Senior Citizen menu is featured nightly and Sunday. From Rochester, take 390 South to exit 8. The National Hotel is located on Rts. 20A & 39 in Cuylerville just 3 miles south of Genesee or 3 miles east of Letchworth State Park. Reservations are appreciated.

New Sodus Pt. Fish & Crab House
Sodus Pt., N.Y. 14555 (on the Seaway Trail)
(315) 483-2314

Discover Sodus Pt. at its finest! The areas first waterfront fish and crab house serving breakfast, lunch and dinner on beautiful Sodus Bay. Surrounded with glass and decking, every seat has a breathtaking view second to none. Join us for dining or dancing in our authentic Cape Cod nautical atmosphere. Located on Greig St. in Sodus Pt. Reservations appreciated.

Strebs Steak & SeaFood House
4464 Ridge Rd. West
352-1400

If it's succulent seafood or a thick, juicy steak you're craving, our name speaks for itself. But don't let our name fool you... We also feature a wide array of full course dinners including prime rib, veal and chicken. Daily and weekly specials. Set in a romantic, homelike atmosphere. Serving lunches Tues. - Fri., 11:30 - 2:30; Dinners Tues. - Thurs., 4:30 - 10:00; Fri. & Sat., 4:30 - midnight; Sun., 12:00 - 10:00. Major credit cards accepted.

Dining Around the Diocese

The first issue of each month, the Courier-Journal will be featuring some prime dining spots in and around the Rochester diocese. If you, or someone you know would like to have your restaurant included in our Dining Guide, call the Courier-Journal at 328-4340. Look for our Dining Guide in the upcoming months, and pay a visit to the restaurant of your choice, and enjoy a pleasant evening of "Dining Around the Diocese."