

Former hospital executive pleads guilty to larceny

By Richard A. Kiley
News editor

ELMIRA — A former St. Joseph's Hospital vice president faces 2-10 years in prison after pleading guilty Thursday, Sept. 21, to embezzling more than \$270,000 from the Elmira facility.

Jeffrey A. Katz, 37, of 908 Bowman Road, Elmira, pleaded guilty before Chemung County Judge Samuel J. Castellino to having used a bogus voucher and check scheme to steal the sum from St. Joseph's Hospital between March 1982 and April 1989.

Katz was arrested June 2 on two felony charges of second-degree grand larceny for forging signatures on more than 1,500 checks worth a total of \$270,000.

According to Chemung County District Attorney James T. Hayden, the bogus checks were issued to individuals and businesses in payment of non-existent services to the hospital.

The charges stipulated that Katz forged the payees' signatures on checks and deposited the funds into his personal account at Elmira Savings Bank.

As head of the hospital's rehabilitation center, Katz was responsible for submitting expenses from his department. The district attorney said he began his investigation into the case May 15 at the request of "high-level administrators" at the hospital.

Hayden said Katz used the money "to live a very high lifestyle."

"(Katz) claimed he used the money for vacations, dinners, nice clothes and entertainment," Hayden said in a telephone interview Sept. 26.

Although Katz told Judge Castellino in court that he did not know the exact amount of money he embezzled, Hayden said that investigations into the case found \$270,000 missing from the hospital.

According to Hayden, Katz will pay back some of the money with a \$40,000 pension fund, the nearly \$20,000 that remained in his checking account and about \$40,000 in assets.

Katz faces additional charges of evading federal income taxes by not claiming the embezzled money as income on his federal tax returns. No federal charges have been filed yet, Hayden said.

Hayden said last month that he notified

U.S. Attorney Dennis C. Vacco of Buffalo of the case against Katz "to see if he wanted to initiate an investigation into any tax evasion."

Hayden said that Vacco in turn notified the Internal Revenue Service, but that Vacco would wait for the case to be completed in Chemung County Court before beginning a formal investigation.

If Katz is arrested for income-tax evasion and pleads guilty, the sentence on such a charge would run concurrent with Katz' sentence from the Chemung County court, Hayden said.

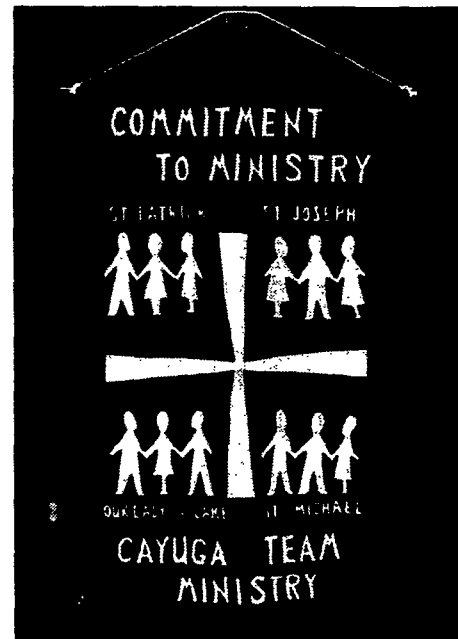
Hayden said Judge Castellino will sentence Katz on Oct. 20. He remains free on \$20,000 bail. The district attorney added that Castellino would allow Katz to withdraw his guilty plea if the judge decides to sentence Katz to more than 10 years in prison.

John J. Renz, vice president for planning and marketing at St. Joseph's Hospital, would not comment on the guilty plea by Katz or whether the hospital has made any changes in hospital procedures concerning the submission of departmental expense vouchers.

Katz arrived at St. Joseph's in 1976. He became administrative director of the Twin Tiers Rehabilitation Center at St. Joseph's in 1979, and held that position until his promotion to vice president in charge of rehabilitation, occupational health services, laboratory services and volunteers at the hospital.



Christopher Millette
LEADERSHIP DAY — The Rochester Riverside Convention Center was the venue for the annual Leadership Day on Saturday, Sept. 23. The diocesan event focused primarily on the Commitment to Ministry process, and was convened by Bishop Matthew H. Clark. More than 1,200 people attended the event, compared to 300 last year. Above, the Hosanna Dance Group closes out the day with a spiritual dance following Bishop Clark's keynote address. Right, a banner dressed up the convention hall.



Before you run...

Call the Covenant House 9-LINE, a hotline for troubled youth and families, open 24-hours a day, seven days a week, from anywhere in the U.S.
1-800-999-9999
The street is no solution. Old problems get worse, and new ones are created.

CENACLE OFFERS WEEKEND PROGRAMS

- Oct. 13-15 CHARISMATIC INNER HEALING RETREAT — Sr. Joan Kellenberg, r.c., Mr. Michael Koagel, and Mrs. Mary Dean and Mrs. Peggy Matuozzi.
- Oct. 19-22 A FAITH AND SHARING RETREAT — An essential element of this 3 day weekend is encounter with God and others. For people of all faiths, young and old, rich and poor, lay and religious... with special welcome to those who often feel left out and unwanted.
- Oct. 27-29 HOLY LAND RETREAT — given by Sr. Ellen Frawley, r.c. Having been to the Holy Land herself, Sister speaks from her own experience and invites us into a time of praying with Jesus during his time of public ministry as we walk through his land with him.
- Oct. 27-29 ENNEAGRAM I WORKSHOP — given by Sr. Barbara Young, r.c. An ancient and still useful tool in understanding oneself and others, and for on-going spiritual growth.

OTHERS SPECIAL SERIES

FROM POWERLESSNESS TO FREEDOM: A six-week series on the spirituality of recovery given by Craig Bullock, M.A. (psychotherapist). Mondays: Oct. 9, 16, 23, 30 and Nov. 13, 20; 7:30 to 9:00pm. \$5.00 per evening or \$25.00 if you register in advance for full.

PRAYER AND SPIRITUALITY: A three-week series on prayer and spiritual direction given by Srs. Annette Mattle and Audrey Tilden. Offering \$5.00 per morning.

Tuesday, October 17 (9:30 - 11:30 am)

Spirituality: Our Relationship with God

October 24 (9:30 - 11:30 am)

Methods and Approaches to Prayer

October 31 (9:30 - 11:30 am)

Difference Between Counseling & Spiritual Direction

GOSPEL WOMEN TODAY: A four-week series for women today, by women today, learning from the Gospel women of yesterday and today given by Srs. Hilda Blade and Margie Mayk, r.c. Offering \$5.00 per evening. Thursdays, Oct. 26, Nov. 2, 9 & 16 (7:00-9:00pm).

All events are open to men and women of all faiths



Center for Spiritual Renewal
693 East Avenue
Rochester, New York 14607

For further information and reservations please call
THE MINISTRY OFFICE:

(716) 271-8755

At IDS, Financial Planning Is Not Just Another Product.

It's our commitment to help you and your family achieve financial independence and security.

Send for our 24-page guide, "FINANCIAL PLANNING How It Works For You." It's free, and of course, there is no obligation. Call Carol J. Sutter, CFP at (716) 424-4890 or return coupon below for your free 24-page guide.

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____
Mail to: Carol J. Sutter, CFP
IDS Financial Services, Inc.
540 White Spruce Blvd.
Rochester, NY 14623

Goal: Tax Reduction
 Investments
 Retirement
 Estate Planning
 Information on Local Seminars



©1987 IDS Financial Corporation
All rights reserved.

FINE ARTS AND CRAFTS SHOWCASE
The evenings of Oct. 14-15
on WXXI-TV

Custom Stained Glass Studio
Supplies • Repairs • Classes

Forming Classes Beginning
September 28
Call For Details
Since 1977
(716) 426-4450
3029 Buffalo Rd • Across from Elmgrove Kodak