

CATHOLIC COURIER

DIOCESE OF ROCHESTER, NY

Vol. 103 No. 28

Thursday, July 25, 1991

75¢

24 pages

In this year's **HEALTH CARE** section
read how spiritual guidance leads
modern caregivers to aid
the afflicted.
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Hospitals urge timely care to prevent illness

Nancy K. Bartell summarized her philosophy of preventative health care by asserting, "You shouldn't have to get sick in order to get service."

This week, Bartell's office at Hornell's St. James Mercy Hospital was slated to officially inaugurate Health Focus, an umbrella program under which St. James will consolidate all of its non-medical health programs and services to the community.

Health Focus is designed to foster health-care education within the Hornell community and more positive attitudes toward preventative medicine, explained Bartell, St. James' director of social work.

She and officials at the other two Catholic hospitals in the diocese — St. Joseph's in Elmira and St. Mary's in Rochester — emphasized a need for citizens to take better care of their health *outside* of the hospital, so that they will spend less time *inside* the hospital.

To achieve that end, all three diocesan Catholic hospitals currently are embarking on new efforts designed to better communicate the message of preventative health care to their communities.

As St. James establishes its Health Focus program, St. Joseph's plans to "adopt" two public schools where it will

offer a series of preventative and educational health programs to students. St. Joseph's has also created a breast-cancer education program geared toward community groups and businesses.

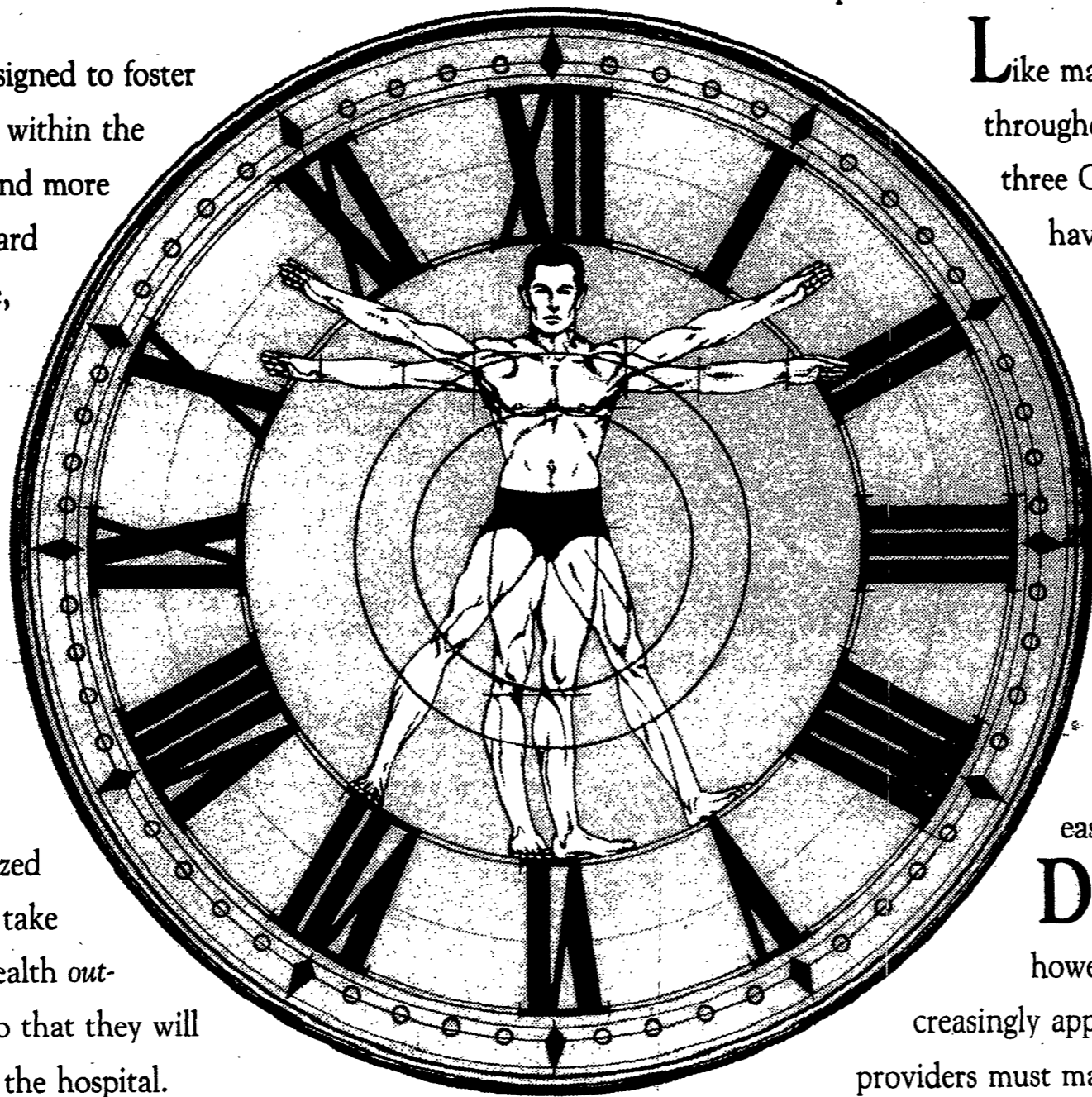
St. Mary's, meanwhile, recently received \$1.47 million in state funding to develop a primary-care program for poor patients. Part of the funding will go toward increasing the staff of its disease prevention and screening efforts.

Like many health institutions throughout the country, these three Catholic hospitals long have advocated preventative health care and health education efforts. All three have regularly participated in community health fairs at shopping malls and schools, where they have offered health information and disease screening.

During the past decade, however, it has become increasingly apparent that health-care providers must make more concerted efforts to counteract what they perceive as a lack of health-care awareness among the general public.

At a June press conference announcing the state grant to St. Mary's, Patrick Madden, hospital president, noted that low-income patients with no private physicians often use

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Story by Rob Cullivan