

St. Mary's Hospital plans drug detoxification beds

Move is a victory for SAN members

By Rob Cullivan
Staff writer

ROCHESTER — St. Mary's Hospital, in cooperation with the Health Association of Rochester and Monroe County, Inc., plans to designate as many as 14 inpatient beds for a drug-detoxification unit, according to Stewart C. Putnam, St. Mary's chief operating officer. On June 29, Putnam also was named the hospital's new president.

Due to lack of space, the hospital is unable to locate the new unit at its 89 Geneese St. building, Putnam said. However,

St. Mary's is licensed to operate more than its current number of beds, Putnam noted, so the hospital will locate the detoxification unit at the Health Association's treatment facility, Main Quest Treatment Center, 774 W. Main St.

St. Mary's will lease space at Main Quest from the Health Association and contract with Main Quest for specific services. St. Mary's would provide the remaining needed services, primarily medical, Putnam explained.

According to Luisa Baars, division director for Main Quest, the Health Association center provides alcoholism and substance-abuse treatment. Baars noted that the facility currently is not licensed to treat patients addicted solely to illicit drugs, but is permitted to treat patients who are addicted to drugs and alcohol.

Thus St. Mary's establishment a detoxification unit at Main Quest will enable the two agencies to treat patients addicted solely to drugs, she explained.

Putnam noted that St. Mary's outlined its plan for the detoxification unit to members of the Social Action Network last month. The Social Action Network consists of several churches and community groups and receives funding from the diocese, member parishes and individuals.

In February of this year, SAN's Blue Ribbon Commission — made up of several prominent Catholic and non-Catholic clergy members, health experts, politicians and other community leaders — had issued a call for the expansion of drug-detoxification services in Monroe County. The call had come in response

to a "listening campaign" involving more than 1,000 county residents, who expressed support for the expansion of drug detoxification in Monroe County.

After working on the issue for several months, SAN's members said they are elated that drug rehabilitation services are being expanded in Monroe County, according to Terri Schmitt, SAN's media coordinator and a member of its executive committee.

"We are absolutely thrilled," Schmitt commented. "This has been a front-burner issue for SAN for well over a year."

Schmitt pointed out that several studies by SAN and other groups have highlighted the lack of drug detoxification services in Rochester, a gap in services that caused almost 400 Monroe County residents to seek drug detoxification in the Buffalo area in 1993 alone, she said.

"It's long overdue in this community," she concluded.

Felice Armignacco, co-chairwoman of SAN's Blue Ribbon Commission, echoed Schmitt's praise of the new unit.

"We're pretty excited about that," she said. "SAN has been working on this for quite awhile."

Putnam pointed out that St. Mary's is currently preparing a Certificate of Need application for the detoxification unit. The application must gain approval from the New York State Department of Health before the unit can be established. The new unit must also be approved by St. Mary's board of directors, which will take up the issue at its meeting later this month.

Putnam noted that he could not give a specific date by which the unit might be established.

"We hope to have the service up and running as soon as possible," he concluded.

Franz named Courier general manager

ROCHESTER — Bishop Matthew H. Clark has named Karen M. Franz general manager/editor of the *Catholic Courier*.

Franz has been the *Courier's* assistant general manager since September 1989. Employed as editor of the *Courier* since April, 1985, she succeeds Bishop Dennis W. Hickey, who has served as the paper's general manager for more than a decade. The bishop retired from his duties at the paper July 1.

Franz praised her predecessor for his service to the *Courier* and expressed the hope that he would continue his association with the paper.

"If someone were to draw up the characteristics that one would want in a boss, Bishop Hickey would certainly fill up that list and beyond," she said. (Franz offers more comments on Bishop Hickey's retirement in "Between the Lines," page 9.)



Franz

As general manager, Franz plans to continue many of the *Courier's* editorial policies undertaken during Bishop Hickey's tenure, while implementing a number of new approaches designed to make the paper more useful to diocesan Catholics.

"I think the key challenge in the next five to 10 years is to become more customer-focused," she said.

A readership survey undertaken last year revealed that many readers are happy with the current state of the *Courier*, Franz said, but many of those same consumers pointed out a variety of areas that could be improved.

For example, she noted that readers

want more catechetical information from the paper, and she added that the *Courier* plans to consult diocesan pastors for input on what their parishioners want to learn about the faith.

"Sometimes, sitting here, it's difficult to get a sense of what's going on in the parishes," Franz commented. "We need to take a look at what the priests see."

She also noted that *Courier* staff members met for a June brain-storming session, and concluded that readers want a number of other new features in the paper, including more articles and columns geared to family life concerns.

Readers from outside Monroe County have also called for more stories featuring their regions, stories that should be accompanied by advertisements from regional businesses, she added.

— Rob Cullivan

For the Next Generation

Support the Church in Eastern Europe 1995 Aid for the Catholic Church in Eastern Europe.

My dear sisters and brothers,

As we celebrate our freedom and God's many blessings upon our country during July, I ask you to remember our struggling Catholic sisters and brothers through the 1995 Collection to Aid the Catholic Church in Central and Eastern Europe which will be taken up on the weekend of July 8th and 9th.

We rejoiced when the collapse of communism in Europe heralded an end to the oppression of the Church. Since then, the Church has restored hope to Catholics with a great legacy of faith throughout the region. But decades of totalitarian rule seriously impaired the capacity of the Church to minister to the faithful. In particular, many children have not received religious instruction and formation in the Catholic faith, been part of a parish, read religious books, or received pastoral care from priests and nuns. These children represent the next generation of the Church; it is they who must bring the light of Christ into the future. We must nurture them — through pastoral care, education and renewed faith communities — to ensure a strong Church for the next century. In recognition of this great challenge this year's collection for the Catholic Church in Central and Eastern Europe has adopted the theme "For the Next Generation."

The collection for the Catholic Church in Central and Eastern Europe was initiated by the bishops of the United States in 1990 and provides crucial financial support to restore Church institutions, to provide religious education, to spread the Word of God through mass media and to restore Catholic charitable organizations once outlawed in Marxist states. Since the collection began four years ago, more than \$20 million has been contributed by the Catholic Church in the United States. As a result more than 650 projects in 21 countries are underway.

The Church in Central and Eastern Europe depends on us for assistance. I ask your help in responding to the Church's call to support our sisters and brothers who have been deprived of so much that we take for granted.

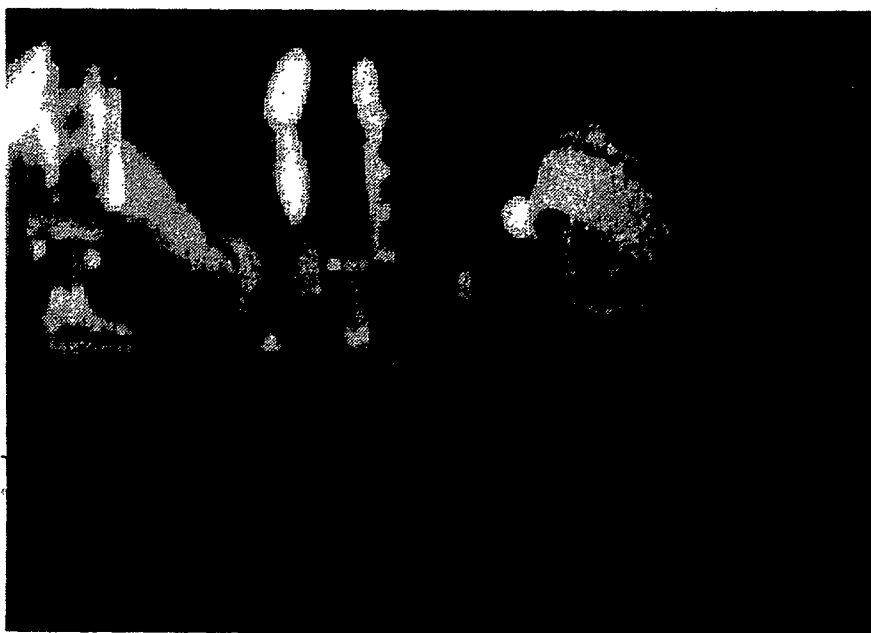
May God bless you for your generous response to this year's collection for the Catholic Church in Central and Eastern Europe.

With every good wish, I remain

Your brother in Christ,

Matthew H. Clark

† Matthew H. Clark
Bishop of Rochester



Collection
Weekend
July 8th & 9th

