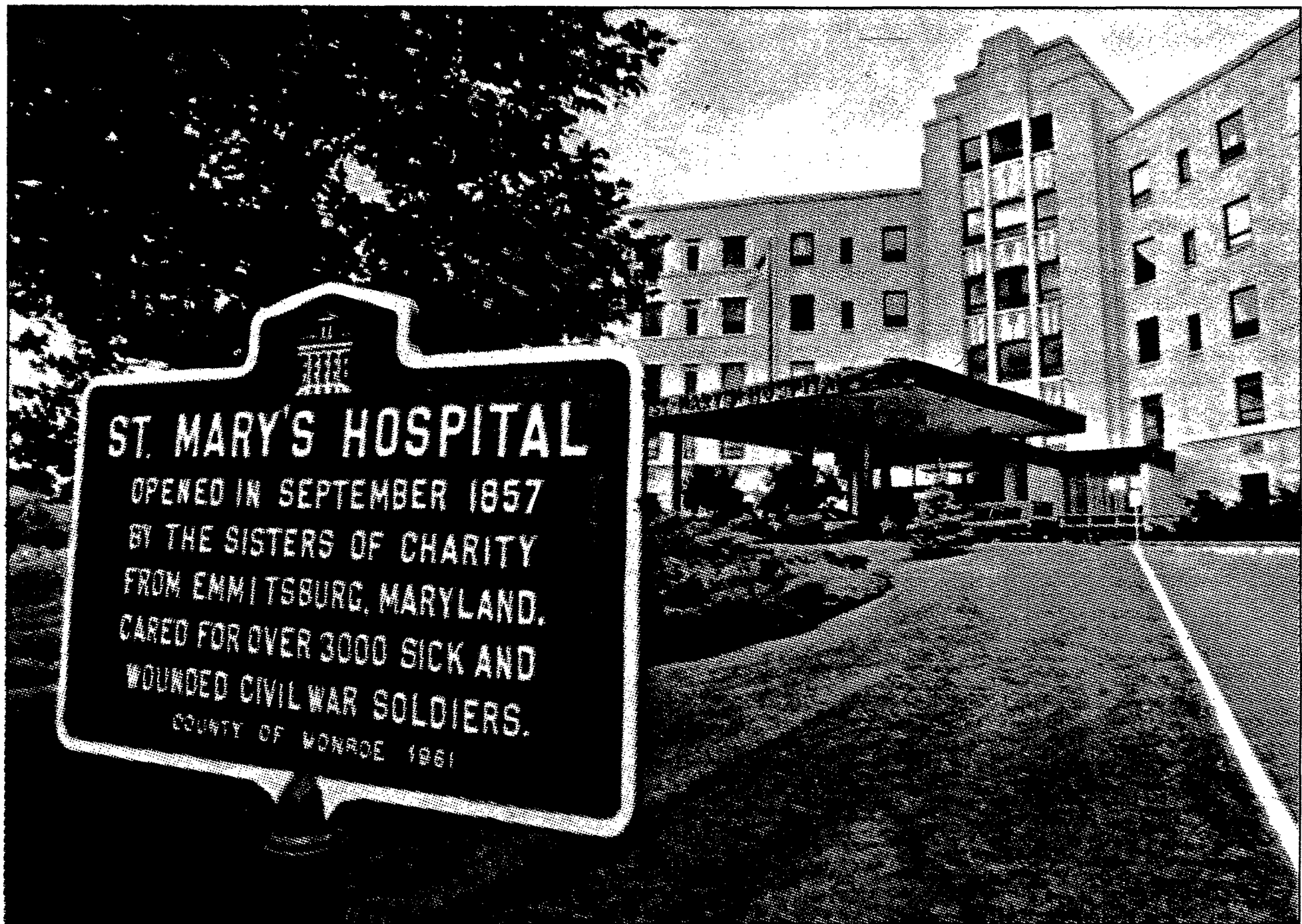


140th Anniversary St. Mary's Hospital



Greg Francis/Catholic Courier

The historical overview presented on the following pages serves as a tribute to those who worked so hard to make St. Mary's Hospital what it is today, particularly the Daughters of Charity.

The Founding of St. Mary's Hospital

At the dawn of 1857, there was still no hospital in Rochester, which by then had a population of 50,000. The city had fallen victim to three cholera epidemics in 1832, 1842 and 1852. Treatments were provided in makeshift hospitals in old, unused buildings and temporary structures.

At that time, Rochester was part of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Buffalo. Buffalo's first bishop, John Timon, was determined that this deficiency would be



corrected. On Sept. 7 of 1857, with help from a two-man committee, Bishop Timon selected a site for the new hospital — the corner of Rochester's Genesee and West Main streets.

On the next day, Sept. 8, the bishop secured a substantial donation and was able to make a first payment toward purchase of the property. The hospital opened that same day in two one-story, gray, stone stables connected by a dilapidated woodshed.

Bishop Timon then arranged for the hospital to obtain the administrative and nursing services of the Sisters of Charity, who had already established Sisters of Charity Hospital in Buffalo in 1848.

Three sisters were sent to begin the new establishment in Rochester.

Continued on page 2a