

1949-1999 A Half Century of Love, Dedication and Devotion

Hazleton-Saint Joseph Medical Center

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Published In/Presented At

Hazleton-Saint Joseph Medical Center. (1999, November 12). 1949-1999 A Half Century of Love, Dedication and Devotion, Liturgy of Thanksgiving.

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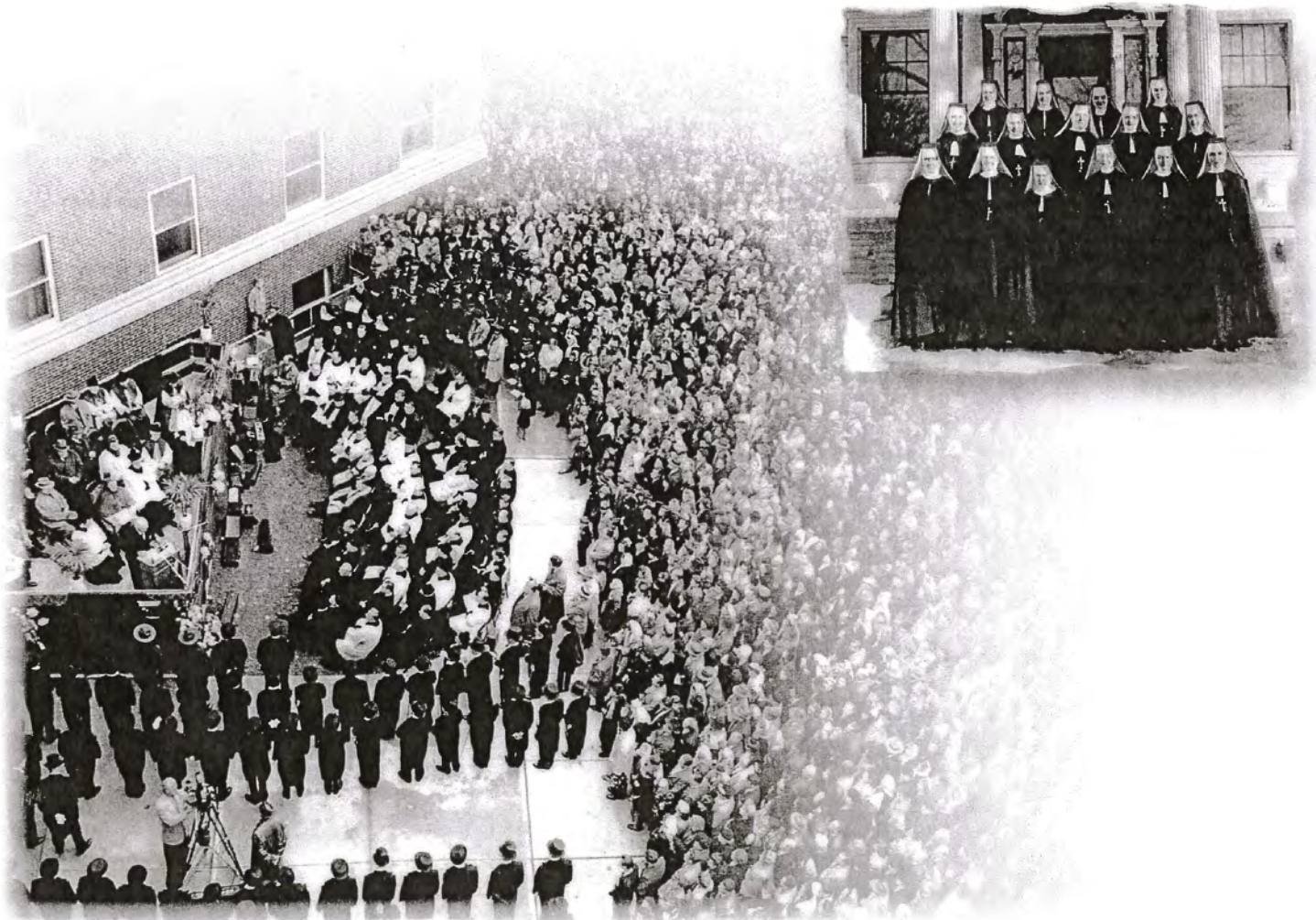
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1949-1999

A Half Century of Love, Dedication and Devotion

The Bernardine Sisters
&
Hazleton-Saint Joseph Medical Center



Liturgy of Thanksgiving

November 12, 1999

Principal Celebrant:

His Excellency James C. Timlin, D.D., Bishop of the Diocese of Scranton

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

Gather Us In Haugen

GLORIA Haugen

READINGS

CELTIC ALLELUIA

PREPARATION OF GIFTS

One Spirit, One Church Keil

SANCTUS

MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION

AMEN

OUR FATHER (Spoken)

PIE JESU (Peace of Jesus)

LAMB OF GOD

COMMUNION HYMN

One Bread, One Body Foley

COMMUNION MEDITATION

Ave Maria Gregorian Chant

RECESSIONAL HYMN

Now Thank We All Our God



Bernardine Franciscan Magnificat

Our souls delight in you,

O God,

And our spirits sing

of your great love for us.

With wonder and amazement

we see the pattern of these 100 years,

How you have turned your face

toward us.

We are truly blessed!

You are good, all good, highest good,

great and wonderful God.

You have lavished us

with mercy and compassion,

calling us to TRUST in you

and to believe in your provident love.

You have blessed us

with strong and wonderful women

who have led the way for us.

You fill our hungry hearts

with Word and Eucharist.

You teach us humility

and fill us with the desire

for the simple things.

Your faithfulness we remember,

and with joy we celebrate the promises

you made to Abraham and Sarah,

to Francis, Clare, Bernardine, and Veronica,

and to us, their daughters forever. AMEN.



Bernardine Franciscan Mission Statement

We, the Bernardine Franciscan Sisters,
 are called by God
 to live by the Gospel
 in the spirit of Francis of Assisi
 and Mother Veronica Grzedowska.

As vowed women of the Church
 we choose to live simply and poorly.

Rooted in contemplative prayer and
 committed to ongoing conversion,
 we strive to create
 communities of love and service
 wherever we are.

IN THE NAME OF JESUS,
 we reach out in compassionate love,
 recognizing the dignity and giftedness
 of each person.
 We welcome all as brother and sister.

Faithful to the Church and to our charism,
 we seek justice, peace and reconciliation,
 especially as we work with
 and in behalf of the poor.

Trusting in Divine Providence,
 we journey
 in faith and joy,
 sister and servant to all.



The Bernardine Sisters began their lives in America as teachers of Religion to the immigrant children. Their effectiveness in Reading, Pennsylvania led to the Bernardine Sisters being labeled as truly serious educators. It wasn't long before the Sisters were spread throughout the archdiocese as distant as Rhode Island. They branched out into many communities both near and far and became social workers, day care providers, advocates for the poor and healthcare providers.



Sister M. Wilhelmina and the first of Sisters who took over the former Corrigan Hospital.

It was the charity and zeal of the Bernardine Sisters of the 3rd. order of St. Francis to extend the prolific labors of the community into nursing and hospital work. This was the Franciscan way of life. The idea of hospital work for the community was first conceived by the foresight and vision of Mother M. Edmund, Superior General of the Community and Mother M. Angela, Former Superior General. This was the beginning of how the present-day Hazleton-Saint Joseph Medical Center came into being.

There was a lot of support for Mother Edmund and Mother Angela. They were supported and encouraged by the economic general, their provincial superiors, Mother M. Zycmunta of the Scranton Province, Mother M. Hedwig and Mother M. Regina of the Philadelphia Province and their council members. It was this support and, indeed, Divine Providence that drove Mother M. Edmund to begin training a complete staff of administrators, nurses, technicians and business personnel in hopes that they could locate a suitable location and need for hospital work.

The search for an opening in hospital work in the east began in the summer of 1943. Throughout the Sisters' search, they encountered different opportunities for their

consideration. On one occasion, the sisters stopped at the Corrigan Maternity Hospital in Hazleton while they were on their way to inspect other possible sites for a hospital. The Doctors Corrigan had operated this well-established 25-bed hospital since 1928. The ever-giving Sisters were not sure if this was the place for their work. However, the friendly and cordial interest of the kind and loyal friends of the community along with the persistent insistence of Rev. Francis X. Dominiak led them from Reading to Hazleton. It was Rev. Dominiak's opinion that Hazleton was an ideal location for a Catholic hospital, and the Bernardine Sisters agreed.

The sales and purchase negotiations lasted several days. Finally, with the approval of His Excellency, Most Reverend William J. Hafey, D.D., Bishop of the Diocese of Scranton, and the good will of the hospital's owners, the Drs. Corrigan, the former Corrigan Maternity Hospital became the St. Joseph Maternity Hospital on January 1, 1944. It was renamed St. Joseph in honor of him being a great patron of the community.

In addition to the hospital purchase, the Lauderbach Mansion was purchased to be used as the Sisters' convent. Sr. M. Wilhelmina was named Superior and Directress. She was assisted by a staff of 14 sisters. The staff physicians were none other than the Drs. James A., John J., and Lawrence F. Corrigan. The first Holy Mass was celebrated in the new chapel on March 7, 1944, it was conducted by the Rt. Rev. Msgr. D.J. Kane and the Sisters. Bishop Hafey blessed the hospital and chapel on March 19. On May 26 of that year, it was announced that Rev. Adelbert Kranc of the Vincentian Fathers would become the Chaplain "pro temp".

There were many precedents that the Bernardine Sisters set within the community. They were the first to institute rooming-in services for babies and offered the new parents a special meal prior to the mother's discharge. Additionally they placed healthcare within the reach of the indigent members of the community by creating physician services in low income housing projects. A nurse midwife service was also offered within the hospital for patients.



The Sisters soon learned that with the overwhelming number of sick and injured patients to care for, church was becoming less and less accessible to them. At this time, Hazleton had three fewer hospital beds per thousand than the average for the United States. Because of this situation, a chapel was constructed in the parlor of the convent, in which to hold mass. The hospital venture seemed to be well underway in Hazleton, but there was still a massive need for increased healthcare services. It was at this time that a massive fundraising campaign was undertaken to build a much larger hospital. The new facility's price tag was estimated at around \$2 million dollars and would provide for 235 beds for patients. An appeal was made to the parishes within the Scranton Diocese to help raise the capital for this new undertaking.

Most of the funds were provided by public subscription, the Bishop's House of Charity of the Scranton Diocese and, of course, the Bernardine Sisters themselves who graciously gave over \$450,000 towards the new project. The drive also raised \$375,425 from Hazleton's 23 parishes. This was the Sisters' first general hospital to be built, and they would continue to own and operate the new facility. The groundbreaking for the new hospital was held on September 8, 1946 at the facility's future site of Church Street between 9th and 10th. Bishop Hafey, Fundraising and Board Chairman Frank Correale, Rev. Mother M. Edmund, Mother General of Bernardine Sisters of the Mother house at Reading, Very Rev. D. J. Kane, V.F. and Hon. Thomas Kennedy, Diocesan chairman of the Bishop's House of Charity attended the ceremony along with 4,000 well-wishers.

The hospital's construction began in May of 1947 beginning with the foundation and support superstructure. The new hospital would be a modern, fireproof structure to be built in a Romanesque design. It was constructed in four wings, five stories tall, and resembled the form of a Greek Cross. The hospital was incorporated on June 25, and on the 26th their charter was received. The blessing and placing of the cornerstone was conducted on October 5, 1947. Again, Bishop Hafey was present, showing his support for this new facility.

Just over two years after placing the cornerstone, the dedication was held on October 30, 1949. The patients soon followed; the first admissions and transfers from the old facility occurred on November 3, 1949. The original cost estimate was a little shy of the actual price tag of \$2.5 million. The finished hospital had 298 beds, including 36 pediatric beds and 50 bassinets. This was

truly a tremendous accomplishment for the Bernardine Franciscan Sisters and a much needed asset for the Greater Hazleton Area. There were over 15,000 people in attendance for the dedication ceremony. In the words of the Board President, Frank Correale, "we owe to Almighty God a most prayerful recognition that through His bounty, we have in our midst a HOSPITAL." There were few other words that could describe this magnificent feat better. In addition, a 2200 pound, marble statue of St. Joseph holding the infant Jesus was placed at the main entrance.



The dedication ceremonies of the Saint Joseph Hospital.

The hospital administrative board consisted of Sr. M. Ernestine, Administrator; Mother M. Henrietta, Provincial Superior; Sr. M. Euphrasia, Director of Nursing; Sr. M. Irene, Secretary; and Sr. M. Fides, Treasurer. The hospital advisory board was headed up by Mr. Frank Correale, President; James S. Brogan, Vice-President; E.H. Witney, Secretary; James Capparell, Treasurer; Rev. Andrew P. Maloney, Treasurer; Stanley Nossal; Attorney George I. Puhak; Lawrence Campbell; and Nat Landau.

The staff of the new St. Joseph Hospital consisted of 57 Bernardine Sisters and a medical staff of 67 physicians and surgeons and 5 dentists. The medical staff was under the leadership and guidance of Dr. James A. Corrigan, Chief of Staff. During the next decade the staff would grow to over 350 strong in order to accommodate the more than 70 thousand admissions Together, along with the Hazleton State Hospital, there were now approximately 510 inpatients beds available.



The hospital first became accredited by the Joint Commission (then JCAH) in 1950, and has kept its accreditation for every period thereafter. The average length of stay was 7.6 days. Just a brief synopsis of the volume of services provided during the first 10 years include: 30,797 surgical operations, 6,095 EKG's, 7,780 babies delivered, 738,075 lab procedures, and 55,846 X-rays.

The 1950's were very progressive for the new hospital. On December 12, 1955, the Sisters received \$72,800 from the Ford Foundation to be used at their discretion for hospital improvements or expansions. The money was used to provide for improvement and expansion of the Post-Operative Recovery Room, reconstruction of the Emergency Room entrance that included a canopy, installation of a complete exercise unit in the



Sister M. Ernestine, first administrator to Saint Joseph Hospital from 1948-1966.

Physical Therapy department and a processing room for the Operating Room and X-ray department. Also in 1955, the nuns began a fundraising campaign to raise \$50 thousand dollars to build a new convent. Additionally, in 1956, air conditioning was installed to the Operating and Delivery rooms.

In 1957, there was a groundbreaking ceremony held for the new convent. The \$400,000, 2½ story brick building with 40 bedrooms, an orator, community room, and recreation room was expected to be completed around November of 1958. It was at this time that Mother Ernestine, Administrator, appealed to the friends of the community for gifts to help defray costs of construction. The new convent was dedicated on March 19, 1959, and the first mass held the next day.

Throughout the next several decades, the St. Joseph Hospital has seen tremendous growth in the services provided, number of patients treated, and the number of staff employed.

Under the leadership of Sister M. Edwinalda, who served as administrator and the President, the hospital expanded into the

technological age, and into surrounding communities, as well.

A new intensive care unit was installed, computer technology was added for many purposes in the facility and the radiology department was expanded.

Sister established a first of its kind ambulatory care facility, and satellite clinics were opened in Shenandoah, Weatherly, Freeland, Ringtown and Tresckow.

A cancer treatment center and rehabilitation and fitness center were developed.

After Sister Edwinalda's retirement in 1991, Bernard C. Rudegeair became the first lay President of the Medical Center.

Mr. Rudegeair guided the Medical Center into the age of managed health care and developed the Franciscan Skilled Care Center, an 11-bed nursing home located within the walls of the Medical Center.

Mr. Rudegeair also became one of the leaders of what was to become a defining development for the future health care delivery in the Hazleton area, as the century came to a close.

In October of 1996, appropriately on the feast of Saint Francis, the Bernardine Sisters joined with their colleagues at Hazleton General Hospital in forming the Greater Hazleton Health Alliance.

The Alliance brought an end to competition and marked the beginning of a collaborative era between the two hospitals.

During its first three years, The Alliance led to an the opening of an inpatient rehabilitation center and construction of a modern Magnetic Resonance Imaging Center to better serve the needs of the Community.

As the Bernardine Sisters mark this special anniversary, the mission of the hospital is carried out day after day.

Although their many accomplishments continue to grow by leaps and bounds, the number of Bernardine Franciscan Sisters has steadily declined from 57 at the hospital's opening to 12 at the present time.

Is this due to our ever-changing society, a lack of interest among our young people, or is it something unrelated to either?

This question may never completely be answered, but one thing is certain. For, if it were not for the initial and continuous support, love, faith, and generosity of the Bernardine Franciscan Sisters, the abundance of skilled medical care to the residents of Hazleton would not be the same.

The community of Greater Hazleton owes a debt of tremendous gratitude to these remarkable servants of Christ; may we all hope and pray that their legacy of unselfish service lives on for many years to come.





Hazleton-Saint Joseph Medical Center
1949-1999

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MASS OF THANKSGIVING

Celebrating the

Fiftieth Anniversary of

Hazleton-Saint Joseph Medical Center

RECESSIONAL HYMN

Now Thank We All Our God

Now thank we all our God with heart and hands and voices,
Who wondrous things has done, in whom his world rejoices;
Who from our mother's arms has blessed us on our way
With countless gifts of love, and still is ours today.

O may this bounteous God through all our life be near us,
With ever joyful hearts, and blessed peace to cheer us;
And keep us in his grace, and guide us when perplex'd,
And free us from all sin, in this world and the next.

All praise and thanks to God the Father now be given,
The Son, and him who reigns with them in highest heaven,
The one eternal God, whom heav'n and earth adore;
For thus it was, is now, and shall be ever more.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

Gather Us In

(Haugen)

Here in this place, new light is streaming,

Now is the darkness vanished away.

See, in this space, our fears and our dreamings,
Brought here to you in the light of this day.

Gather us in, the lost and forsaken,

Gather us in, the blind and the lame;

Call to us now, and we shall awaken,

We shall arise at the sound of our name.

We are the young, our lives are a myst'ry,

We are the old who yearn for your face.

We have been sung throughout all of hist'ry,

Called to be light to the whole human race.

Gather us in, the rich and the haughty,

Gather us in, the proud and the strong;

Give us a heart so meek and so lowly,

Give us the courage to enter the song.

PREPARATION OF GIFTS

One Spirit, One Church

(Keil)

Refrain

We are a pilgrim people. We are the Church of God.

A family of believers, disciples of the Lord.

United in one spirit, ignited by the fire.

Still burning through the ages,

Still present in our lives.

Verse 1

Come, Holy Ghost, Creator blest,

And in our hearts take up thy rest;

Come with thy grace and heav'nly aid

To fill the hearts which thou has made.

Verse 2

O Comforter, to thee we cry,

Thou gift of God sent from on high.

Thou font of life and fire of love,

The soul's anointing from above.

COMMUNION HYMN

One Bread, One Body

(Foley)

Refrain

One bread, one body, one Lord of all,

One cup of blessing which we bless.

And we, though many, throughout the earth,

We are one body in this one Lord.

Verse 1

Gentile or Jew, servant or free,

Woman or man, no more.

Verse 2

Many the gifts, many the works,

One in the Lord of all.

Verse 3

Grain for the fields, scattered and grown,

Gathered to one, for all.

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(Foley)

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RECESSIONAL HYMN

Now Thank We All Our God

Now thank we all our God with heart and hands and voices,
Who wondrous things has done, in whom his world rejoices;
Who from our mother's arms has blessed us on our way
With countless gifts of love, and still is ours today.

O may this bounteous God through all our life be near us,
With ever joyful hearts, and blessed peace to cheer us;
And keep us in his grace, and guide us when perplex'd,
And free us from all sin, in this world and the next.

All praise and thanks to God the Father now be given,
The Son, and him who reigns with them in highest heaven,
The one eternal God, whom heav'n and earth adore;
For thus it was, is now, and shall be ever more.

MASS OF THANKSGIVING

Celebrating the

*Fiftieth Anniversary of
Hazleton-Saint Joseph Medical Center*

November 12, 1999

Processional Hymn

Gather Us In (Haugen)

Gloria (Haugen)

Readings

Celtic Alleluia

Preparation of Gifts

One Spirit, One Church (Keil)

Sanctus

Memorial Acclamation

Amen

Our Father (Spoken)

Pie Jesu (Peace of Jesus)

Lamb of God

Communion Hymn

One Bread, One Body (Foley)

Communion Meditation

Ave Maria (Gregorian Chant)

Recessional Hymn

Now Thank We All Our God

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

Gather Us In

(Haugen)

Here in this place, new light is streaming,

Now is the darkness vanished away.

See, in this space, our fears and our dreamings,
Brought here to you in the light of this day.

Gather us in, the lost and forsaken,

Gather us in, the blind and the lame;

Call to us now, and we shall awaken,

We shall arise at the sound of our name.

We are the young, our lives are a myst'ry,

We are the old who yearn for your face.

We have been sung throughout all of hist'ry,

Called to be light to the whole human race.

Gather us in, the rich and the haughty,

Gather us in, the proud and the strong;

Give us a heart so meek and so lowly,

Give us the courage to enter the song.

PREPARATION OF GIFTS

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(Keil)

Refrain

We are a pilgrim people. We are the Church of God.

A fam'ly of believers, disciples of the Lord.

United in one spirit, ignited by the fire.

Still burning through the ages,

Still present in our lives.

Verse 1

Come, Holy Ghost, Creator blest,

And in our hearts take up thy rest;

Come with thy grace and heav'nly aid

To fill the hearts which thou has made.

Verse 2

O Comforter, to thee we cry,

Thou gift of God sent from on high.

Thou font of life and fire of love,

The soul's anointing from above.