

Dominican Hospital Expansion Begins

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Groundbreaking ceremonies Friday at Dominican Santa Cruz Hospital initiated a three-year, \$20-million construction program through which the present hospital will be expanded by 87 beds and a separate 28-bed inpatient psychiatric facility will be built on hospital grounds off Paul Sweet Road.

Hundreds of dignitaries, hospital officials, workers and members of the general public witnessed the colorful ceremonies on the helicopter pad which is normally used for receiving emergency patients brought to Dominican by air from scenes of accidents and other disasters.

The event was culminated by a ground blessing by Monsignor Joseph Munier and by a symbolic "launching" of the huge project by breaking bottles of champagne over a bulldozer and releasing balloons to soar wild and free in the overcast skies.

But Sister Catherine DeClercq, councilor-administrator of the Adrian Dominican Congregation, told the gathering that the ceremonies had a deeper significance, that they were "symbolic of a very deep Christian value, the building of the Christian Kingdom," in which the hungry are fed, the naked are clothed, the ill are cared for with loving compassion.

Sister Catherine noted that the simple days of operating the old Sisters Hospital on West Cliff Drive are long gone and that the ever-expanding Dominican Santa Cruz Hospital has become more and more complex, "a sophisticated medical center."

She said: "This is as it should be, but we must never lose the sense of compassion, the mercy, the gentleness in meeting human needs."

State Senator Henry Mello delivered a brief but highly supportive address on the quality of Dominican Santa Cruz Hospital and the rich meaning of its service to the community. "Everything they do is excellent, which is why they are enjoying such community support."

Mello said that even the hospital workers are making cash contributions to the Dominican Hospital Foundation's fund-

raising campaign, and he said: "I know of no other organization in the county where the employees are raising money for its work. And why are people of such different philosophies serving on the Foundation and hospital boards?"

"Some hospitals are not willing to provide a full range of services, won't provide psychiatric care or intermediate care because these don't make money. But Dominican is willing to do this because this care is needed."

"Dominican is an entity without walls, appreciated and supported everywhere."

This community love for and appreciation of Dominican Santa Cruz Hospital was alluded to in the invocation by Rabbi Richard Litvak of Temple Beth El, who asked the audience: "Pray for their continued strength and inspiration, the sensitivity that brings a sense of shalom to us."

Sister Josephine Sullivan, hospital president and chief executive officer, gazed with evident delight at the nearby bulldozer and shovels and then told the crowd: "This marks the culmination of years of planning and effort." And she evoked grand memories for many when she recalled the work of Sister Georganne Duggan, Sister Marie Brigid, Sister Madonna Maier and Sister Anne Herringer at the old Sisters Hospital in the 1940s and said: "I feel privileged to follow them in service."

Ernest Dillon, Dominican Foundation president, told the crowd that the public drive for funds is just beginning after an advanced "in-house" drive among doctors, workers and others associated with the hospital had raised more than \$1.4 million to date.

Every dollar given, Dillon said, will save \$3 in costs over a 30-year period for money borrowed. "If we raise \$2 million we can save them \$6 million, and if we raise \$3 million we can save them \$9 million," Dillon said.

He indicated that with the Foundation well on the road to raising the \$2 million it has pledged, there will be a big effort to reach \$3 million.

"And you don't have to wait for us to call you," Dillon said. "You could call us."

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