

Sisters Seek \$5 Million To Build New Hospital

The current drive to raise \$5 million through contributions for the proposed Dominican Santa Cruz hospital on Paul Sweet road has raised curiosity about the background of the sisters who have devoted so many years of their lives in operating the present Santa Cruz and Sisters hospitals.

The new hospital will replace the other two institutions. It will have 150 beds and the ultimate in medical equipment and facilities.

There are 10 Dominican Sisters in Santa Cruz devoted to curing and comforting the sick.

They receive no pay. They have taken poverty vows, and this is their life's work — although some also have taught school in the past.

This congregation of Sisters traces its spiritual ancestry over seven centuries to the time when Saint Dominic Guzman founded their order at Prouille, France, in 1206.

A young Spanish priest and a zealous preacher, Saint Dominic brought together a small group of young women desirous of leading a dedicated religious life, clothed them in the white habit and set for them the task of instructing children in the faith.

The Dominican Sisters of Adrian, Michigan, undertook their first mission in Traverse City in 1878 and established their first convent on the shores of Saginaw bay.

Today the Adrian congregation numbers well over 2600 sisters, who labor in 40 archdioceses and dioceses throughout 19



The community of Dominican Sisters who operate Santa Cruz and Sisters hospitals are, left to right, Sister Madonna, administrator, Dominican Santa Cruz hospital; Sister Georganne, current cam-

states.

Most of the sisters are teachers. There are only about 20 involved in medical work — half of these in Santa Cruz.

For almost a quarter of a

century the Sisters of St. Dominic have provided Santa Cruz with outstanding medical, surgical and nursing service. The first apostolic work undertaken in California by the

paign coordinator; Sister Monica Charles, medical technologist, Sisters; Sister Martha, general assistant, Sisters; Sister Noella, dietitian, Santa Cruz; Sister Pius, assistant administrator, Sisters; Sister Carolyn, planning coor-

ordinator for the campaign; Sister Gerard, general assistant, Sisters; Sister Marie Brigid, administrator, Sisters. Not shown is Sister Aldia, educational director, Santa Cruz hospital.

order was in Santa Cruz.

The sisters took over the old Hanley hospital on West Cliff drive in 1941 and renamed it Sisters hospital.

They began operation of the

Santa Cruz hospital in 1949.

Both are non-profit institutions, and 60 per cent of the people who use both hospitals are non-Catholics.

Sisters hospital, with 28 beds, and Santa Cruz hospital, with 51 beds, are operating in buildings constructed 42 and 37 years ago.

There have been many essential improvements made, according to Joseph Alcantara, former president of the lay advisory board and chairman of the current fund drive. "It would be unwise economy and virtually impossible to bring these hospital plants up to the advanced and exacting requirements of modern medical and surgical science," he said.

Officially, these Dominican Sisters are known as the congregation of the Most Holy Rosary of Adrian, Michigan.

The sound of their voices is heard in the hospital wards, in the parish school, in the homes of the poor, on the city streets and in the college classrooms.

Their boundless love of Christ has held them to their cause, not asking for any worldly reward. Their present prioress

general is Mother M. Genevieve Weber.

Their membership is found in Peru, Puerto Rico, the Bahamas and the Dominican Republic. They have founded four women's colleges.

The sisters who run the Holy Cross school and Provincial house are of the same order.

The sisters have 31 parish and diocesan high schools and almost 200 elementary schools, a junior military academy, a home for the aged, catechetical centers, a residence for business women, summer camps and three hospitals.

Steady expansion of apostolic work over the years has made new administrative reorganization imperative.

In 1960 the Holy See approved five provinces of congregation (Provincial Houses) one of which is located in Santa Cruz.

The provincial superior for

this western province is Mother eJan Marie, whose headquarters are temporarily located at Sisters hospital in Santa Cruz.

It will be permanently established on the historic Torchiana estate, at 434 Highland avenue. The grant was made possible through the charity of Mrs. Glenn Coolidge, widow of As-

semblyman Glenn E. Coolidge. Now the sisters and their lay advisors want to improve the medical facilities of the Santa Cruz area with a new \$5-million health center.

They are concentrating on the first \$1 million through contributions.

Headquarters for the campaign are in the Palomar hotel. The phone number is 426-7171.

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Palmcrest Nursing Home, 941 El Dorado avenue, has been accredited by the California commission for the accreditation of nursing homes and related facilities.

The commission, formed of representatives from the state association of the medical, dental, hospital and nursing home professions, surveys nursing and convalescent homes at their request. The 28-bed Palmcrest home received a two-year certification. Henry J. Swambert is administrator of Palmcrest.

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Boy Scout Awarded Life Badge

A life badge was presented to Gary Todd when Boy Scout Troop 118 staged its quarterly court of honor at Trinity Presbyterian church social hall. Todd also received a personal fitness merit badge.

Also receiving awards were Roger Lund and Johnny McBride, tenderfoot badges; Peter Cuneo, star and citizenship in the home; Tim Collins, personal fitness and pets; David Baker, electricity; Lynn Gai and Mark Tracy, personal fitness; Richard Moody, citizenship in the community and personal fitness; Don and Ron Gandolfi, citizen-

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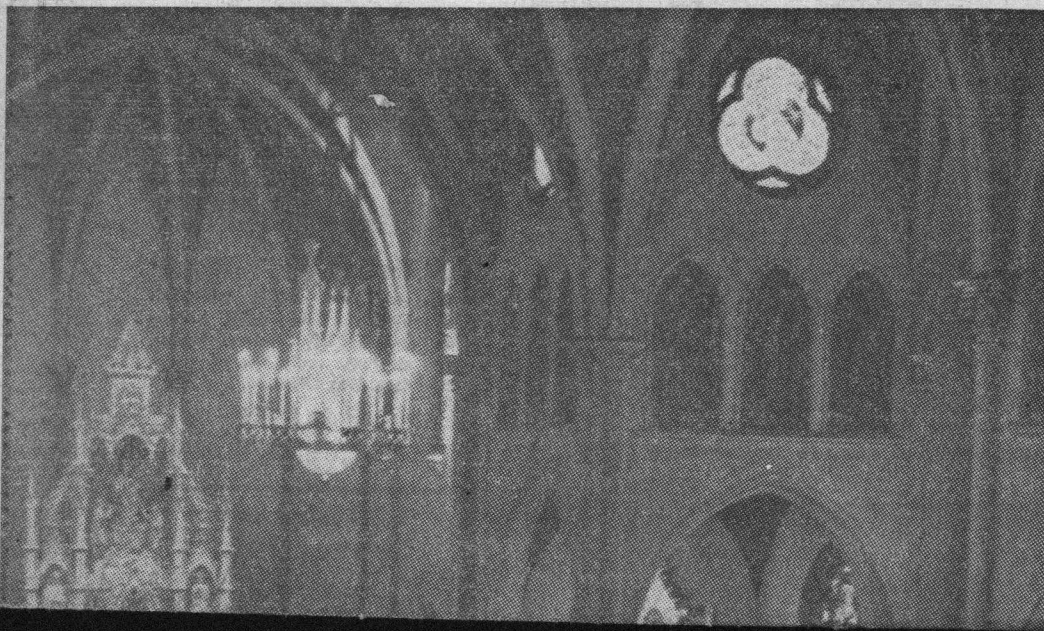
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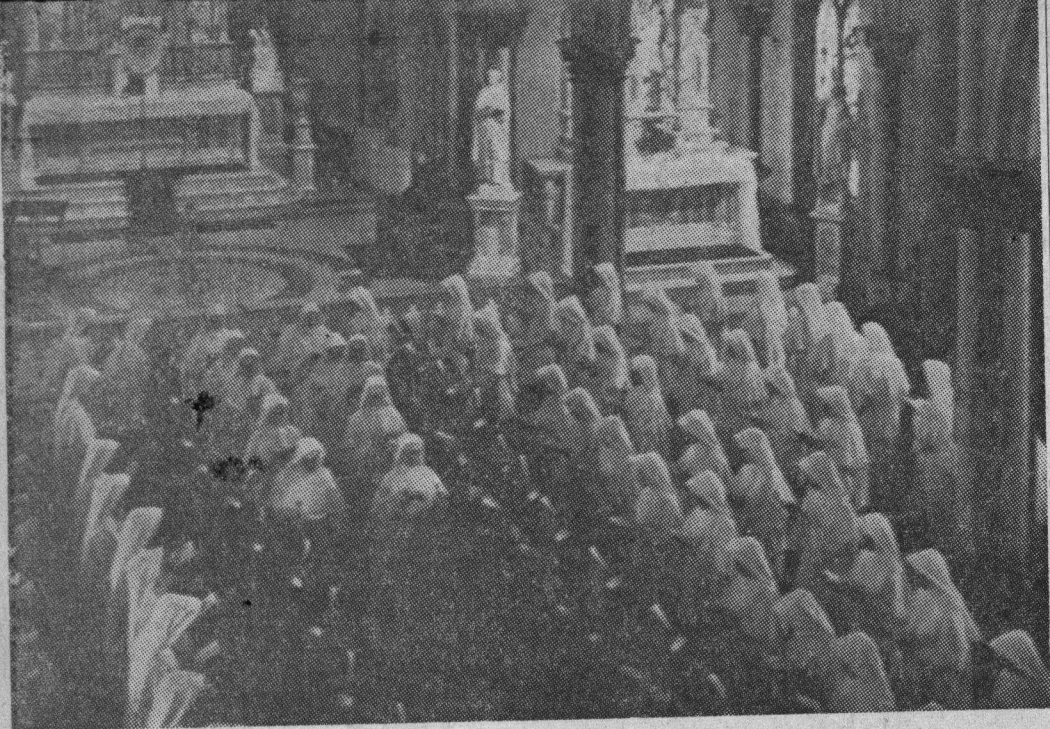
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This is the chapel at the Dominican Mother house in Adrian, Michigan, the headquarters, so to speak, of the Dominican Order in the United States. Also on the grounds is the famed Siena

Heights Catholic college. From here, and other Dominican colleges for women, sisters are assigned to schools, hospitals and homes for the aged in 19 states where they



devote their lives without worldly reward to the teaching and caring of others. The local sisters now are campaigning to build a new \$5 million non-profit hospital in Santa Cruz.

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