

ST. ROSE
DOMINICAN HOSPITALS
CELEBRATING 60 YEARS OF CARING





Each year hundreds of volunteers give selflessly of their time and talents to St. Rose Dominican Hospitals.



Sister Michael Thomas-Watson calls her years at St. Rose the most fruitful of her ministry. She is an advocate of St. Rose employees, patients and the community's neediest members.



Henderson Mayor Jim Gibson and Rod Davis celebrate at the 50th Anniversary of St. Rose.



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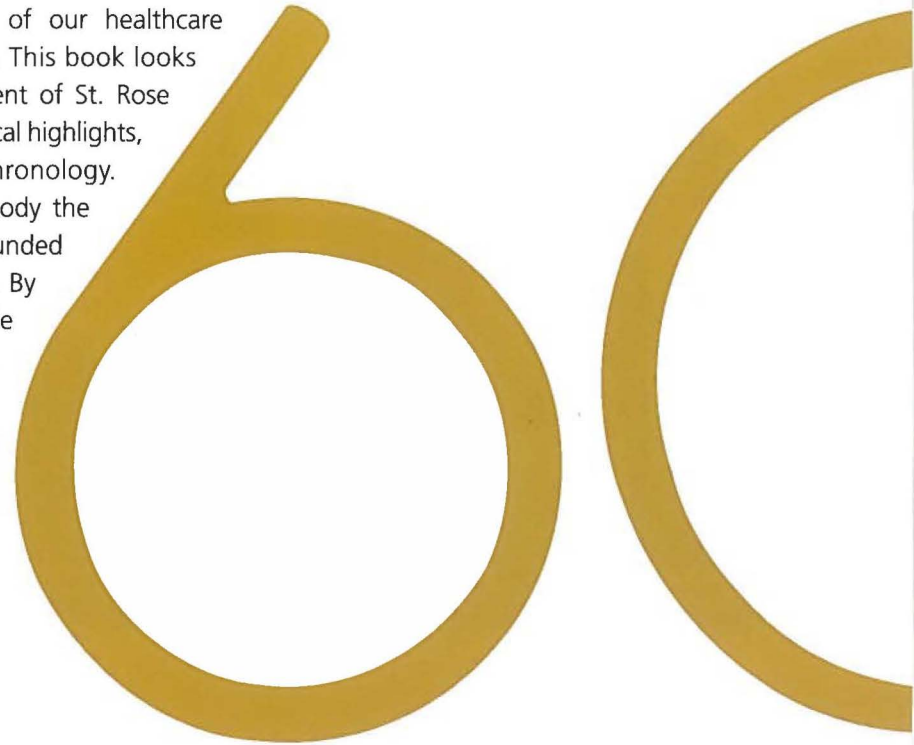


Art donated by
LONA BLANK



F O R E W O R D

As we commemorate the 60th anniversary of our healthcare ministry, we are called to reflect on our past. This book looks back at the founding, growth and development of St. Rose Dominican Hospitals. While it offers some historical highlights, it does not aspire to be a comprehensive chronology. Rather, it serves to celebrate stories that embody the essence of a ministry of compassionate care founded and fostered by our Adrian Dominican Sisters. By preserving stories of our past, we strive to provide encouragement and perspective for our future.





ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

This book was written with the help of hundreds. It was made possible by the recollections and writings of Sisters, staff members, physicians, patients and benefactors, as well as area reporters and public servants. Special recognition must be given to the following: the Sisters, for the annals they kept; the hospital's women's committee, for the oral and written histories they recorded and collected; the hospital's former women's auxiliary for the albums and scrapbooks they created; and the hospital's 60th anniversary committee, for coordinating the anniversary celebrations. Your efforts on behalf of St. Rose's history are invaluable.

Lastly, St. Rose expresses its gratitude to all those who have supported our hospitals, whether through your profession, public service or philanthropic spirit, for our story is your story.



"Without the factory and the hospital, there would not have been a city of Henderson. Once the war was over, finding someone to buy and maintain the hospital was among the first and most important steps in keeping the city alive. It wasn't just a few patients the Sisters cared for; they helped breathe life into an entire community."

Joan McSweeney
Women's Committee Volunteer

Sisters are different flowers from the same garden. ~Author Unknown

Our Adrian Dominican Sisters have been affectionately referred to as “angels of mercy” and “visions in white,” but who were the seven Sisters who set forth a ministry of compassionate care in Southern Nevada and who are the Adrian Dominicans today?

Adrian Dominicans are women of vision and timeless values. They draw strength and purpose from God and their rich past as members of the Order of Preachers, which was founded by St. Dominic in the 13th century in France. Dominic was born of wealthy Spanish nobility, however, he embraced a life of poverty, contemplative prayer, preaching the truth of God's word and ministering to those on the margins of society.

Many women were drawn to Dominic's message and a life of devotion to God. Thus, he formed the first monastery of contemplative nuns in Prouille, France, in 1206. Some 647 years later, in 1853, a group of Dominican Sisters from Germany traveled to New York to tend to the needs of Catholics who immigrated to the United States. In 1879, six Sisters traveled from New York to Adrian, Michigan, to open and operate

St. Joseph's hospital. The Adrian Dominicans were well educated women who continued to expand their mission to encompass schools, universities and additional hospitals.

Much has changed in the sixty years since the Sisters founded St. Rose. Though these women religious were rightly called “pioneers,” they lived rather sheltered lives of obedience which revolved around the convent, the Church and their ministry assignments. Social interaction with the public was somewhat limited.

The Catholic Church went through a time of renewal in the 1960s and 1970s as it sought to be more relevant and respondent to the issues of the time. Pope John XXIII described it as “throwing open the windows of the Church, so that we can see out and the people can see in.”

The revitalization afforded the Adrian Dominican Sisters more latitude in living out the quintessential meaning of the Order of Preacher's ministry – to walk with and among people in order to help them

fulfill their calling to be instruments of Christ's word, love, concern and compassion.

One of the most visible aspects of the change was that most Adrian Dominican Sisters stopped wearing the traditional white habits with which they were so closely identified. They remain recognizable as Sisters, however, because of their presence to our patients, our employees and the people of our community.

Adrian Dominican Sisters have become more limited in numbers and more stretched in their ministry, yet we are fortunate to have sixteen women religious ministering among us at St. Rose Dominican Hospitals. Likewise, the Sisters feel blessed that the hospital's ministry has grown and thrived through the work and volunteerism of lay people willing to join hands with them in tending to the physical, emotional and spiritual needs of Christ's people.

MISSION STATEMENT

Under the sponsorship of the Adrian Dominican Sisters and in response to the changing needs of the people of Southern Nevada, St. Rose Dominican Hospitals offers quality, compassionate care. We promote wholeness of body, mind and spirit in the Dominican tradition of working with others to improve the health status of the community in a shared pursuit for justice and truth with a commitment to those with special needs.

OUR CORE VALUES

Dignity – Respecting the inherent value and worth each person possesses as a member of the human family.

Collaboration – Working together with people who support common values and vision to achieve shared goals.

Justice – Advocating for change of social structures that undermine human dignity; demonstrating special concern for those who are poor.

Stewardship – Accountability for the human, financial and ecological resources entrusted to our care as we promote healing and wholeness.

Excellence – Commitment to quality in our work and services through teamwork and innovation.

TO THE ST. ROSE DOMINICAN FAMILY

This is a significant year in the history of our valley. When seven Adrian Dominican Sisters arrived in Southern Nevada some sixty years ago, their presence – along with that of the privatization of the industrial plants – stemmed an exodus of people from Henderson that began when World War II ended. The Sisters' commitment to the community signaled a fresh start for a war-time town.

Sister Felicia Haidysz and Sister Anne Wasco (Sister Angelita) were two of the first seven Sisters. They are still alive as is the hospital's office manager, Bettylou Anderson; its banker, Selma Bartlett; its first community board chair, Lou LaPorta; and one of its first physicians, Dr. Karl Hazeltine. The memories that they shared helped us begin this book, but there are many exciting chapters of the hospitals' story yet to be written.

It has been a privilege to lead St. Rose Dominican Hospitals through the past 16 years. When I arrived, I was greeted by a warm and savvy group of women religious committed to caring for the whole person. But the hospital was ill-prepared to secure the healthcare contracts necessary to survive in an

extremely competitive healthcare marketplace. I hoped to help the Sisters turn the hospital's troubles around.

I am proud to say that we did so collaboratively. With the help of CHW, our employees, physicians, volunteers and civic-minded individuals, St. Rose Dominican Hospitals – now three campuses strong – is a pillar of healthcare excellence in our community. Thank you for helping carry out our ministry and shape it for the future. In turn, I know that you will join me in expressing sincere gratitude to our Sisters for the extraordinary role they play in helping shape our professional and personal paths.

St. Rose Dominican Hospitals is more than acute-care facilities that provide excellent care. We are a living legacy – a culture of quality, compassionate caring, of dedicated community service and of enduring core values of dignity, justice, collaboration, stewardship and excellence.

Rod A. Davis
*President Southern Nevada Market
and St. Rose Dominican Hospitals*

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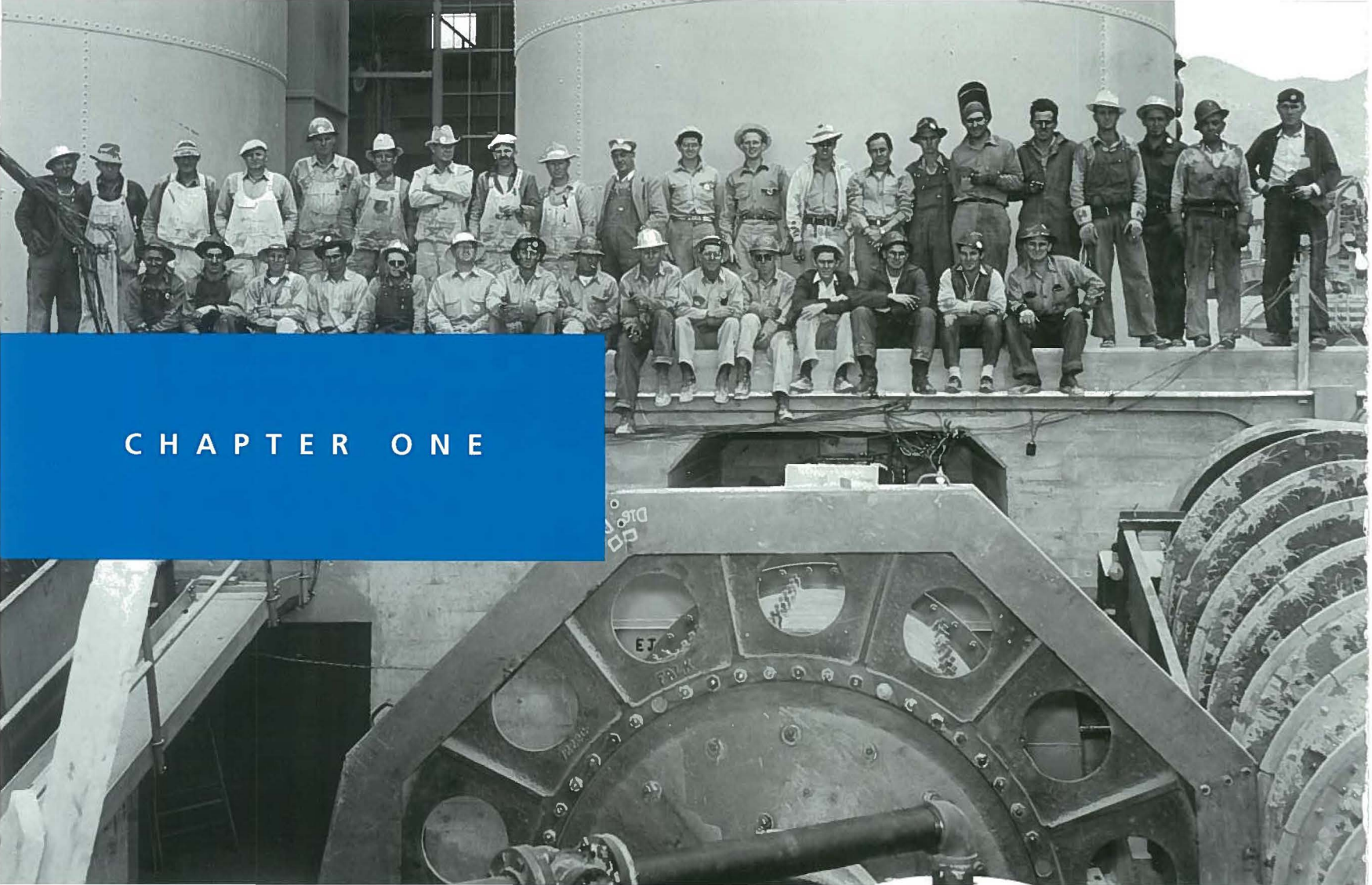
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CHAPTER ONE

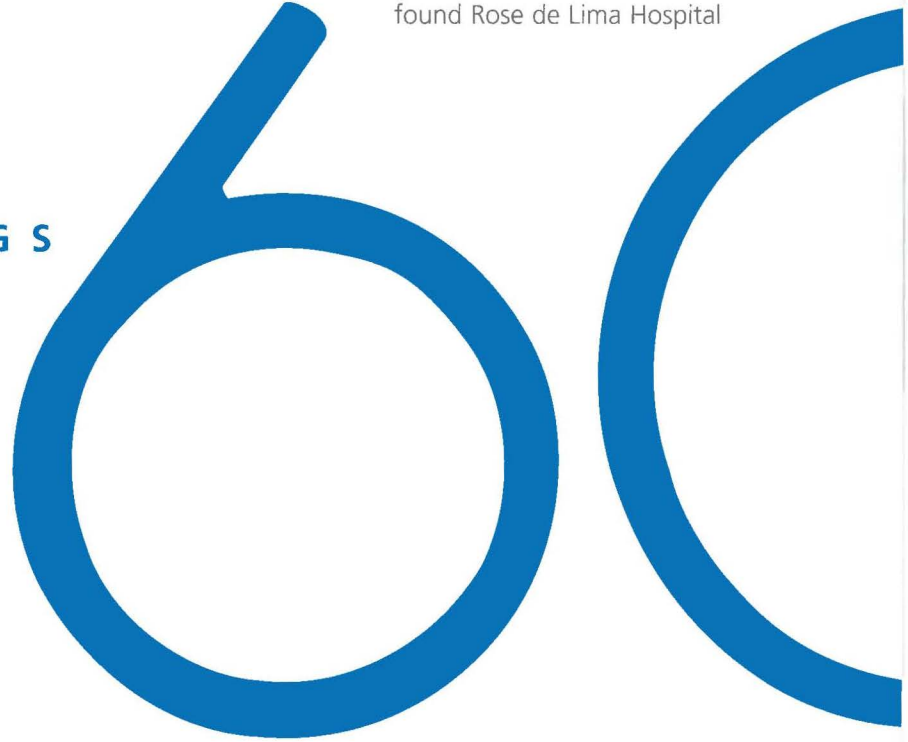
Basic Magnesium Hospital opens

World War II ends

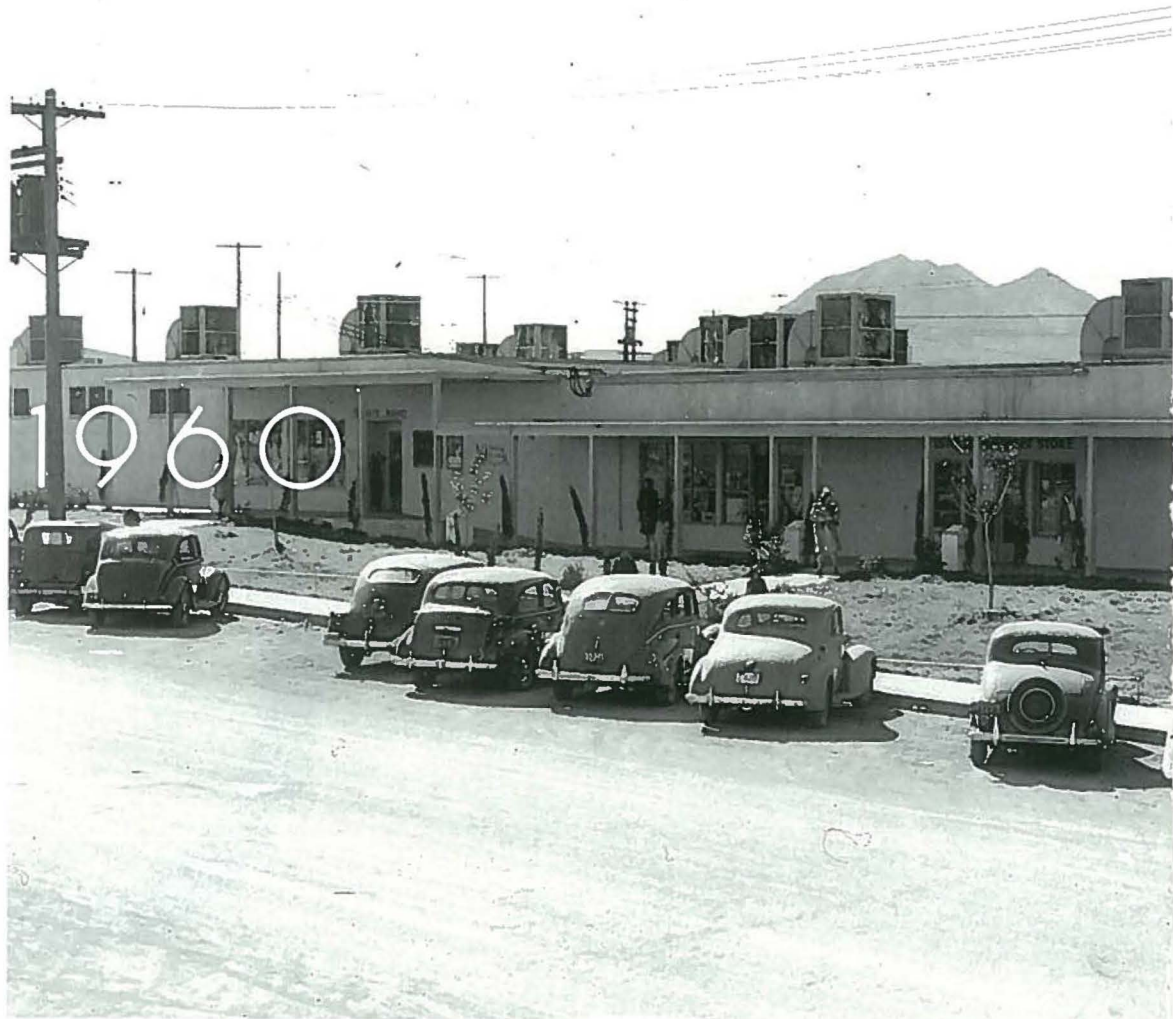
Government seeks buyer for
the hospital

Sisters assume the facility,
found Rose de Lima Hospital

THE BEGINNINGS



1940s 1960



In the early 1940s, a town called Henderson was “born in America’s defense.” It rose out of a dusty spot of desert in Southern Nevada, about equal distance from the imposing Boulder Dam (Hoover Dam) and the already infamous Las Vegas.

The life blood of the town was Basic Magnesium Inc., a plant that pulled water and electricity from the dam to produce magnesium, an incredibly light, strong and versatile material used for munitions and airplane parts. *“The ‘miracle metal’ would help the United States and its allies win the war,”* said Mayor Jim Gibson, whose grandfather was among the first Basic Magnesium Incorporated (BMI) engineers sent to Great Britain to learn the secret of producing magnesium for munitions.

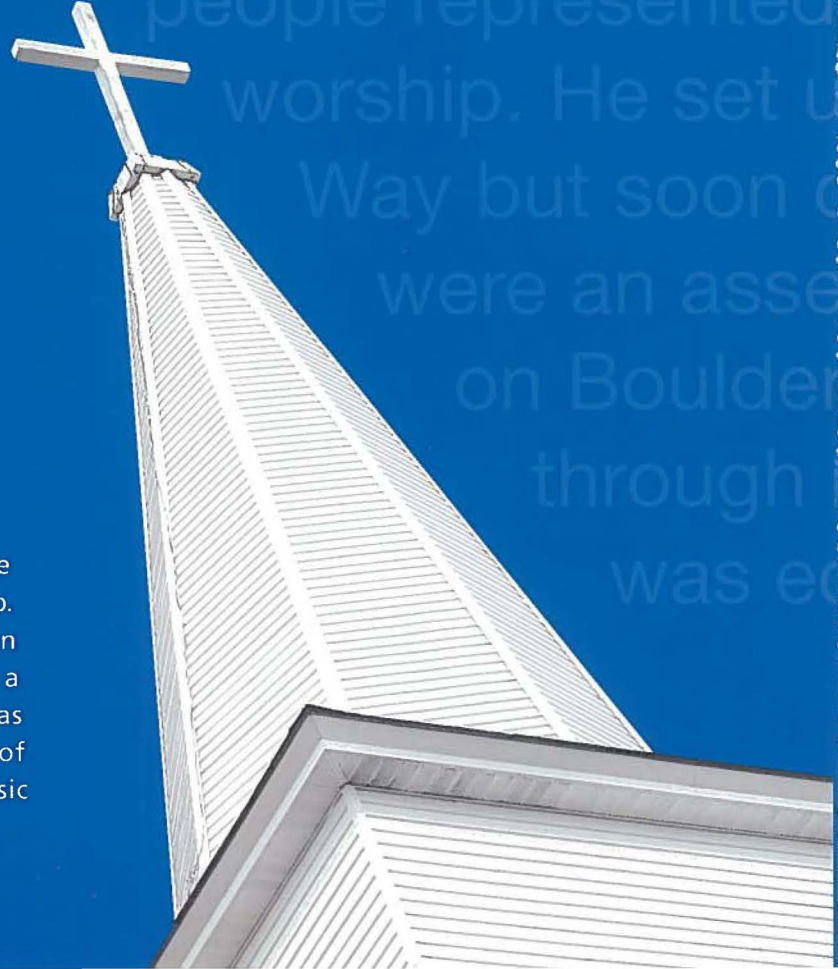
World War II ended in 1945, and by 1947, magnesium production was no longer necessary for defense purposes. While commercial production continued, many of the 14,000 BMI employees moved away from Henderson. Enrollment in the town site’s schools dropped by two thirds and more than half the homes built to house BMI workers fell vacant. In 1947, the United States War Asset Administration actually offered Henderson for sale as war surplus property.





FATHER PETER V. MORAN

In March of 1943, Father Moran came to a community whose people represented a variety of religions, with no place to worship. He set up a small Catholic church on 22 Idaho Way but soon convinced the government that churches were an asset to a community and St. Peter's Church on Boulder Highway was established. Father Moran, through his encouragement of Bishop Gorman, was equally instrumental in securing Basic Magnesium Hospital for the Adrian Dominican Sisters.



A key piece of that property – Basic Magnesium Hospital – was put up for sale. The government founded the hospital in 1942 to care for BMI employees and their families. Father Peter Moran, pastor of St. Peter's Church in Henderson, saw an opportunity for the Catholic church to rise to the challenge of caring for the community. He shared his ideas with Bishop Thomas K. Gorman, from the Diocese of Reno, Nevada.

The bishop, in full support of the proposition, wrote a letter to Mother Mary Gerald Barry (Mother Gerald Barry), OP, Superior of the Adrian Dominican Sisters of Adrian, Michigan. The letter, dated May 20, 1946, states:

"The hospital is the last word in equipment, including even dental facilities. The whole plant would be turned over to begin with at a nominal lease of one dollar per year, which would include free water and power. . . . The hospital is centrally located to serve the whole of Clark County, being equidistant from Las Vegas, a rapidly developing community, on the one hand, and Boulder City, the site of the great Boulder Dam, on the other. It is the only first class private hospital in the area. . . . As time is an element in this matter – other private parties being interested – we would like to present the government representatives with an accomplished fact."

1947



Mother Gerald Barry answered immediately by Western Union: *"Interested. Would like more information on number of beds, wards and private rooms."*

Mother Gerald Barry's swift response to Bishop Gorman was the first of many letters, telegrams and negotiations facilitated by Father Moran. In a lengthy letter dated May 25, 1946, Father Moran states: *"Through the good offices of our loyal friend, Senator McCarran, in Washington, and Mr. Unsworth, the local government representative, we have the opportunity to get this hospital for an order of Sisters. . . . I do not have to tell you that the majority of people, whether Catholic or non-Catholic, are inclined to patronize a Sisters' hospital."*





MOTHER
MARY
GERALD
BARRY, OP

*Superior of the
Adrian Dominican Sisters*

Mother Gerald Barry was a very dynamic woman who was said to have “reached out to other communities, helped educate other Sisters and shared what we had to share.” During her term as the major superior, the Adrian Dominican congregation witnessed growth and expansion in its membership and ministries. Mother Gerald Barry was reelected as the major superior for several consecutive terms, serving in the position from 1939 to 1957. She died in November 1962.

During her term as the hospital administrator, Sister Carolyn wrote to Mother Gerald Barry frequently and with great fondness. The letters reflect the great esteem the Sisters had for Mother Gerald Barry and their deep gratitude for the guidance she provided them.

On May 31, 1946, the Adrian Dominican Council met and voted to accept the proposition. Acceptance was only the beginning of a year of proceedings with the government. Every legal detail was examined thoroughly to see that the Sisters were entering into an agreeable arrangement.

As the necessary steps were taken to transfer the hospital to the Sisters, Father Moran served as the Sisters' champion. He made rounds to local companies. He called on civic, religious and fraternal organizations. He spoke to the larger communities of Henderson and Las Vegas in order to gain support for the sale of the hospital to the Sisters. He also presented the plan to the hospital's physicians. They welcomed the idea of having the Sisters manage the hospital; however, they were reluctant to see the hospital sold, in part because they received an income from the government above that which they earned through their practices. While a number of physicians worked to retain the hospital's outpatient clinic as a separate entity, the government authorities ultimately decided to grant undivided control of both facilities to the Sisters.



As negotiations for the hospital's sale were finalized, another issue needed to be settled – the renaming of the hospital. Telegrams and letters came and went with proposals. Mother Gerald Barry even suggested the name Gorman Hospital. With a sense of humility and humor, Bishop Gorman replied: *"I feel deeply appreciative that you would even think of such a thing. . . . There might be some justification for the institution's suffering the handicap of such a name had I done something to get the hospital, but you and Father Moran accomplished that."* After considering an array of options, the name Rose de Lima was chosen. It held great appeal to everyone involved as it honored Saint Rose of Lima, Peru, a Dominican Saint and the first saint of the Americas. Bishop Gorman took particular delight in the name because his birthday fell on Saint Rose's feast day. To be sensitive to the community, it was decided to omit the word "Saint" so that non-Catholics would not feel excluded from its services.

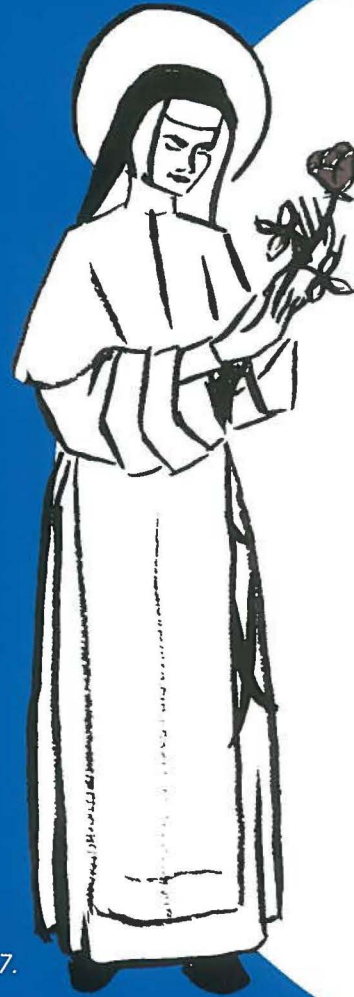
WHAT'S IN A NAME?

On September 12, 1947, gold letters spelling out the name Rose de Lima and defining the "woman spirit" of the hospital were installed above the hospital's main entrance. A gold cross defining the Sisters' devotion to the healing mission of Jesus Christ was raised to the roof peak above the central lobby.

SAINT ROSE DE LIMA

A native of Peru, Saint Rose of Lima served the people of Latin America and the Philippines. She was canonized in 1671, becoming the first canonized saint of the Western Hemisphere. Though she was christened with the name Isabel, she was called Rose because of her great beauty. Rose grew flowers and herbs for those who were ill or apprehensive. Sister Monica Stankus, vice president of Mission Integration at the Rose de Lima Campus, believes Saint Rose was a tremendous example of love. "Rose was greatly influenced by Catherine of Siena's profound and practical love of God and neighbor. She sought to imitate that love by caring for the people in her own town," said Sister Monica. During her ministry, the world around her was in a frenzy to amass fortunes of gold and riches, but she lived humbly and frugally feeling her life was rich with the blessings of the Lord.

This depiction of Saint Rose de Lima was hand drawn by Sister Marie Edmund on a congratulatory card she sent to the Sisters in 1947.



O sweet-scented
ROSE,
diffusing everywhere
the odor of virtue;
make us sharers
of the light and
sweetness which
thou enjoyest.

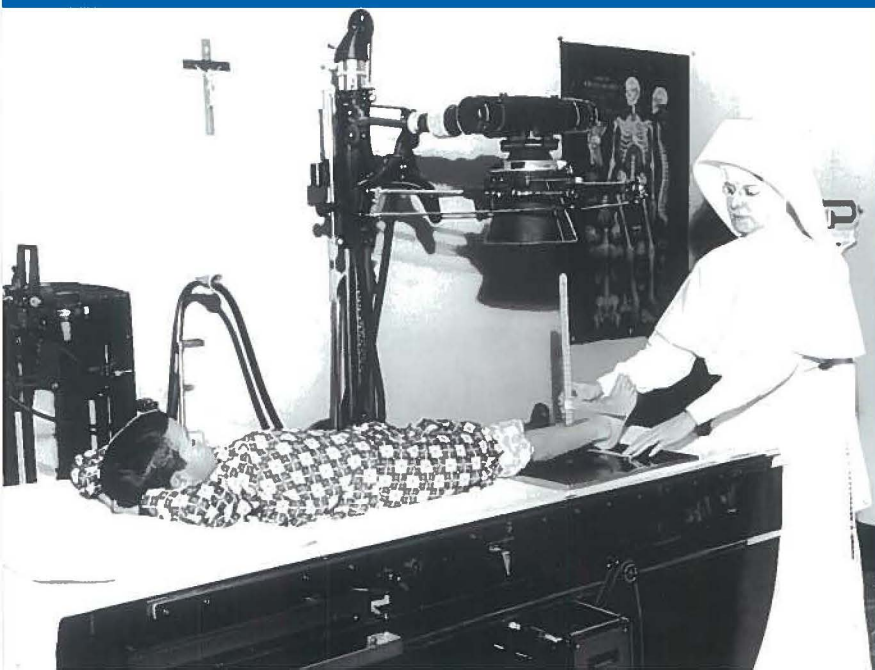
Lauds

ROSE DE LIMA: A RED LETTER DAY

On June 27, 1947, months of "red tape" drew to a close and the hospital was handed over to the Adrian Dominican Sisters without any pageantry. At the end of the day, Sister Carolyn sat down and wrote Mother Gerald Barry to say: *"So far everything seems to be going along smoothly – Deo Gratias. The Sisters are just wonderful, and all act as if taking over a hospital was an everyday occurrence. They are flitting around as busy as bees, and everybody is wondering just what struck the place. As one of the doctors said to Sister Marie Daniel, 'This seems like a real hospital now.'"*

Sister Carolyn's letter went on to share the great joy Father Moran felt as the Sisters took the helm of the hospital. The Father himself wrote to Mother Gerald Barry saying, *"This is a red letter day and, needless to say, I am happy beyond expression."*

The following morning at 6:15 a.m., Father Moran presided over the first mass in a four-bed ward, which was converted to a chapel, equipped and furnished through his efforts.



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In conforming to multiple formalities, Mother Gerald Barry wrote to the doctors on the medical staff of the hospital and to the Clark County Medical Society. Father Moran's letter of October 20, 1946, to Mother Gerald Barry said: *"You, no doubt, have received the written endorsement of the Clark County Medical Society. This I deem a very persuasive factor since the doctors were so wholehearted in their expression of cooperation with the Sisters."*

In a Christmas card sent to the bishop that year, Mother Gerald Barry included a letter that said: *"I visited the hospital a few weeks ago, and was delighted at its beautiful location and its excellent equipment. . . . I beg your prayers that God may send us the vocation needed to carry on there and in the many other places which I have promised, perhaps a bit rashly, to staff."*

In May of the following year, the government announced its agreement with the Adrian Dominican Sisters. The Sisters would accept ownership and responsibility for the hospital. They committed to assume the hospital's \$300,000 debt and to pay one dollar yearly to the government over the next twenty-five years. As part of the agreement, a utility consideration was granted to the Sisters. In turn, the Adrian Dominican Sisters were granted legal sanction of the hospital until the interim permit was drawn up and the final deed executed. At 7:00 a.m., June 27, 1947, the transfer became official. The ceremony, or lack thereof, was quite simple. The representatives of the War Asset Administration merely stopped in to talk with Sister Carolyn for a short while. Then, after offering their congratulations to the Adrian Dominican Sisters, the men left and the Sisters went to work.



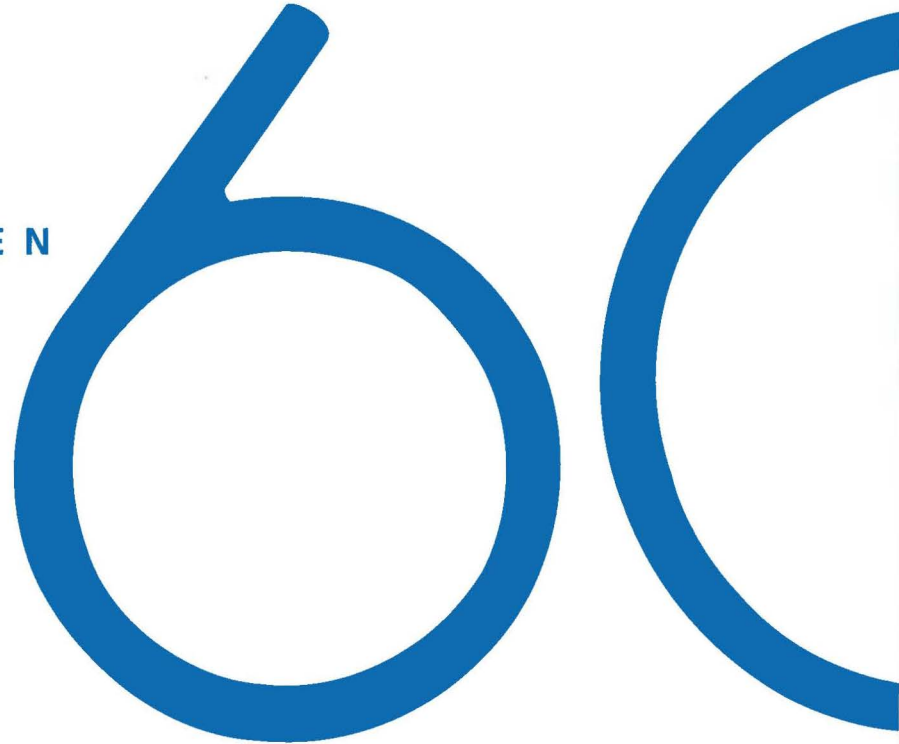
CHAPTER TWO

Selecting Seven Sisters

Nuns on the Run

Defining Patient Dignity

PIONEERING WOMEN



1940s 1960





During the months leading up to the hospital's transfer to the Sisters, Mother Gerald Barry assembled a community of women religious to run the hospital in Henderson. She selected seven Sisters – four of whom were nurses.

Mother Gerald Barry's first selection was a registered nurse named Sister Mary Carolyn Harrison (Sister Carolyn). She sent her to another hospital for six months to learn hospital operations, thereby prepping her to serve as Rose de Lima's first administrator.

She also chose Sister Marie Daniel Lundy, a registered nurse trained in labor and delivery. The two women traveled from Adrian to Las Vegas via the Union Pacific. They arrived on May 22, 1947, and were met by Father Moran and local government officials.

In the following days, they toured the hospital and Henderson, moved into a rented house on California Way and contacted numerous physicians in hopes of forming a medical staff. Hospital annals indicate that from May 26, 1947, forward, *"the Sisters spent part of each day in the hospital studying the setup and becoming acquainted with the routine and the members of the staff."*

DELIVERING ETHER, INSTILLING CONFIDENCE

Sister Madonna was a nurse trained to give “drop ether,” used as anesthesia at the time. Thus, on call around the clock, she was a constant presence in the surgical suites, birthing room and in times of emergencies. She took great pride in caring for patients, says Bettylou Anderson, who always found reassurance in the swish of Sister Madonna’s woolen garments and the rhythmic bounce of her rosary beads as she rushed down the halls to assist with a surgery. *“Her movements were confident and reassuring. They were a sign that help was on its way,”* said Bettylou.

Sister Monica Stankus, a native of Las Vegas, can attest to Sister Madonna’s expertise. *“She provided me anesthesia for a surgery about 50 years ago and it went very well,”* said Sister Monica.



SISTER
MADONNA
MAIER, OP



Meetings with various doctors of Henderson and Las Vegas were also held. Policies of the hospital were outlined and a medical staff elected.

On June 15, approximately 200 area residents representing Henderson's Victory Village and Carver Park as well as Boulder City and Las Vegas, attended a reception welcoming the Sisters. *"The people of this area are accepting the Sisters wholeheartedly and, indeed, it is only right. The coming of the Sisters is the greatest thing that could happen in Southern Nevada,"* said Father Moran.

Back in Michigan, Mother Gerald Barry continued her selection of Sisters. She chose registered nurses Sister Marie Augustine Seissingner (Sister Augustine), and Sister Daniel Therese Smith, both of whom had received their degrees prior to entering the convent. Three additional Sisters – Sister Marie Felicia Haidysz (Sister Felicia), Sister Marie Joyce Smith (Sister Marie) and Sister Anne Wasco (Sister Angelita) – completed the original group of women who would be sent to Henderson, Nevada.*

**Sister Madonna, a nurse anesthetist, would arrive just one month later from Southern California.*





"Now just do God's will in the new place"

*According to the National Weather Service,
1947 had the most one hundred-degree days in
a year based on data from 1937 to the present.*

"I didn't have a degree," said Sister Angelita. "So, I was swept off my feet when Mother Gerald called me to the office and said, 'Sister, I need you.'"

According to Sister Angelita, that was Mother Gerald Barry's way of letting a Sister know that she was important. After learning that her mission would change, she said it was *"just a matter of a week or so that we were on the train and going west."*

"Before we left Adrian, she gave us her blessing and said, 'Now just do God's will in the new place,'" said Sister Felicia. Despite that, the Sisters were admittedly apprehensive, even scared. They had lived a semi-cloistered life focused on truth, prayer, education and service to those in need. They had great trepidation traveling to the Las Vegas Valley – the wild west – with its legalized gambling, prostitution and organized crime.

Floods in the Midwest delayed the Sisters' travels. Thus, their train pulled into the depot after midnight just one day before they would assume responsibility for the hospital. They disembarked dressed in white habits topped with the black woolen traveling cloaks Adrian Dominicans wore whenever in the public eye. Even still, the absence of sunlight did nothing to diminish the oppressive summer heat. That the Sisters survived the train trip and the heat would seem a successful end to their journey in itself. However, it was just the beginning.



SISTER MARY CAROLYN HARRISON, OP

Administrator, 1947-1953

According to Father Peter Moran, Sister Mary Carolyn Harrison fulfilled her role as Rose de Lima Hospital's first administrator with *"great prudence and diplomacy."* He said, *"While she faced replacing Basic Magnesium Hospital's administrator and instituting Catholic teachings on healthcare, she did so with exceptional grace."*



NUNS ON THE RUN

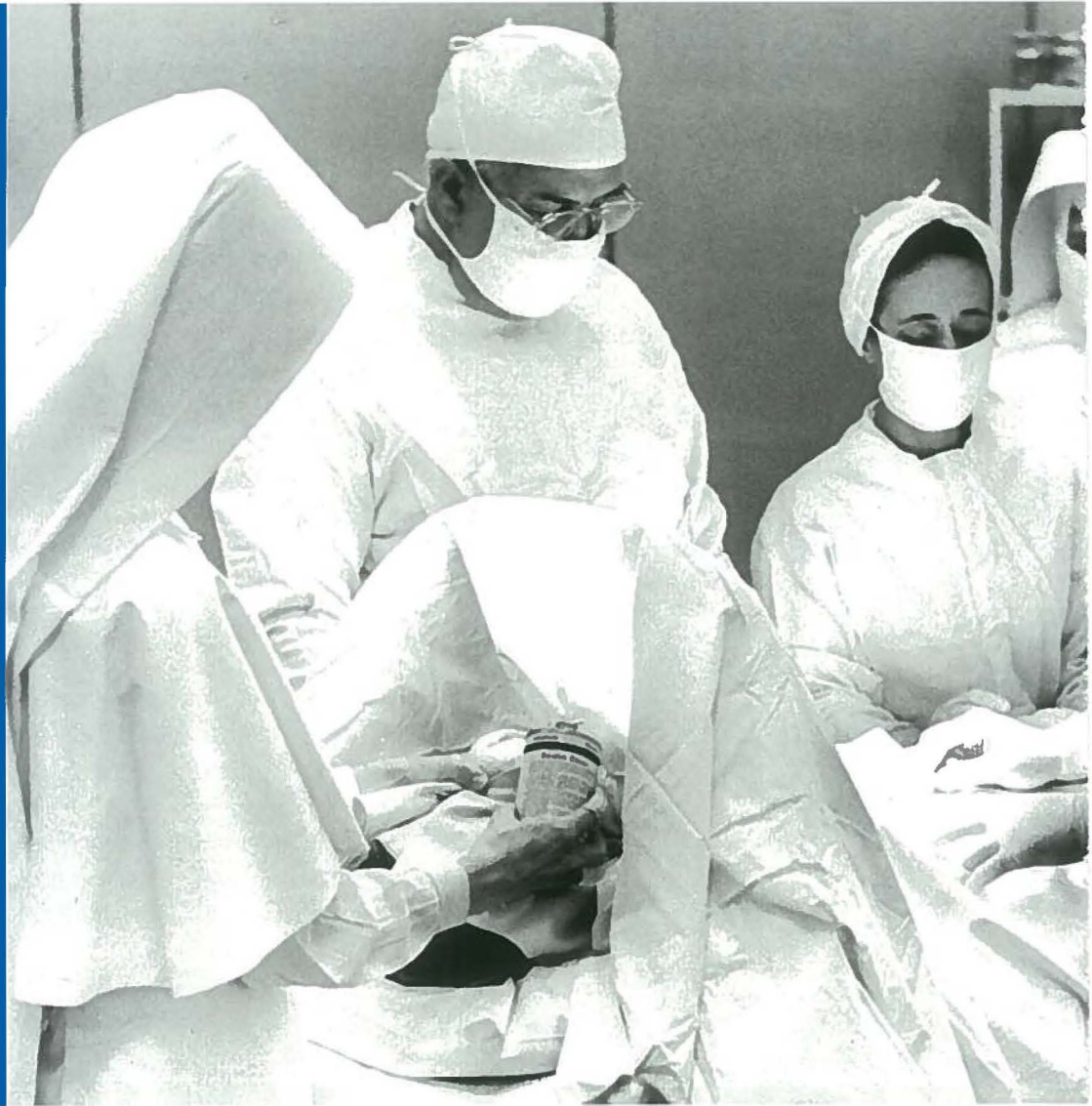
Sister Carolyn and Father Moran met the women, and they drove to Henderson under a cover of darkness. When they arrived at the small home that had been rented and furnished for them, the Sisters went directly to bed. *"In the morning I opened the blinds to see what was next to us," said Sister Angelita. "Nothing. . . . nothing but sage brush. I remember thinking that if somebody would have said, 'Go home,' I would have gladly walked back."*

No one walked. In fact, from that point forward, the Sisters were, as Dr. Karl Hazeltine described them, *"Nuns on the run."*

They worked earnestly to live up to the expectations Mother Gerald Barry prescribed in a letter which read: *"I don't want you to be floorwalkers – as though you were in Marshall Fields of Chicago. . . . I expect the Sisters to do the nursing and the work that is to be done there. . . . taking hold of the various duties in the manner that will give glory to our Father who is in Heaven."*

DUTY CALLS

When the Sisters arrived, some employees were skeptical. Some even left. But Bettylou Anderson liked her job and did not side with the employees who quit. She was impressed with the Sisters' willingness to not only work, but also take on whatever had to be done. Their work ethic and their spirit of collaboration soon won over the employees. Sister Veronica Gonthier, who would come to the hospital many years later, said, *"The Sisters had no shifts. They were just on duty. They worked all day . . . and they often stayed the night with a seriously ill patient."*





The Sisters set a routine: rise at 5:00 a.m., say morning prayers, celebrate Mass, eat breakfast and arrive at their stations by 7:00 a.m. to give reports. The Sisters' routine was often interrupted due to emergencies, but their faith and prayer life got them through the difficult times.

Sister Angelita recalls her first day. She was “flabbergasted” when Sister Carolyn introduced her as the dietary manager to the kitchen staff. *“I knew I would be working in the kitchen, but not until then did I realize I would be in charge,”* said Sister Angelita. When the staff asked her what she wanted done, she said a quick prayer, told them to carry on as they had before, then turned and sighed in relief.

Her relief would be short lived. In the first few months of transition, the hospital's patient count dipped so low that the Sisters had to call off many staff members – some only temporarily. Thus, the Sisters took on a myriad of duties. Sister Angelita frequently found herself as the chief cook and bottle washer. Likewise, Sister Felicia worked in both the nursery and medical records, and Sister Marie Daniel was on call twenty-four hours as the nursing director and also served as the hospital's pharmacist.

SISTER MARIE DANIEL LUNDY

Taking over a hospital was hard work, but Sister Marie Daniel Lundy was no stranger to challenges. She was an obstetrics nurse who loved to work so much that she often pulled double duty as the pharmacist before the hospital had one. On first blush, people sometimes found her stern, but under the firm façade was a warm-hearted woman who was deeply revered by the hospital's doctors, staff and patients.

All who knew her said that she *"was in her glory"* whenever an expectant mother was admitted to the hospital. *"She had a take charge attitude and tended to a woman's every need during labor,"* said Rita Maestas, a fifty-year employee of St. Rose who considers Sister Marie Daniel Lundy her mentor.

After a baby's delivery, she cuddled and rocked each newborn and gave every new baby a piece of her own heart.'

No one knew the depth of Sister Marie Daniel's affection or the breadth of her influence better than Betty Foley who gave birth to nine children in ten years at Rose de Lima. When Betty's youngest son was born, Sister Marie Daniel came to her room holding the little boy's birth certificate. She had taken the liberty of filling in a name for him – Daniel.



Sister Marie Daniel's namesake, Daniel Foley, continues to be part of the St. Rose family. He currently serves on St. Rose Dominican Hospitals' Community Board and served as the past chair of the St. Rose Dominican Health Foundation.

The work was difficult in the beginning, but it brought the Sisters close together. Individual challenges became collective concerns as they worked together to fulfill their mission.

"We had to build our reputation for the hospital," said Sister Angelita. Recognizing that they could not run a hospital alone, the Adrian Dominican Sisters formed solid relationships with the hospital staff and built bridges with individuals in the community.

Lou LaPorta settled in Henderson with his wife, Elayne, after receiving his discharge from the Air Force. He said that the Sisters' presence in the community was *"the beginning of something dynamic."* They were not simply responsible for the care of individuals, but part of a collective movement that breathed new life into the desert community.

LOU AND ELAYNE LAPORTA

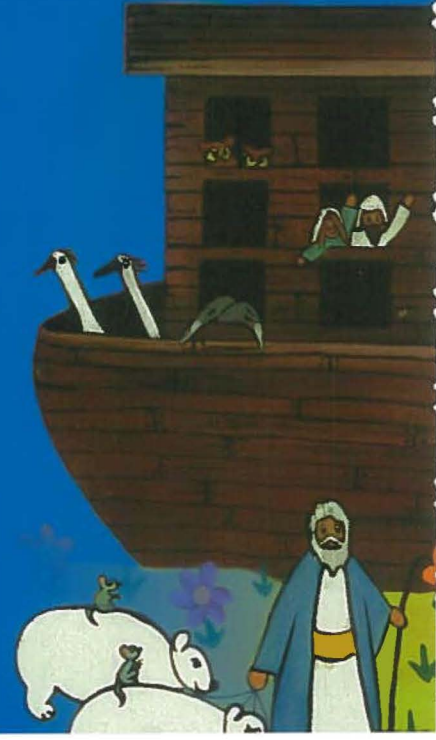
During World War II, the government selected Nevada as the site to produce magnesium for munitions. It also found the area well suited for producing something else – soldiers. The isolated deserts made ideal training grounds for the Army Air Corps. In the early 1940s, the Las Vegas Gunnery School, which later became Nellis Air Force Base, employed roughly 10,000 people and graduated more than 4,000 people a week to serve in active duty.

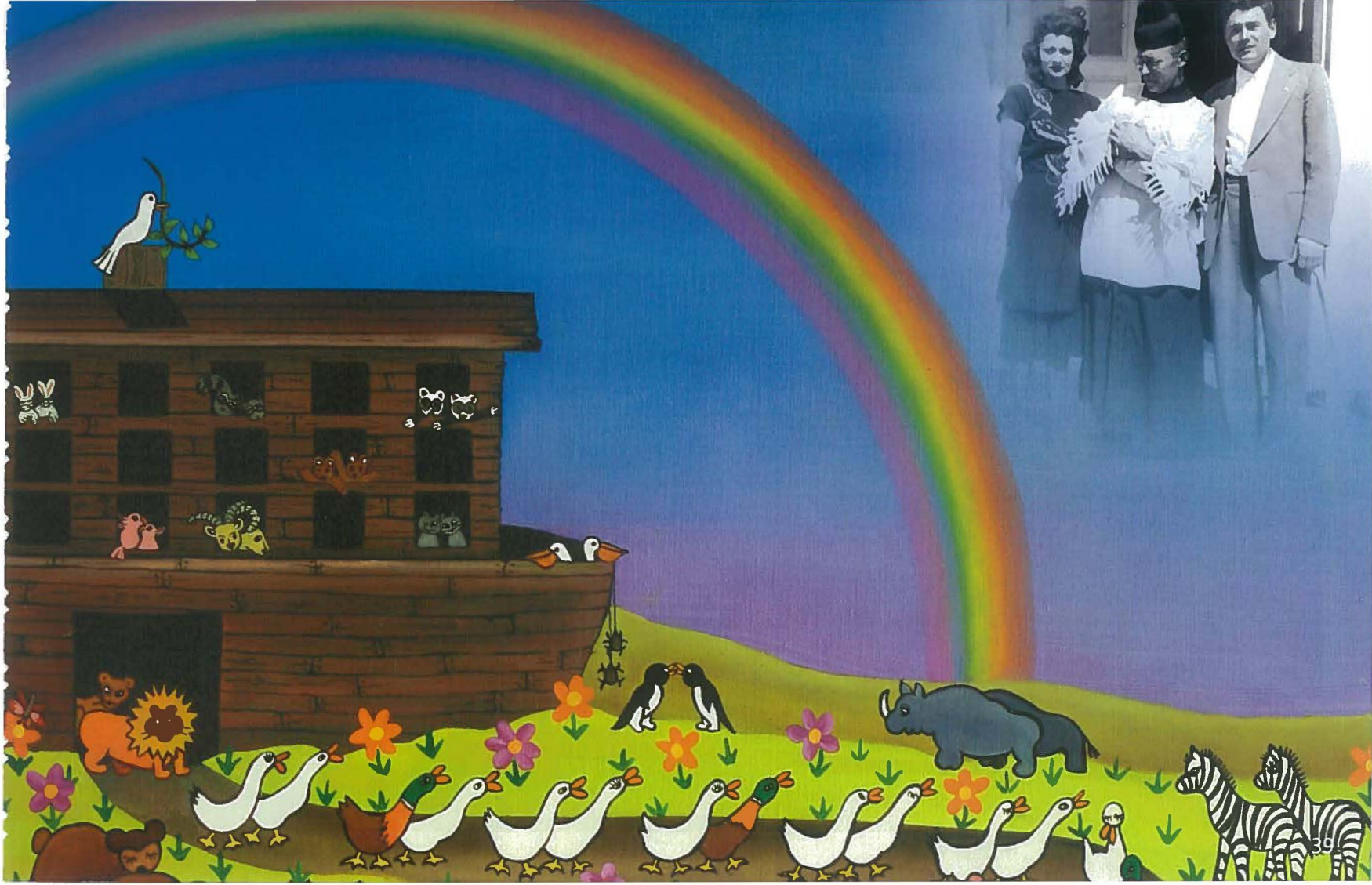
Lou LaPorta, an Air Force bombardier, was stationed at the gunnery school when the war ended. After his discharge from the military, he and his wife Elayne decided to settle in Henderson. *“We were from a small town in upstate New York and Henderson seemed to offer that same sense of community,”* says Lou.

They quickly became part of the St. Rose family when Elayne LaPorta gave birth to the first baby born at Rose de Lima on June 29, 1947. At first, Elayne was not sure she would like the stern-looking woman who would care for her; however, she quickly warmed to the big-hearted Sister Mary Daniel who tenderly cared for her and her newborn, Peter.

In the decades that followed, Lou LaPorta lent his expertise as a businessman to the hospital. In fact, when a hospital community board was established in the 1960s, he became its first chairperson. He would later sit on the finance committee and the committee that assessed the need for a second St. Rose campus.

Elayne became a highly-recognized biblical folk artist. *At right is her whimsical depiction of Noah’s ark.*





Dignity



First family to move into the segregated Carver Park Apartments in Henderson.

DIGNITY

Respecting the inherent value and worth each person possesses as a member of the human family.

In the early 1940s, the magnesium plant employed more than 15,000 people. To accommodate the influx of workers, the government built housing, including two racially and gender segregated apartment complexes on the east side of Boulder Highway. The Victory Village Apartments housed white families. In contrast, the Carver Park Apartments housed only black families.

Basic Magnesium Hospital, like Henderson's apartment complexes, was segregated. But as soon as Sister Carolyn took charge as the administrator of the hospital, she ended the practice of isolating patients based on their race or ethnicity. Bettylou Anderson recalls a staff member asking Sister Carolyn where she should place a particular black patient. "[Sister Carolyn said] if you are a medical patient, you go to a medical ward. Sister Carolyn put an end to that [segregation]," said Bettylou.

"We must build a new world,

a far better world – one in which the eternal dignity of man is respected."

– U.S. President Harry S. Truman



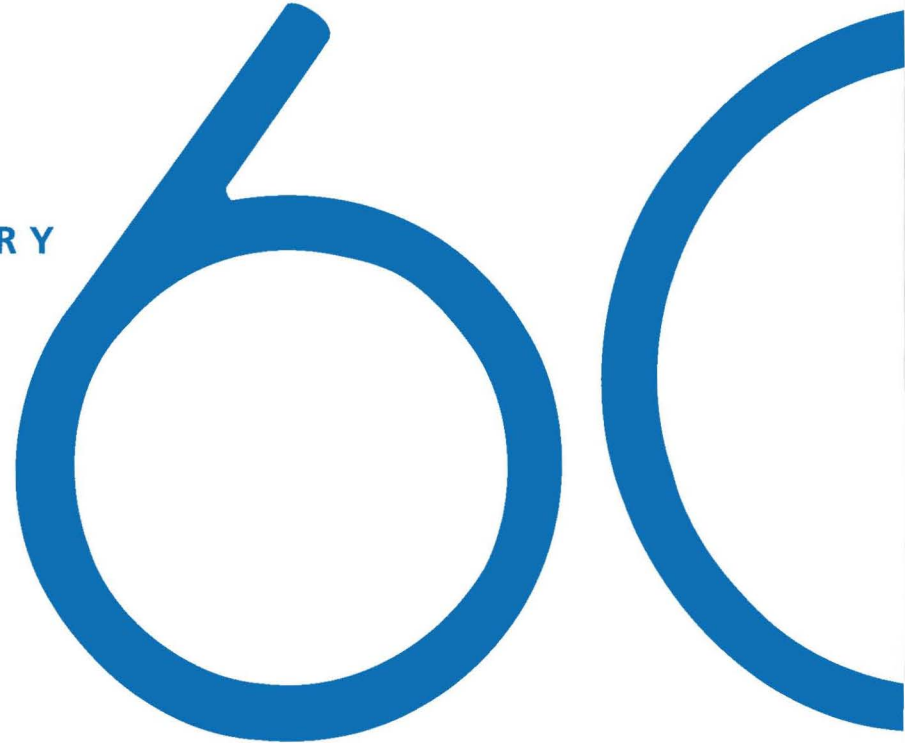
CHAPTER THREE

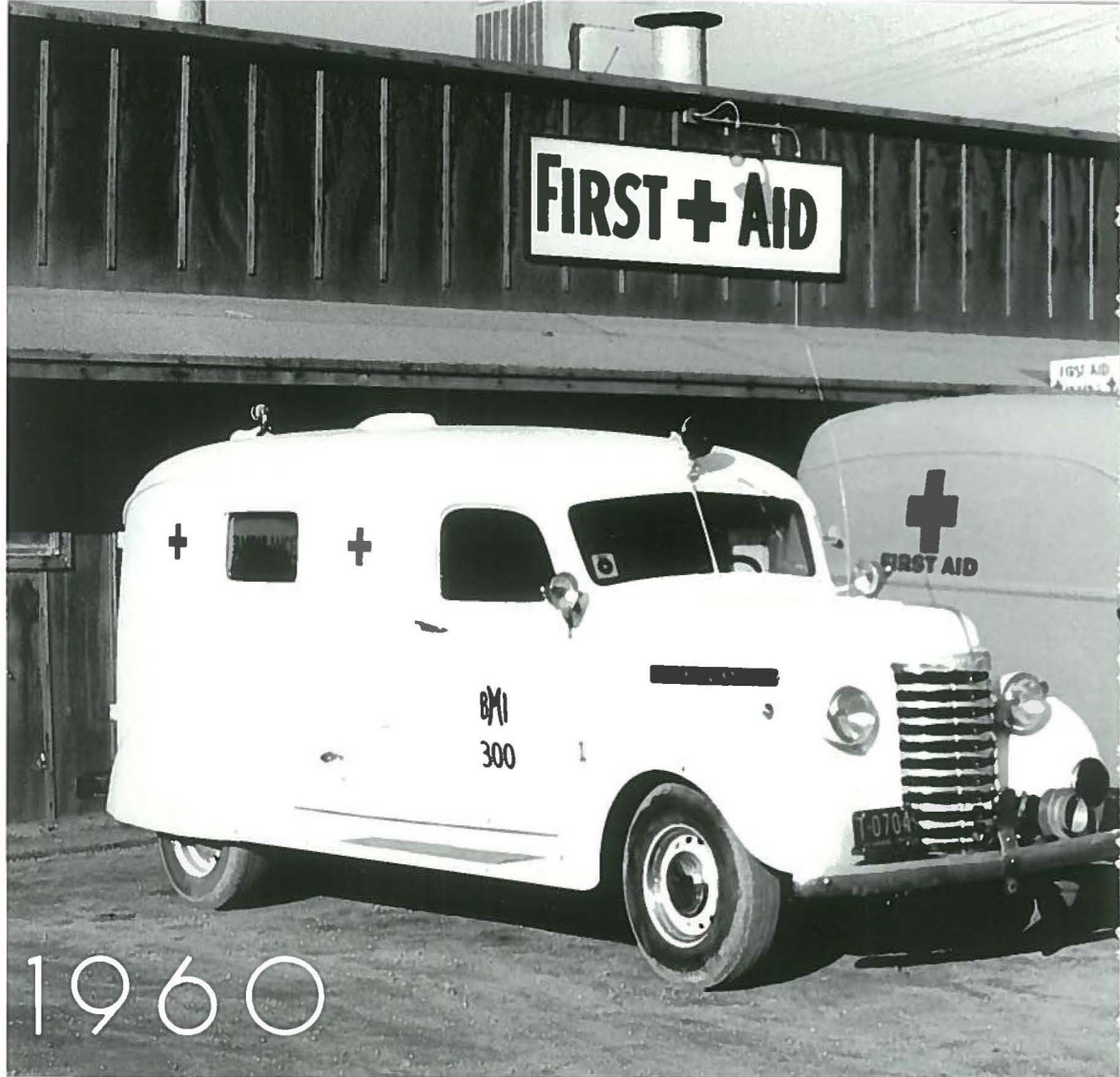
Dedication Day

First JCAHO Hospital Accredited

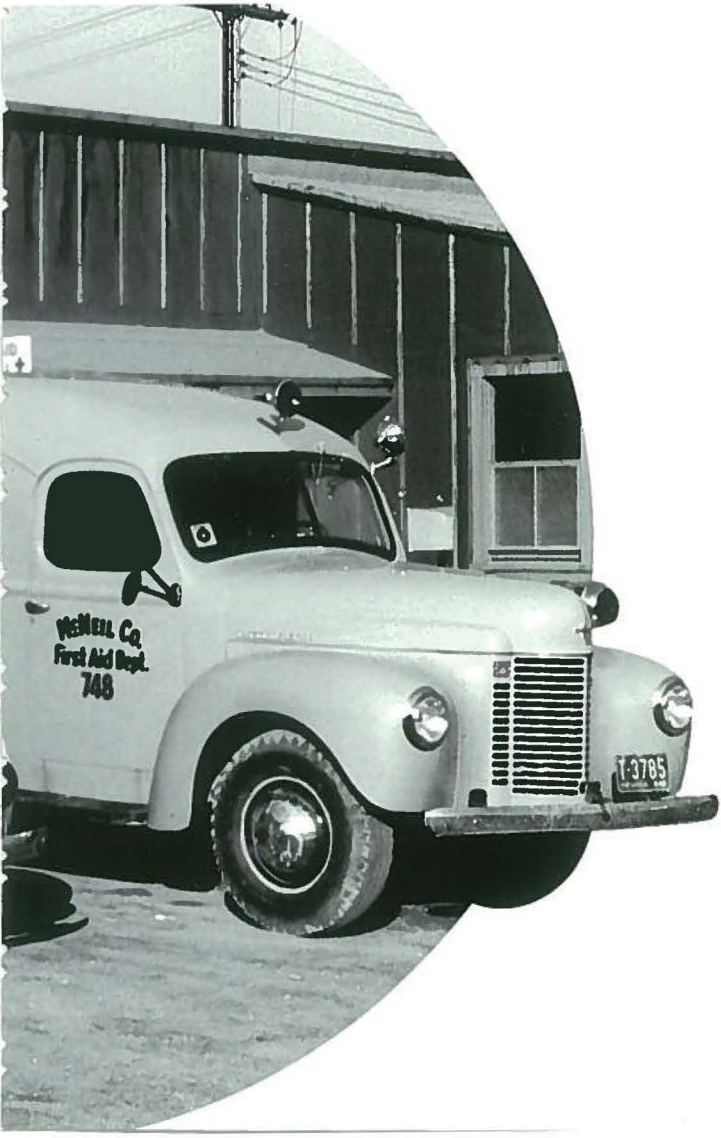
Baking Heavenly Angel Bread

CULTIVATING A MINISTRY





1940s 1960



As the sun set on the Sisters' first summer in Southern Nevada, they counted their blessings – cooler weather and a supportive community were among them. Acceptance by the American Medical Association of Hospitals and the formal dedication of Rose de Lima were also causes for celebration.

On a breezy October afternoon, Bishop Gorman presided over the dedication of Rose de Lima, giving a community Mass in the chapel before the official dedication. Following this, the Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament was held on the hospital's front lawn. Dr. Gerald Sylvain, president of the Clark County Medical Society, and Edwin D. Hickman, an LDS Bishop, were among several key community leaders who spoke to an audience comprised of public officials, physicians and clergy. Among those present were Mother Gerald Barry and other Sisters from Adrian, Michigan; Casa Grande, Winslow and Kingman, Arizona; Santa Cruz and Los Angeles, California; as well as Las Vegas.



Bishop Gorman (center) and Father Moran (far right) with other clergy at the dedication celebration.



Afterward, guests enjoyed a special meal and a large cake that looked just like the hospital. It was designed by Chef Rom of the El Rancho Vegas.

Those who did not attend the dedication sent their well wishes via a cascade of telegrams, letters and cards.

Congratulations came from Sisters, Fathers and Archbishops, as well as from religious, civic and government leaders from around the valley, the state and the nation. The Sisters preserved the outpouring of goodwill in a memory book which is a treasured keepsake of St. Rose Dominican Hospitals' rich heritage.

The pomp and circumstance soon subsided and the Sisters returned to their call of caring for the sick until the year drew to a close. Just before Christmas, they set aside time to celebrate their first six months of service at Rose de Lima with a dinner honoring the doctors and an appreciation party for the employees.



OUR LITTLE TROUT

“We had the privilege of successfully performing the first blood transfusion in Clark County to a newborn with RH factor incompatibility. For several years prior to the advent of neonatal units, this newborn held the record as the smallest surviving infant at one pound eleven ounces. Our neonatal unit was our beloved Sister Marie Daniel. She maintained a near twenty-four-hour vigil over these infants with only brief moments away from the crib side. Such was the case of this little girl who was born at about twenty-six weeks of gestation or about three months premature. Under the dear Sister’s watchful eye and stimulating support, she lived and thrived without any apparent handicap. We nicknamed her “Our Little Trout” because I caught many trout upon Kolob Mountain that measured and weighed more than she did. Some eighteen years later when they were living in Arizona, her mother brought her to Henderson to see the sites of her small beginnings. She was a beautiful, petite young lady who had graduated from high school with honors and could speak three languages fluently. She was somewhat amazed that we found her so special.”

– Dr. Harold Miller

The year 1948, the Sisters' first full year at Rose de Lima, started off on a high note when in January, Rose de Lima became a member of the American Hospital Association (AHA) and the Sisters learned that the new Catholic school in Las Vegas would be staffed by Adrian Dominican Sisters. They found joy and comfort in Southern Nevada's growing community of women religious.

On May 19, 1948, the final deed to the hospital was executed and ownership of the hospital was vested in the Sisters of St. Dominic of Adrian, Michigan. This blessing did not come without its share of trials and tribulations, however. Chief among the difficulties was convincing doctors to come and

THE PEAKS AND VALLEYS OF SOUTHERN NEVADA



live in Henderson. For a time, some of the physicians who had previously worked in Basic Magnesium Hospital's clinic continued to split their time between Las Vegas and Rose de Lima. But they eventually began directing all of their patients to their Las Vegas offices.

The Sisters said daily prayers in hopes that doctors would move to Henderson, but it was a risk for doctors to start a practice with the uncertainty of the plant's success under private management. They also wondered if employee retention would be problematic in the desert.

notes

Excerpts from hospital notes on

JUNE 26, 1952

Rose de Lima's fifth anniversary

“Working in conjunction with the Sisters are fifteen registered nurses and five aides. Among this group, Mrs. Edith de Montague, R.N., Mrs. Hilda Muelheisen, R.N., Mrs. Beatrice Zimmerman, Mrs. Dora McAnally and Mrs. Ada Newton have been employed through the five years. Ms. Bettylou Hildebrand (married name of Anderson), bookkeeper and secretary holds the record for long service in the business office. She worked under the employment of BMI and continued on with the new administration.”

“More than 8,600 patients were cared for in the first five years.”

“Twelve doctors comprise the active medical staff and an additional twenty-six doctors and dentists from Las Vegas hold courtesy staff membership. James B. French, M.D., was selected as the chief of staff in 1952.”

1952





In the early 1950s, approximately two dozen physicians held courtesy staff status at Rose de Lima. Less than a handful lived and practiced in Henderson, according to Dr. Harold Miller who came to Henderson in 1953 to work for two of those three physicians – Dr. Lorne Phillips, who was trained in general and pediatric surgery, and Dr. George Miners. Dr. Karl Hazeltine would join the group a year after Dr. Miller.

With the help of local industry, Henderson was officially incorporated on May 23, 1953, and Dr. Jim French was sworn in as the town's first mayor. Sister Felicia Haidysz was appointed as the second administrator of Rose de Lima Hospital that same year. Under her leadership the medical staff grew, though satisfying doctors was cause for concern. In a letter dated November 1953, Sister Felicia wrote, *"May God reward you Mother for your many encouraging words to 'your problem children in the west,'"* referencing several of the struggles the Sisters faced, one of which was pleasing physicians. The letter went on to read, *"One day we have very satisfied doctors, and then again, nothing is right. . . . we take it at stride."*

A young Jewish physician named Dr. Rueben Lockitch, who came highly recommended by the Sisters of Providence, began practicing at the hospital at about that time. He tried to schedule a surgery for a particular day, but found that the



SISTER
MARY
FELICIA
HAIDYSZ, O.P.

Administrator, 1953-1959

The title "Angel of Mercy" fit Sister Felicia Haidysz. As one of the first seven Sisters, she worked in the nursery and in medical records for six years before taking the position of hospital administrator. Selma Bartlett said that the compassionate Sister "*always forgave the medical bills of those who could not afford care.*"

In July 1959, after two six-year terms at St. Rose, Sister Felicia received a ministry reassignment. Dominican culture at the time called Sisters to take on a different ministry every six years. The community organized a campaign in hopes of keeping her at the hospital. An editorial letter and an accompanying illustration ran in the *Home News*. It prompted many people to write the Mother General.

SISTER FELICIA MAY BE
TRANSFERRED FROM ROSE
DE LIMA ON JULY 31;
HOME NEWS URGES LETTER WRITING
CAMPAIGN TO KEEP HER HERE

Unless a concerted effort can be made by all powers concerned, there is a chance this community will lose the services of one of its most valuable people. —Sister Felicia, administrator of Rose de Lima hospital.

According to customs of the Dominican Sisters' order, transfers are made every six years — and usually to new locations.

Sister Felicia has already done two hitches here and the HOME NEWS has learned that new assignments will be in order July 31.

The need for her expertness is as great elsewhere as here, it was learned, and the possi-

bility of her being sent elsewhere is a definite one.

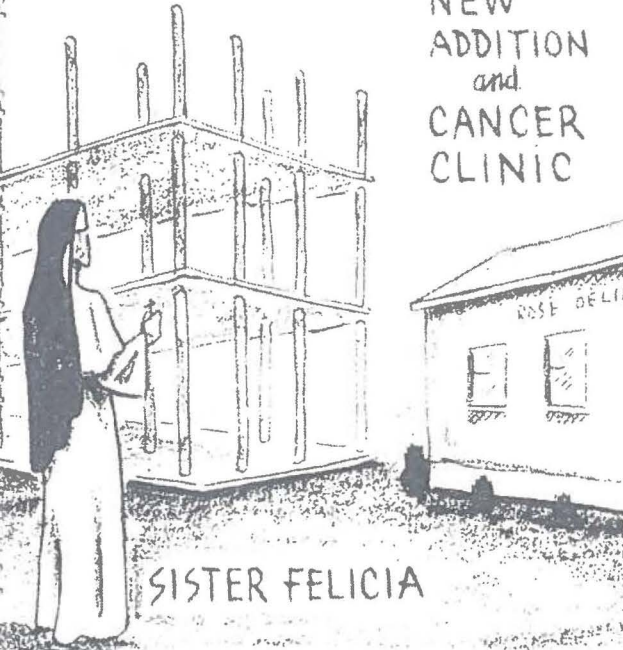
Several local leaders and organizations have written to the headquarters of the order in Adrian, Michigan, urging that the famed Sister Felicia be kept here to carry on thru the gigantic building program now underway. A cancer clinic featuring the only Cobalt bomb installation in Nevada is being built.

Those residents seeking to join in the campaign to keep Sister Felicia from being transferred are urged by this newspaper to write to Mother Superior, Order of the Sisters of St. Dominic, Adrian, Michigan.

OUR "ANGEL OF MERCY"
SEES HER DREAMS COME TRUE

Rose De Lima
- ACCREDITED HOSPITAL

NEW
ADDITION
and
CANCER
CLINIC

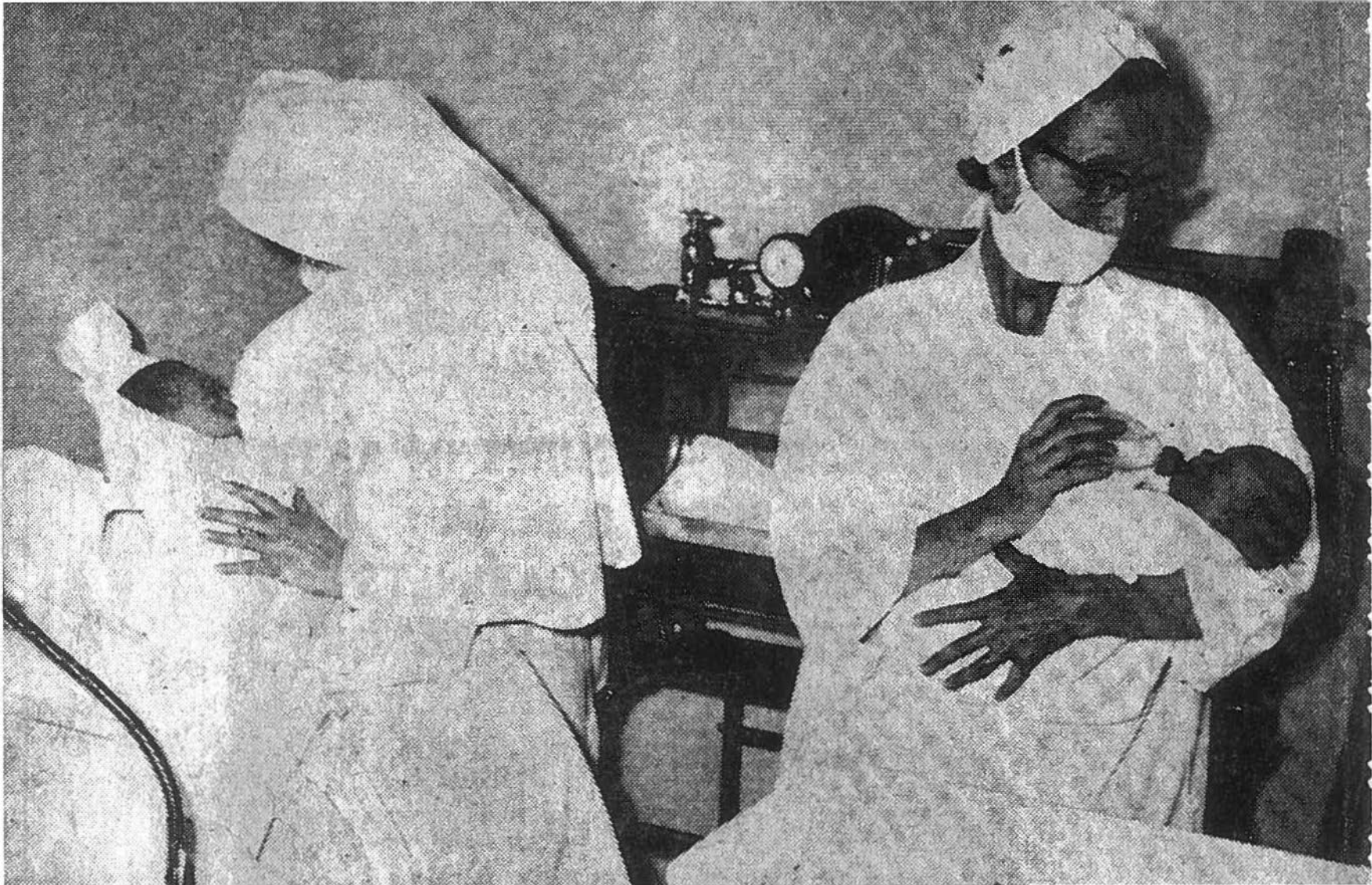


hospital's only anesthesia machine was already reserved for another surgery. He asked the Sisters to order another. When he was told that it would be \$1,000 – a cost they could not cover – he picked up the phone and called his friend Beldon Katelman, owner of the El Rancho Vegas hotel, to ask if he would pay for it. Mr. Katelman came out the next day to visit a patient and promised the Sisters they would have the funds in hand within a few days.

Sister Felicia was delighted that Dr. Lockitch took such interest in the hospital and hoped that he would stay on in Henderson. The *"medical profession is rather rugged in these parts. . . it seems a bitter struggle most of the time,"* Sister Felicia said in reference to the territorial tug-o-war over patients in the small town. Dr. Lockitch did in fact stay and later became chief of staff.

Sister Felicia's wit about the wrangling between doctors was apparent in the words she wrote about a banquet the Sisters held for the doctors. She wrote, *"About twenty-eight (physicians) were present and no lives were lost."*

With each passing year the relationship of respect between the Sisters, doctors and staff solidified, and the hospital's census crept upwards. The wards, once wanting for patients,



54

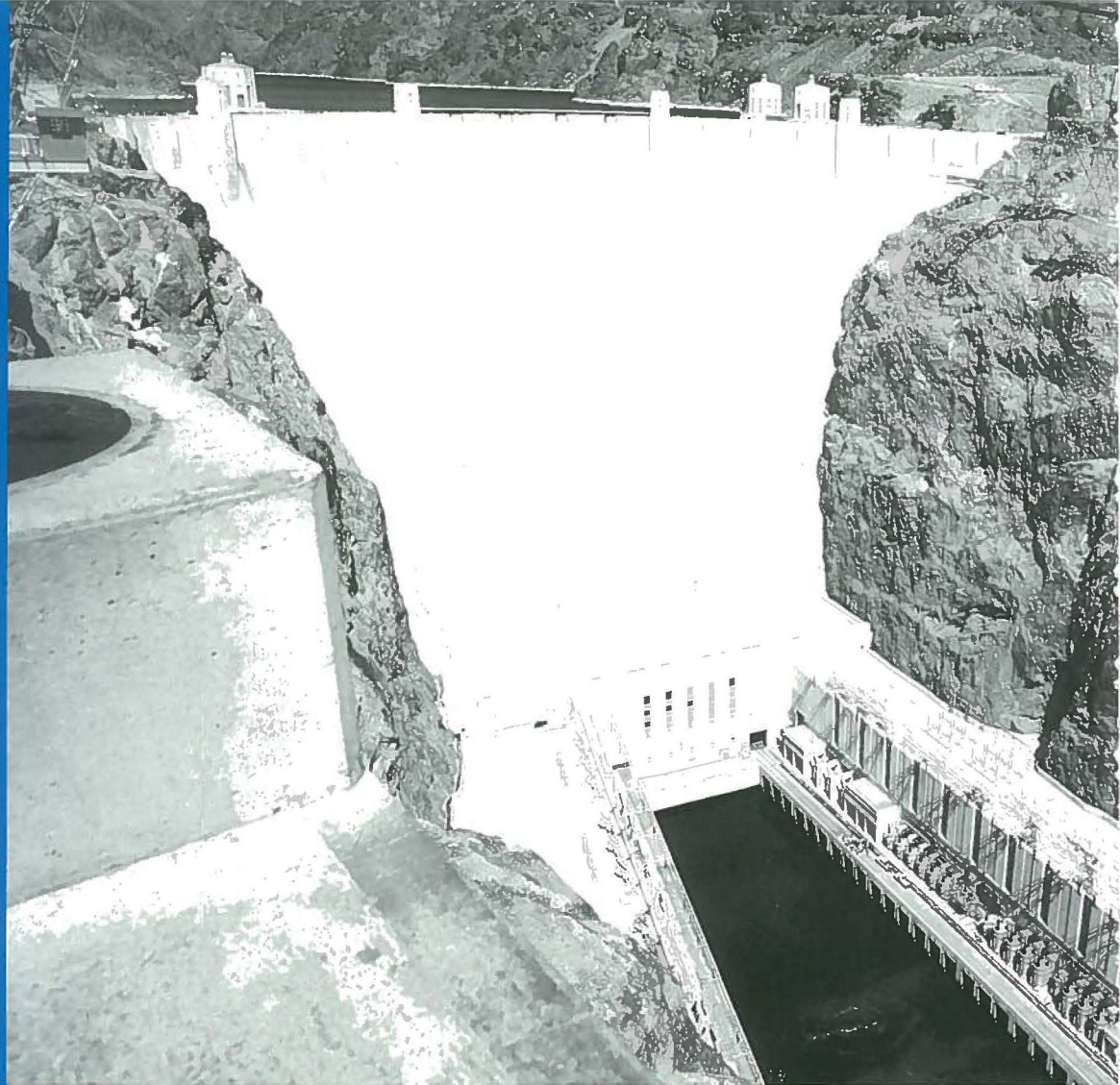
were frequently at or near capacity. The Sisters often gave up their living quarters to accommodate additional patients. A letter to Mother Gerald Barry stated: *"We are as busy as can be. It seems there is no end of patients. I moved out of my room last night to make room for someone and this morning we had to send two patients home to await bed space. . . . Evidently a delayed reaction to our prayers of 1947 and 1948!"*

In 1954, one of the hospital's first expansions – a dormitory-style addition for the Sisters and a dining and recreation room for the Sisters of the hospital and St. Peter's Catholic Church – got under way. There would be much more expansion to come as the Sisters worked to serve the burgeoning community.



Senator Pat McCarran

A PBS highlight quoted Senator McCarran as saying, *"Nothing is too good for the fine people of Nevada,"* in reference to how the state and its residents benefited from the federal public works projects for which he lobbied. The senator had equally warm sentiments about Rose de Lima Hospital. He continually supported the Sisters' endeavors to care for the people of Henderson and its neighboring communities.





Before more expansion could occur, there would be other hurdles to overcome, including a bit of trouble with the government. The Sisters received a letter claiming that they were violating the deed by renting a portion of the hospital's office space to doctors. The Sisters appealed to Senator McCarran for help, and he did just that. After a series of communications with governmental agencies, the Sisters received a telegram from the Senator stating that their interpretation of the deed was declared authentic, and thus they were not in violation.

There was also a "power struggle" of sorts with the utilities. While the Sisters had been led to believe that they would receive electricity and water free of charge, they were charged high rates. After consultation with the head of the Colorado River Commission, the rates were cut almost in half. Eventually the issue was resolved and the hospital got its power and water free for a time.



“May God reward you Mother

for the spiritual backing we
received on the day of our survey.
Dr. Fernald Fitts seemed greatly
impressed with the general setup
of the hospital and commended
us on the wonderful spirit therein.”

*– Sister Felicia, letter to Mother Gerald Barry on June 14, 1954,
in regard to the hospital's JCAHO survey.*

her and all the Sisters

The Sisters weathered such worries without losing sight of their mission to do God's will. *"Under the leadership of the devoted Sisters, Rose de Lima became the elite of the group [of hospitals] in the 1950 and 1960 period – at least in the eyes of the local citizens and many others,"* said Dr. Miller. According to Lou LaPorta, it was not simply the people of Henderson who adored the Sisters, but the entire Las Vegas Valley. *"People were willing to travel from all edges of the valley to be cared for at Rose de Lima,"* he said.

While the delivery of quality, compassionate care and community service secured the Sisters a place in the hearts of all they served, their commitment to excellence earned Rose de Lima recognition within the hospital industry. In 1955, Rose de Lima earned the distinction of becoming the first Joint Commission on the Accreditation of Hospital Organizations (JCAHO) facility in Southern Nevada.

Rose de Lima Hospital
HENDERSON, NEVADA

Sept. 22, 1954

Dear Mrs. Smith,

This account is as I wish it "Pd. in full" and I want you to realize that this is between God and me. You have been a source of edification and inspiration to all and had been saying "thank you" for everything. May our Lord and His Blessed Mother smile upon you and your family for all eternity.

Sincerely,
Sister Mary Helena, O.P.

Dear Mrs. Smith,
This account is as I wish it, "Pd. In full" and I want you to realize that this is between God and me. You have been a source of edification and inspiration to all as has been your husband and this is just a small way of saying "thank you for everything." May our Lord and His Blessed Mother smile upon you and your family for all eternity.

Rose de Lima Hospital
HENDERSON, NEVADA

Rose de Lima
HENDERSON, NEVADA

September ?

a/c Mrs. Janet Smith and Bt

Admitted: 9-14-54 Disch

HOSPITAL SERVICE	8	DAYS AT	9.50	PER DAY
NURSERY	7	DAYS AT	2.00	PER DAY

LABORATORY CDC and Ua.

ORDERING ROOM - DELIVERY ROOM

DRUGS AND DRESSINGS

X-RAY

OXYGEN

SPECIAL SERVICE

Janet Smith
Sister Mary Helena

Mrs. Janet

September 22, 1954

Baby Margaret

Charged: 9-22-54

76 00

14 00

8 00

15 00

19 55

1 00

\$ 132 55

BUILDING SUPPORT

As cherished as the Sisters and the little, low rambling hospital of sixty-five beds were, many of the 10,000 people cared for within its walls during that first decade did not have the financial wherewithal to pay for the medical attention they received. Sister Felicia routinely forgave the medical bills of the less fortunate, leaving little to no margin to purchase much needed new equipment and to expand the hospital.

A Las Vegas Review-Journal reporter shed light on the Sister's situation in an article dated June 16, 1957. It read: "Try to picture six patient, tolerant selfless Sisters of the cloth working around the clock. . . to stem a flood of sickness and injury, death and accident, birth and new life that descends on them without letup, twenty-four hours a day. That is the story of Rose de Lima Hospital.

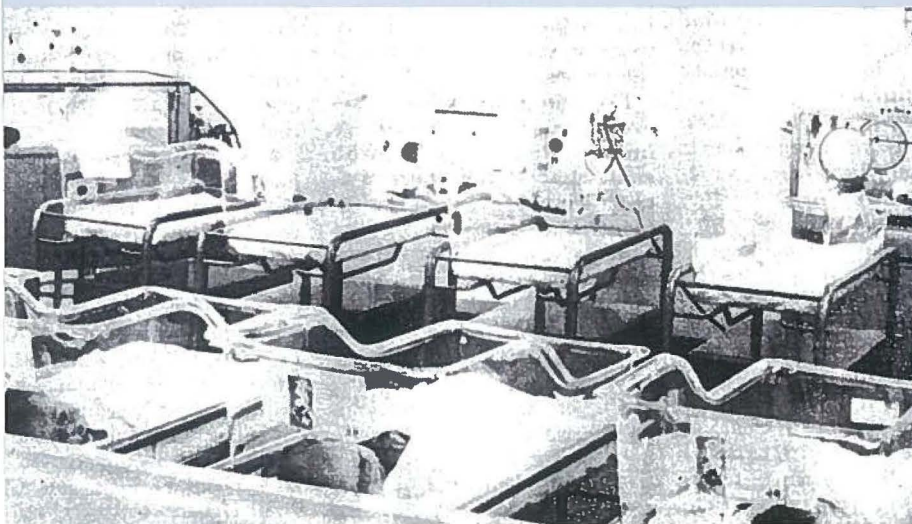
That is the story of wonderful nuns who ask nothing more than the chance to make people well, who give nothing less than their entire selves to people no matter what color you are, no matter who you believe in, no matter what you believe – for if you are sick or ill, or dying and bleeding or if you are giving birth, you need them and they need you.

JANUARY 30, 1957

An explosion took place at the Titanium Plant. The hospital handled fifteen emergencies from this disaster. *(Disaster drill training was a routine occurrence at Rose de Lima Hospital.)*

JULY 28, 1958

Twenty-four babies in the nursery today. *(A story has often been told that so many babies were born in the late 1950s that the hospital did not have enough bassinets to hold them. In an effort to find suitable sleeping quarters for the little ones, some were placed in the top drawer of a bureau. People have often wondered if this story is folklore – hospital annals have confirmed it to be true).*



Girls Win Stork Derby at Hospital

HENDERSON — For the first time in several weeks, more girls were born at Rose de Lima hospital than boys.

A baby boy was born to Mr. and Mrs. Ramond Taylor, 508 N. 12th street, Las Vegas, on September 12. On September 14, boys were born to Mr. and Mrs. Vern Ford of 121 B. Victory Village, and Mr. and Mrs. James Porter of 601 Seventh street in Boulder.

"Everything is progressing at a rapid pace and the babies just keep us stepping. We average about fifty babies and more a month – just since the beginning of the year we have had 530 births – so that will give you an idea, Mother, about the increase in the maternity department."

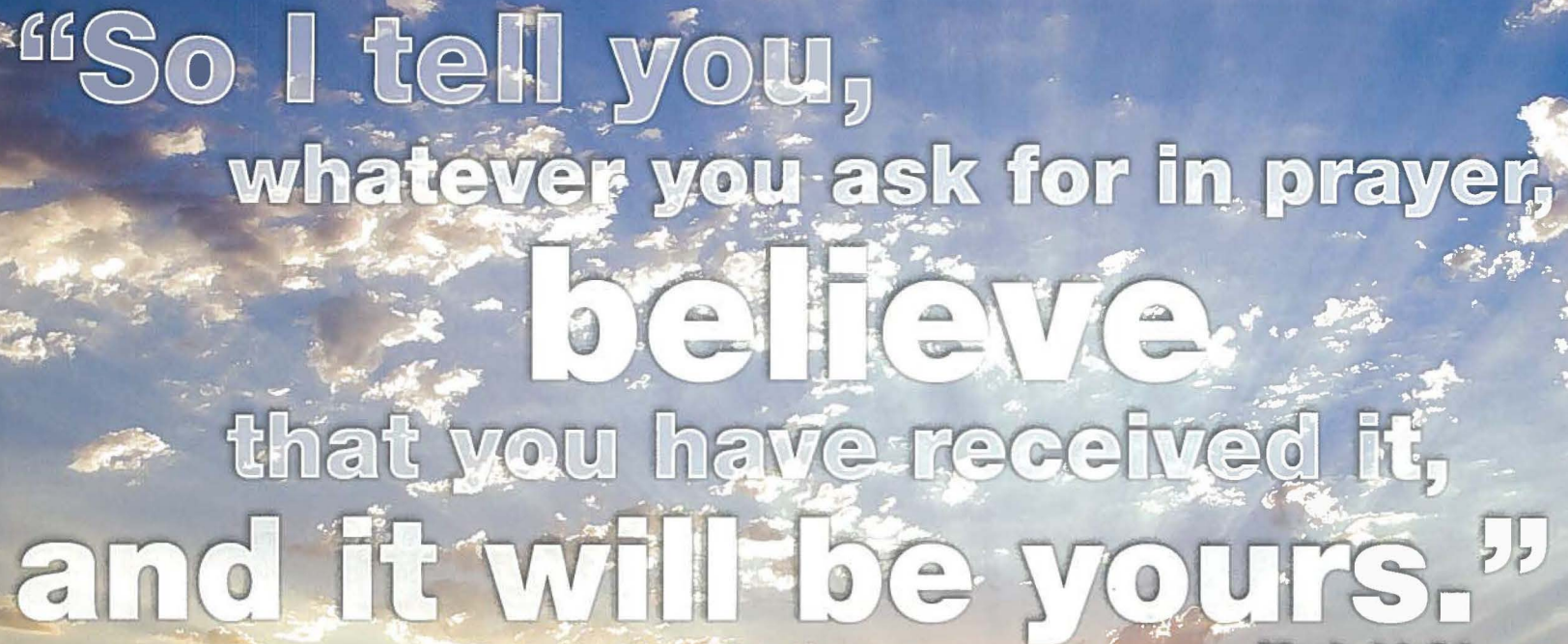
– Sister Felicia in a November 1956 letter to Mother Gerald Barry

But society is such today that it is not enough to give of yourself – you must have the realistic things of life, like money and equipment and hospital space and surgical tools and facilities, to help strengthen your own inner drive to make people well.

Rose de Lima Hospital has needed these realistic things of life ever since it started – it has never been needing of the drive and the sincere will of the Sisters to help people get well. If it were possible for hospitals to be built on selflessness and love, Rose de Lima Hospital would tower thousands of feet into the air far above any structure in the area, far, far above the skimpy man made structure of towering Hoover Dam.”

The hospital did, in fact, have realistic needs. Its wards were bursting at their seams. Thus, Sister Felicia strove to raise money to expand the hospital by accepting – and often encouraging – the community’s offers of help. The St. Rose Women’s Committee records state that *“Sister Felicia harnessed the spirit of the 1950s and was able to reach into the community to find financial resources beyond reimbursable care.”*

With the help of Kathlyn Mowbray and Lucy Foley, she organized an auxiliary of women who gave generously of both their time and talents. *“My cousin was an Adrian Dominican in the Dominican Republic. She encouraged me to help the Sisters in Henderson,”* said Kathlyn. The auxiliary raised money through



**“So I tell you,
whatever you ask for in prayer,
believe
that you have received it,
and it will be yours.”**

- Mark 11:24



several events including the Mardi Gras Ball. Sister Felicia also cultivated gifts from grateful patients.

Lucy's sister-in-law Betty Foley, had nine children over the course of just ten years at Rose de Lima. She recalls one of the many evenings Sister Felicia joined her family for dinner at their home. *"We asked a few friends to join us, and Sister Felicia pleaded her case for the hospital so convincingly that one of our neighbors wrote her a sizable check right there and then."* The neighbor, J.A. Tiberti, found Sister Felicia's passion for the hospital's ministry so persuasive that he later told the Foley's he would likely go broke if he were to dine with her again.

As the 1950s progressed, so did the Sisters' ambitious plan to build a \$1 million, three-story patient tower. Fundraising became a priority. Harley E. Harmon, a local insurance agent and county commissioner in the 1950s, headed up a \$150,000 fundraising drive that was kicked off with a luncheon at the Sands Hotel. Hank Greenspun, publisher of the *Las Vegas Sun*, made the first pledge of support for \$2,500. The Sands Hotel donated \$2,500 as well, and the Tropicana Hotel and the El Cortez gave \$500. Hospital records indicate that other organizations gave generously during the 1950s. The Major Max C. Flieschmann Foundation gave \$100,000, and \$21,700 was received from the Ford Foundation. John De Luca of De Luca Liquor presented the Sisters a check for \$3,500 he raised

Mardi Gras Ball scheduled for Saturday

The 32nd Annual Mardi Gras Ball to benefit St. Rose de Lima Hospital will be held Saturday at the Aladdin Hotel Grand Ballroom. Proceeds from this year's event will benefit the hospital's 2007 Christmas

tickets are \$60 and \$100 per person.

A 1989 Ford Festiva from Gaudin Ford will be given away. Car tickets are being sold for \$10 each. Also, \$1 raffle tickets for a variety of dur

Gras Chairman Florianne

tholomew, the theme of 1989 ball is Japanese decorations at the Aladdin Ballroom will create a beautiful atmosphere

Barbara Greenspun poses with Frank Sinatra.



A Timeless Tradition - St. Rose's annual ball was founded in 1957 by the Women's Auxiliary led by Kathlyn Mowbray (pictured with her husband, John Mowbray and Father Moran). In 2007, Southern Nevadans celebrated the 50th Anniversary of the community's most enduring charity gala.

*Senator Richard Bryan
and his wife, Bonnie,
with guests.*



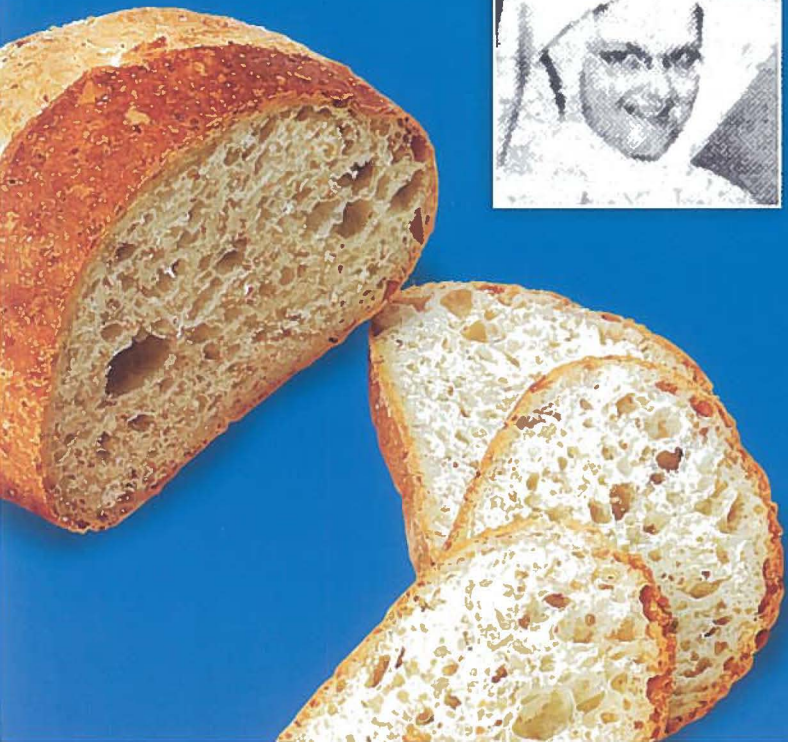
from customers. Walter Winchell, one of the most influential and controversial radio personalities of the time, presented the hospital a check for \$10,000 from the Damon Runyan Fund, which he founded in honor of the accomplished writer and journalist. The hospital received tens of thousands more from the fund over the course of a number of years via a golf tournament attended by the likes of Bob Hope and Bing Crosby. With capital mounting from the community and philanthropic organizations, Mother Gerald Barry loaned Rose de Lima \$100,000 and left the door open for the Sisters to borrow another \$100,000 if needed for the building fund. The hospital also received a \$450,000 federal grant toward the \$1 million addition.

Probably the most notable “ask” Sister Felicia would herself make was to Al Freeman, a publicist for the Sand’s Hotel. She asked for his aid in coming up with creative strategies for fundraising. It was not until some time later, when he was confined to the hospital with chest trouble, that he had a “stroke of genius.” He suggested that the Sisters market and sell the heavenly bread that Sister Angelita made for patients. After being discharged from the hospital, Mr. Freeman and (then attorney, later judge) John Mowbray gave rise to the Angel Bread Foundation. The incredible success of Angel Bread is one of St. Rose’s most cherished stories.

SISTER ANGELITA, OP

*"When she got the recipe right,
Angelita was just thrilled spitless"*

– Sister Felicia



The Angel Bread story started quite unexpectedly, when Sister Felicia asked Al Freeman, a publicist for the Las Vegas Sands and a patient, for ideas on how to raise funds to expand Rose de Lima. At first Freeman, who was unhappy with the hospital food, was starved for ideas.

That changed when he tasted some lightly toasted and buttered bread made by Sister Angelita. He said, *"Oh, Angel. You have a gold mine right here. Put this bread on the market and you'll make money."* Freeman felt the idea was divine intervention. Sister Felicia found it depressing. After all, how would the Sisters, already overwhelmed in their ministry of caring, find the time and resources to make and market bread?

In the weeks following Mr. Freeman's hospital discharge, he returned to Rose de Lima with local and national bakery representatives who carefully watched how Sister Angelita made her golden loaves of brown bread. Soon bakeries were making Angel Bread and returning a share of the proceeds to Rose de Lima.

News articles about Angel Bread ran in papers from Henderson to the Twin Cities. A children's book about Sister Angelita's bread baking and reflections have also been written to pay homage to her heavenly bread.

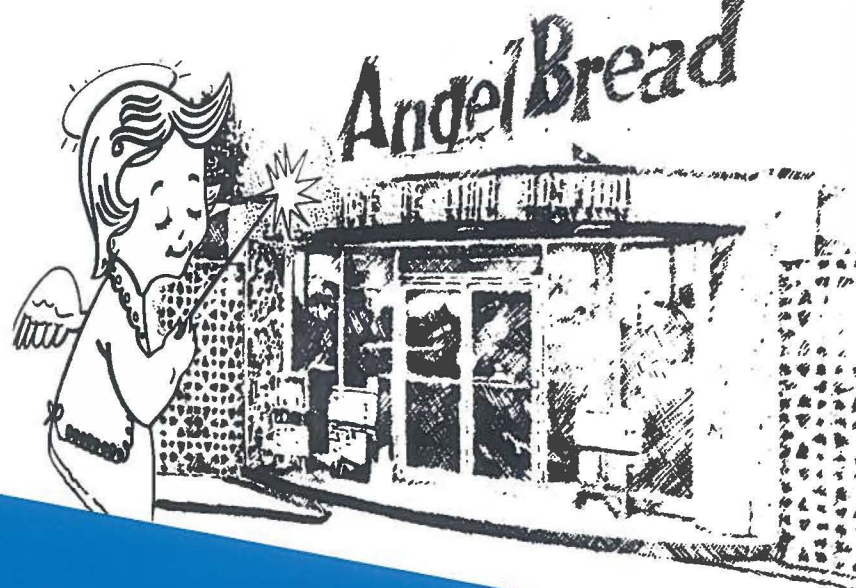
"She is angel in the kitchen, by name and occupation"
– Al Freeman in referring to Sister Angelita

April 1957, approximately 600,000 loaves of bread were selling in states as far east as Minnesota.

As poignant as the telling of the Angel Bread story is, Sister Angelita finds humor in the untold account of her efforts to improve upon the hospital's bread.

"While I was working on it, the administrator (Sister Carolyn) came in one day and announced, 'You don't have to bake bread.' I responded, 'Oh, but I like to.' I thought she was telling me it wasn't necessary to take on that additional responsibility. It turns out what she really meant was the bread wasn't good. I missed it. I still laugh about that."

Sister Angelita continued to refine her recipe and it not only greatly improved, it gave rise to one of St. Rose's favorite stories.



Dining options in hospitals aren't typically anything to brag about, but through the years, the nutrition services department has been staffed with superb cooks who steadfastly believe in food's ability to comfort and heal. Like Sister Angelita, they truly care about the well-being of patients, so practically everything served is homemade. More recently, in its second annual Las Vegas 100, Las Vegas Life magazine ranked St. Rose's Siena Campus cafeteria number 45 in its "Very Best of the City" alongside popular fine dining establishments.



NOVEMBER 20, 1962

"Received prayer of our beloved
Mother Gerald's death."

On April 4, 1958, ground was broken on the three-story patient tower which would house a new emergency room, surgical suites, obstetrics unit and additional beds to better accommodate the community's growth. Bishop Robert Dwyer blessed the spot marked by four stones, then dug the first shovelful and blessed everybody in a sizable audience that included Henderson's Mayor William Byrne and Senator Alan Bible. Also present was the building contractor – none other than the generous J. A. Tiberti, the friend Sister Felicia met over dinner at the Foley's home.

By the end of June, fifty-five three-story high concrete columns were erected, and on November 24, the roof of the new hospital addition was raised. As Rose de Lima expanded, a new hospital opened its doors in Las Vegas. On December 20, 1958, several Adrian Dominican Sisters attended an open house for the new, for-profit Sunrise Hospital, financed in part by the infamous Moe Dalitz.

It was eleven months later, October 25, 1960, when the first bed was moved into the new wing. Notations in the annals that week state: *"Many friends came to the assistance of the Sisters in moving furniture and beds into the new wing. [We] had an open house Friday and Saturday. At least 1,000 people visited."*



DHEW - SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

488-40-6969-A
APPLICATION FOR ENROLLMENT
in the
Supplementary Medical Insurance Program
Under the Social Security Act

PLEASE READ THE ENCLOSED LEAFLET

Harry S. Truman
Independence, Missouri

Do not write in the space above

Missing from the crowd were Sister Felicia and Sister Angelita. In keeping with Dominican culture, their ministries were changed after two six-year terms at Rose de Lima. Sister Helen Margaret McGinley had since been appointed as the third administrator of the hospital.

The first patients were moved on October 28, 1960, and the first two major surgeries were performed. Another expansion, a twenty-bed neuropsychiatric unit, would follow in March 1962. It was the first private hospital to have a contract with the State Mental Health Services. Annals state that *"Surgeries [are] on the increase. Five and ten every day. Patients are increasing also, and the first and third floors are filled most of the time."*

Time changes and roads turn, however. Healthcare was rapidly changing in America. The price of hospital care, which had doubled in the 1950s, left many people outside the workplace – especially the elderly – hard pressed to afford insurance in the 1960s. President Lyndon Johnson would address this crisis by signing Medicare and Medicaid into law as a pillar of his "Great Society." Significant concerns about a "doctor shortage" arose and for-profit hospitals brought a new, competitive element to patient care. These national issues were reflected in the local healthcare landscape.

NT	TO GET MEDICAL INSURANCE	➔	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
rogram		CHECK	YES
	The Federal Government will pay half the cost of this insurance. Your share of the cost (\$3) will be deducted from your monthly social security benefits.		
FLET	IF YOU DO NOT WANT THIS MEDICAL INSURANCE	➔	<input type="checkbox"/>
		CHECK	NO
ouri	SIGN HERE	<i>Helen McGinley</i>	
	Signature by mark (X) and be witness and date.		
	SIGNATURE OF WITNESS	<i>[Signature]</i>	
	ADDRESS OF WITNESS		



CHAPTER FOUR

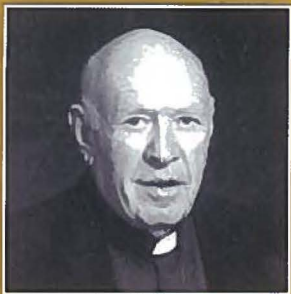
Will Rose de Lima to Move?

Collaborating with the State

25th Anniversary

ROUGH ROADS AHEAD

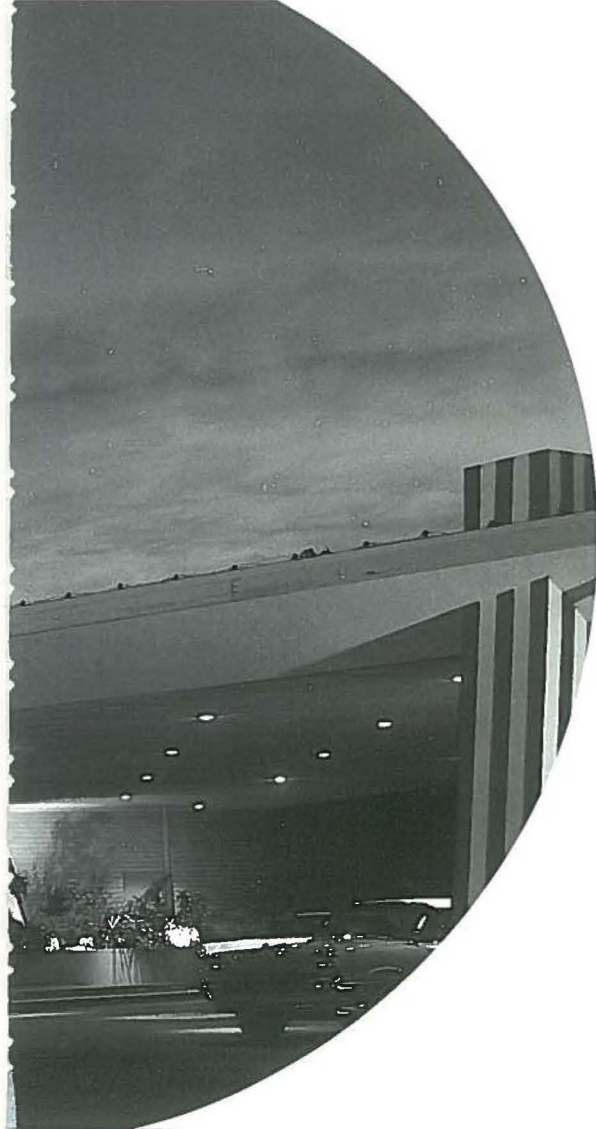




Father Caesar Cavilgia

Father Caesar Cavilgia combated educational, economic and social problems during his decades in the area. He helped establish the Henderson branch of Community College of Southern Nevada, secured housing for vulnerable populations, launched English classes for Spanish-speaking individuals and lobbied for the building of the I-215 through Henderson. Now in his 80s, Father Cavilgia ministers in Ely, Nevada.





Las Vegas continued to grow during the 1960s. So did its number of hospitals which, combined with increased traffic, seemed to make the road to Rose de Lima grow longer. It was still just a thirteen-mile drive on Boulder Highway, but that distance became too time consuming for many physicians who had previously provided care at the Henderson hospital.

Father Caesar Cavilgia, the assistant pastor of St. Anne's Parish, served as a chaplain at Sunrise Hospital, which was located just south of the church. He genuinely respected the Sisters and their mission, so he strongly encouraged physicians to continue making rounds at Rose de Lima.

"There was no doubt that the spirit and quality of care was excellent at Rose de Lima, but convenience had become a factor in where physicians sent their patients," said Father Cavilgia. "I talked to the physicians, but both Sunrise and Southern Nevada Memorial Hospital were closer to their offices and homes."

Morry Zenoff, a weekly columnist for the *Henderson Home News*, chastised Las Vegas doctors who were not willing to make the trip to Rose de Lima because, as a result, their Henderson patients went where they directed them – to Las Vegas.

Rose De Lima Hospital May Move to Las Vegas

Henderson's Will Fail to Use Facility

Unless Henderson residents increase their patronage of Rose de Lima Hospital within the next month, the new three-story section of the facility will be moved to Las Vegas, Sister Helen Margaret, administrator of the Catholic facility, warned yesterday.

The payroll at the area's only Catholic hospital demands some \$57,000 a month, and the hospital is currently operating at a loss — with \$137,000 in current expenses due, Sister Helen Margaret said.

In addition, the hospital owes \$565,000 of the funds borrowed to build the new 76-bed unit completed in November of 1960.

Henderson residents, who need hospitalization, now patronize Las Vegas and Boulder City facilities rather than utilize the new section of Rose de Lima, according to Sister Helen Margaret, who has top credentials as a nurse, administrator and other phases of hospital work.

She said she had consulted one of the most recognized engineers of the nation and that he had advised her the hospital can be moved in two sections.

There are three leading firms in the Salt Lake City-Los Angeles area willing to do the moving, she said, and she has been advised Las Vegas land would be donated as a new site for the hospital.

Other citizens have offered to underwrite the costs of the project to get the hospital out of the red and provide additional facilities in the already overcrowded Las Vegas hospitals.

"We will try for one more month and if the people here do not support it then we have no alternative," she

said.

The Henderson hospital is operated by the Sisters of St. Dominic with headquarters in Adrian, Mich.

Obtained from the federal government after World War II, the older portion of the hospital is operated under a contract which expires in 1972.

Such circumstances drove the hospital, which had always struggled to keep abreast of its bills, deep into the red. On Tuesday, March 12, 1963, that red ink spilled onto the front page of the *Las Vegas Sun* newspaper. The headline, set in big red letters read, "Rose de Lima Hospital May Move to Las Vegas" followed by a subhead that read "Henderson's Ill Fail to Use Facility." The article stated that *"unless Henderson residents increase their patronage of Rose de Lima Hospital within the next month, the new three-story section of the facility will be moved to Las Vegas, Sister Helen Margaret, administrator of the Catholic facility, warned yesterday."*

The hospital's payroll at that time totaled \$37,000 a month and it was operating at a loss with \$137,000 in current expenses due. Rose de Lima also owed a balance of \$585,000 from the funds borrowed to build the new seventy-six bed unit completed in November 1960.


Sister Helen Margaret felt that desperate times called for desperate measures. She consulted one of the most recognized engineers in the nation and was assured that the new hospital tower could be moved to Las Vegas in sections. That news struck a chord with many people. Wealthy Las Vegans offered to donate the land and to underwrite the cost of moving the hospital as a means of reducing overcrowding at Sunrise Hospital. Southern Nevada Memorial Hospital considered the logistics of sending its overflow of patients out to Rose de Lima.



*"Trust in the Lord with all your heart...
in all your ways acknowledge him,
and he will make straight your paths."*

- Proverbs 3:5-6





The *Las Vegas Sun* article had the biggest impact on the residents of Henderson, however. According to a small follow up article, the hospital's occupancy rates rose when residents realized that they might lose a portion of the hospital built specifically to care for them. Six months later, Rose de Lima's census hit a new high with ninety-five patients and eight babies.

In September 1964, Parry Thomas (then vice president of Nevada State Bank) met with Sister Helen Margaret to offer her the "reasonable sale" of Sunrise Hospital. He stated that the hospital's owner, Moe Dalitz, needed to sell the hospital because of pressure put on him from Cleveland.

The Sisters declined to purchase the hospital, but plans to expand Sunrise went forth, and on February 14, 1965, Sister Margaret and other Adrian Dominicans attended the opening of Sunrise's new five-story tower.

APRIL 12, 1962

Artist Salvatore Costello donates his painting of Saint Rose de Lima to the hospital. Costello was hospitalized for an emergency kidney operation and vowed that on his recovery he would repay the kindness administered by the doctors and Sisters of the hospital. According to the artist, Dr. Jack Hirsh, Dr. Karl Hazeltine and Sister Helen Margaret were greatly responsible for his recovery.

DECEMBER 5, 1962

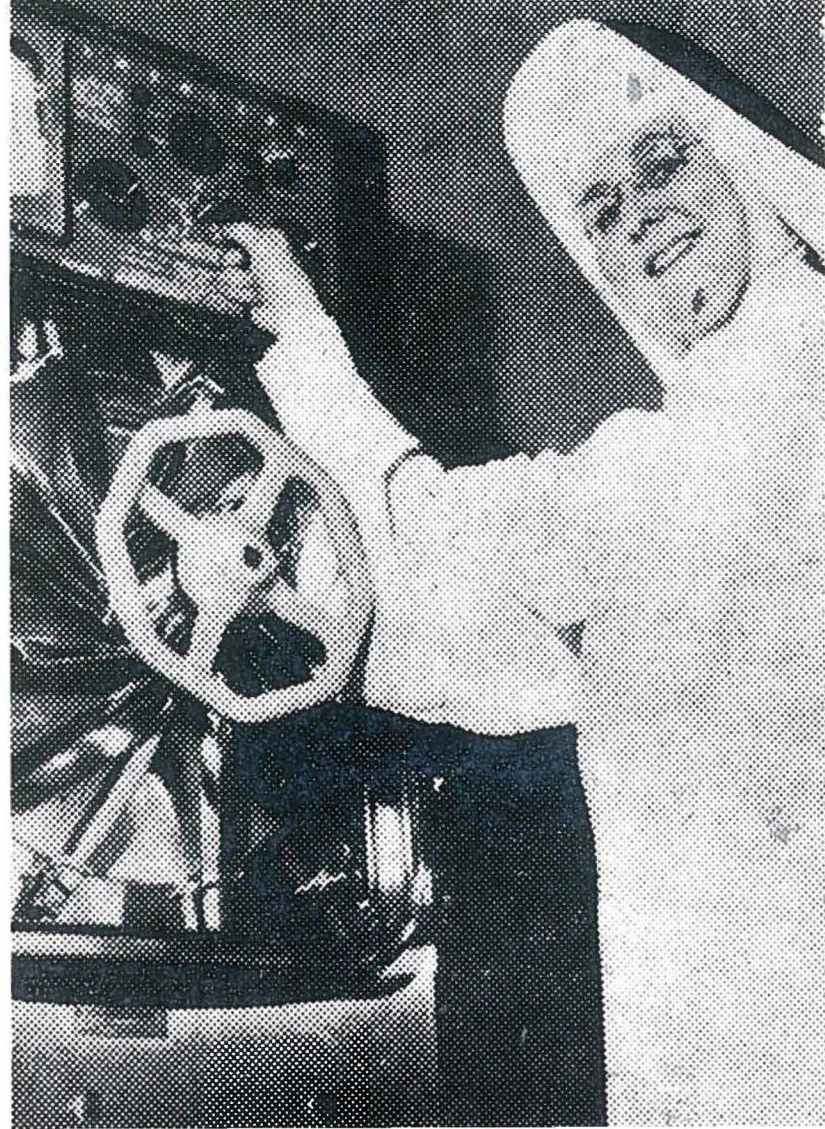
A Christmas party was held for Rose de Lima's ninety-nine auxiliary members. Comedian Shecky Green came as Santa Claus to entertain the auxiliary and visit patients.

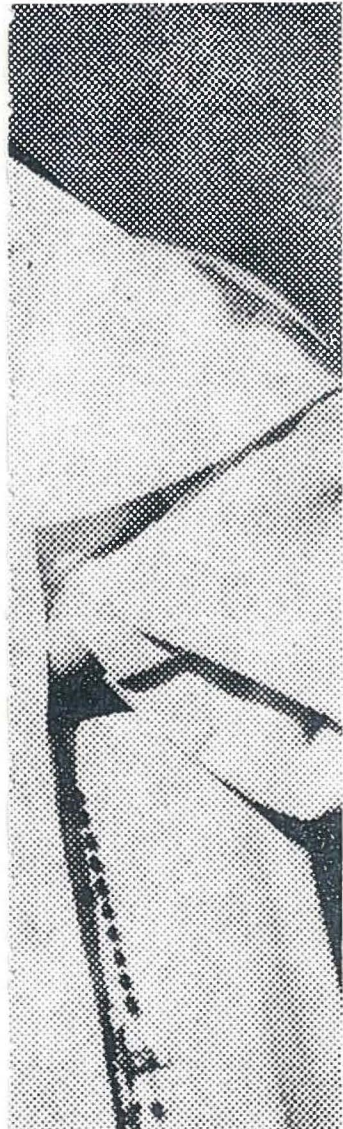
JULY 31, 1964

Through the Sloan-Kettering Foundation, the National Institute offered Sister Helen Margaret a three-year course in order to obtain her Doctorate in Hospital Administration.

OCTOBER 11, 1964

All of the Sisters were given special seats in the convention center to hear the president of the United States, Lyndon Baines Johnson, campaign. The Sisters were the guests of Senator Howard Cannon, also a campaigner. When the president spotted the Sisters in white in the front seats, he approached the edge of the stage to shake hands with them.





That summer, after six years of service as the administrator of St. Rose, Sister Helen Margaret received her reassignment.

A newspaper column called "The Party Line" stated:

"Southern Nevada will lose a beloved and valuable citizen when, on August 1, Sister Helen Margaret, administrator of Rose de Lima Hospital, leaves to become the nursing supervisor at the Dominican Hospital in Santa Cruz, California. When the Sister assumed her current duties six years ago, Rose de Lima was a sixty-two bed hospital. It now has a capacity of 140 beds. Those in the hospital field are sorry to see her go, not only because they are fond of her and admire her ability, but also because they will be minus a colleague whose contributions to the community have been outstanding."

Many tears fell at the farewell tea the auxiliary orchestrated. The women decorated the event with a "shipboard" theme complete with portholes. Sister Helen Margaret wished Rose de Lima Hospital and its new administrator, Sister Georganne Duggan, well and prayed that they would find smooth sailing in the months and years ahead.

Sister Helen Margaret McGonley, OP, Administrator 1959-1965



SISTER
GEORGANNE
DUGGAN, OP

Administrator, 1965-1978

Sister Georganne Duggan served as the administrator of Rose de Lima for thirteen years – maybe its toughest years. Annals kept during her years at the hospital indicate that in addition to managing Rose de Lima, she routinely traveled from one end of the state to the other and across the region for hospital and medical association meetings. On November 1, 1968, Sister Georganne attended the Nevada Hospital Convention in Reno where she was installed as president of the Nevada Hospital Association.

Like Sister Georganne, Sister Brigid, Sister Dolores Dolan and others were called to take on more and more leadership roles within the hospital and the medical community as healthcare became more complex. At times, such duties took them away from the patient care setting. Yet, the quality of care remained consistently high because Rose de Lima's staff grew not only in terms of numbers, but also in terms of their understanding, ability and eagerness to live out the vision and values of the Adrian Dominicans.

19



Sister Georganne arrived via Western Airlines on August 15, 1965. She was warmly welcomed and became deeply respected by all who knew her. One of her greatest admirers, Selma Bartlett, said: *"Sister Georganne was an absolute joy to be around. She was very funny but could also be equally serious. She had an incredible ability to listen and to assess people and situations in seconds. She was good with the public, the physicians and the employees."*

Sister Georganne had to make many tough decisions to keep the front doors of the hospital open. In 1966, that meant locking the doors to the hospital's third floor and consolidating patient services onto lower floors. Those doors remained locked for more than two years.

FATHER THEODOORE VANSKEE

Father Theodoore VanSkee said he would serve as a chaplain at Rose de Lima Hospital as long as the Sisters would have him. At the time, he had faithfully ministered to the hospital's patients for seventeen years.



SISTER VINCENT MAUREEN "DOLORES" DOLAN, OP

A former chief medical technologist at Rose de Lima, Sister Dolores also served on the advisory committee of the Health Manpower Committee representing the Nevada Society of Medical Technologists. Today she is a volunteer for St. Rose's Positive Impact on Reading program.



RITA MAESTAS

Rita Maestas, a maternal child care nurse mentored by the Sisters, has worked for St. Rose for fifty years. She is routinely stopped in grocery stores by women who tell her that she not only delivered them but their children and their grandchildren.



She also faced implementing Medicare. While Medicare delivered on its promise to provide healthcare to more than 18 million Americans over the age of sixty-five, it also created costly changes for hospitals. Jack Staggs, the administrator of Southern Nevada Memorial Hospital, told reporters that the program required hospitals to break down patient's room charges into specific categories. *"We have to show how much the janitors receive of the \$44 per day, how much the laundry workers, nurses, plumbers, kitchen help and everyone else is getting,"* said Staggs. *"This is the same reason [all] hospitals are affected [by the] raise in the same manner as we are."*

He said that such changes required hospitals to revamp pay rates so that their staff members were paid comparably to employees doing the same job in other industries. *"We can't expect our help to work for less than people in comparable positions within the city and county,"* said Staggs. Thus, hospital payrolls went up and the costs were passed on to patients.

Staggs called Medicare cost breakdowns "part of a nationwide revolution" that would bring many hospitals into the twentieth century as far as accounting and billing practices were concerned. He realized, however, that the changes could be difficult for charitable hospitals that often wrote off patient bills. Undoubtedly, he had Rose de Lima Hospital in mind.



Healthcare Costs Rising

According to a *United Press International* (UPI) story on August 4, 1964, the cost of caring for the average patient increased more than four times after World War II.

In 1946 the average hospital needed 148 employees to care for every one hundred patients. By 1963, the average ratio was 241 employees to one hundred patients.





Rose de Lima's payroll had jumped from less than \$40,000 a month in the early 1960s to \$67,000 a month in the 1967-1968 fiscal year. Projections indicated that it would rise by another \$20,000 over the course of the following year or two. Catholic hospitals across the nation – like Rose de Lima – found that without a margin, there could be no mission. They, too, were forced to increase the cost of patient services.

The hospital's census averaged just 45.4 percent that following year. The hospital's prognosis was dismal, but the power of prayer, innovative collaboration and active response to unmet community needs continued to provide much needed life support.

The hospital's cancer treatment center was expanded with the help of the Damon Runyan Fund and a new physio therapy unit, fully equipped to handle inpatients and outpatients, was opened. The Sisters collaborated with the State Mental Health Services to open a mental health service facility in Southern Nevada. Their goal was to develop something that offered more than the temporary holding facility the state had in Northern Nevada. In describing the new facility, an R-J reporter wrote that *"it was a long way from the gruesome scene in Snake Pit,"* a movie starring Olivia De Havilland which depicted the often shocking confines that the mentally ill endured.



Sister Marie Brigid, OP

Sister Marie Brigid joined Rose de Lima in 1966 and served as the hospital's assistant director. She also managed the neuro-psych unit and served as the president of the Nevada Association for Mental Health. According to Selma Bartlett, her skills complemented those of Sister Georganne. *"What Sister Georganne didn't think of Sister Brigid did and vice versa. They were an excellent team."*

Sister Georganne was among people to fly in a helicopter on the day that Rose de Lima's heliport was dedicated.





She also stated that *"in this enlightened age of concern for humanitarian treatment of mental problems, Rose de Lima goes a step further. . . kindness, patience and lots of understanding are doled out generously with the medication and advice at Rose de Lima Hospital's neuro-psychiatric wing."* The unit, under the guidance of Sister Marie Brigid, could accommodate twenty patients in a home-like setting.

The opening of the mental health facility would be followed by the opening of an intensive care and coronary unit in August 1968. It was funded with the help of an \$18,500 donation by BMI. The need for the unit became tragically apparent when three Henderson industrial workers were seriously burned in a fire at Stauffer Chemical Company. Upon presenting the check, BMI President, James Orr, said, *"Since the good Sisters from Adrian, Michigan, took over the small industrial clinic and hospital, it has been our privilege to watch the continuous growth of the facility to its present stature and size where it ranks with the finest in the state. The caliber of the services provided is as fine as anywhere available."*

A helicopter port was also dedicated at Rose de Lima Hospital in 1968. The Sisters, doctors, personnel and prominent citizens who attended the event were given complimentary helicopter flights by Hughes Aircraft.



SELMA BARTLETT

Banker Selma Bartlett believed that the health of a community and its hospital were inextricably intertwined. She became a dear friend of the Adrian Dominican Sisters and her financial wisdom and assistance saved the hospital on more than one occasion. She even helped pay the payroll when the Sisters came up short.

Another important step Sister Georganne took was forming an advisory board to help the Sisters maintain and improve relationships with the community and to assure the continued availability and betterment of care. The board also helped provide counsel on various matters such as finances. Members of the first board included Selma F. Bartlett, the manager of the Henderson branch of Bank of Nevada; Lou LaPorta of LaPorta Insurance Agency; James I. Gibson, Nevada state senator and vice president of Pacific Engineering & Production Company of Nevada; Eugene V. Francy, assistant plant manager for Titanium Metals Corporation of America; James F. Pico, an attorney associated with the Law Firm of Foley Brothers; and Glen C. Taylor, manager of Basic Management Incorporated.

According to Selma Bartlett, one of the most important projects the board would help facilitate was the opening of the Veteran's Clinic in the space that formerly served as the Sister's convent. While the hospital did not provide staff or run the clinic, the rent it received, the doctors it attracted and the patients admitted to the hospital from the clinic provided vital revenue. Also important was the opening of the first of three St. Rose Professional Buildings, which were built to attract more doctors to open practices right on the hospital campus.

August 4, 1978

TO ALL DEPARTMENT HEADS

You will please notify all personnel that Rose de Lima Hospital is so located that it is not part of the Strip. Personnel are here to fulfill the position for which they were employed, and not to lure the general male public.

Mini skirts (understatement) are not appropriate for Hospital personnel in any Department. Low-cut dresses, revealing bulging bosoms and "peak-a-boo" blouses are to be restricted for use on their own time not hospital time.

Sister M. Georganne Duggan

P.S. #1 - No I'm not jealous

P.S. #2 -- Maintenance and medical staff -
Sorry about that!

By the 1970s, many Sisters were hanging up their habits in favor of the traditional business attire worn by lay professionals. The more vital change, however, was that Adrian Dominican Sisters began to live and work among the greater public.

"Doing so gave us a great advantage," said Sister Michael Thomas Watson. *"We are more in touch with God's people and more aware of their individual ministries. As such, our purpose is to be present to them in order to help them fulfill their calling to be compassionate caregivers."*

All the same, modesty remained important to the Sisters. Sister Georganne exercised her wit in a memorandum she wrote regarding appropriate work attire.

In 1972, the Adrian Dominican Sisters received the final deed to Rose de Lima. They had met their twenty-five year commitment to the community as outlined by the government in 1947. It was a time of reflection for Sister Rosemary Ferguson who served as the Mother General at that time. She empathized with the hardships the Sisters faced and posed the question of whether it was time to turn the hospital over to the community or a buyer and focus their mission efforts elsewhere.

"We said we'd give it another chance," said Sister Brigid. "We always felt that Henderson would [grow]. And we got a lot of that courage and stamina from Selma Bartlett. She was like the dog with the bone and she was not going to let us give in and she supported us."

As hard as it was, Sister Marie Brigid said: *"You know we didn't have the things that hospital administrators have now. It's the government and the DRG's and all the regulations and the HMO's. In many ways we were blessed and didn't know it. We were fortunate to be in the hospital business when we were."*

The weight of those issues would rest upon the shoulders of another Sister.

1972

A black and white photograph of a large, multi-story hospital building with a curved facade. The building has several floors of windows and a central entrance. The text "St. Rose Dominican Hospital CHW" is visible on the top of the building. In the foreground, there is a parking lot with several cars and palm trees. A large orange rectangular overlay is positioned on the left side of the image, containing the text "CHAPTER FIVE".

St. Rose Dominican Hospital CHW

CHAPTER FIVE

The Hospital and Community
Work Together

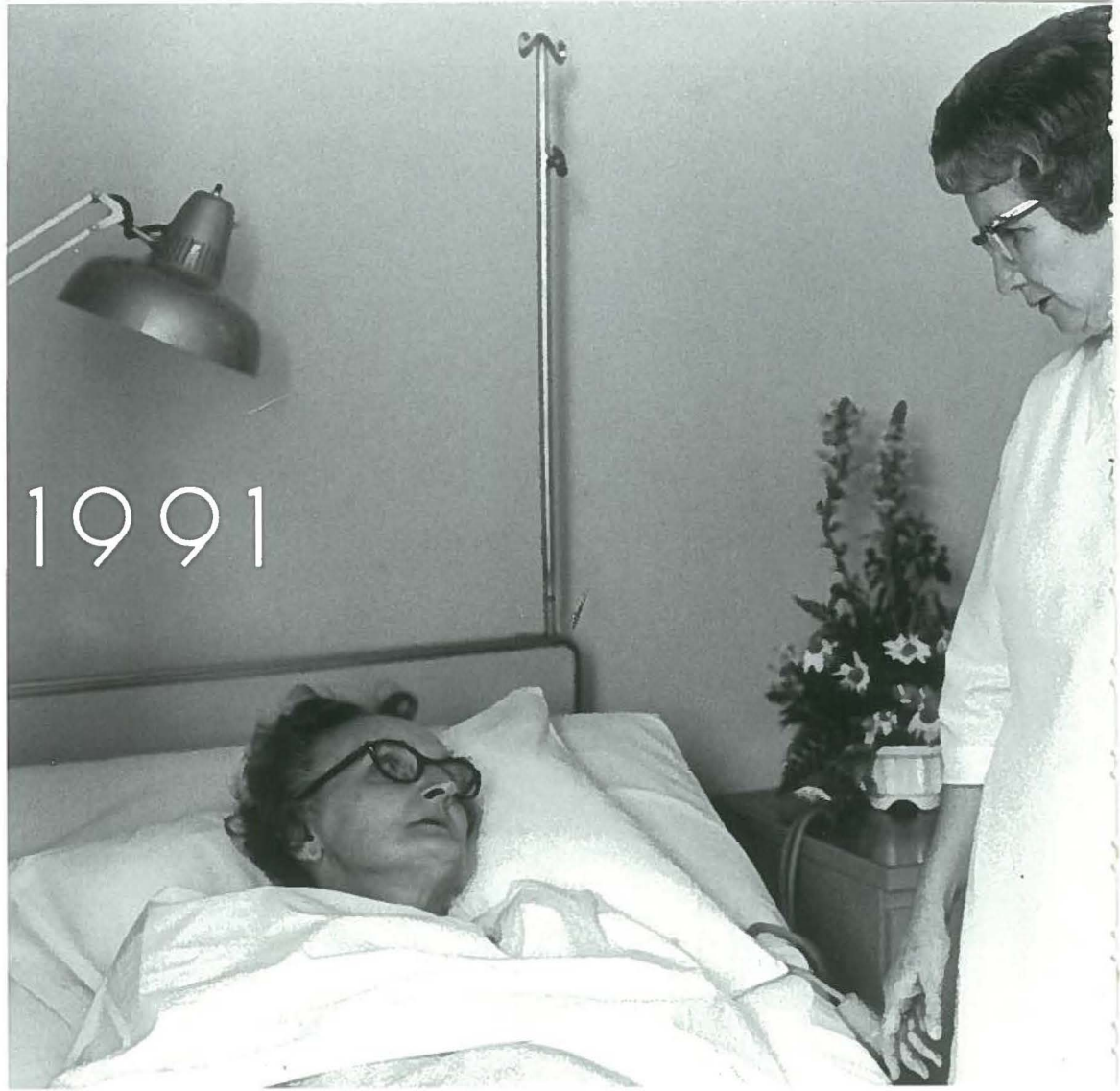
Building a New ER and a
Fresh Image

A New Tower and New Name

KEEPING THE
MINISTRY
ALIVE



1960s 1991





In the mid 1970s, Sister Maureen Comer, OP joined the staff of Rose de Lima. She spent one year working with Sister Georganne and then left to obtain her master's degree in hospital and health administration.

She returned to St. Rose de Lima Hospital and applied her higher education as the administrator from 1978 to 1985. When she was named to the position, the hospital was still having tremendous difficulties covering its costs. As tough as those times were, Sister Maureen had great hope.

"The staff just kept giving the best care they knew how and the community lent a helping hand whenever it could," said Sister Maureen. "St. Rose de Lima was like a cat with many lives. We got it when it was near death; we worked hard to resuscitate it and it prospered; then the cycle repeated itself. It showed the tender truth of caring for this community. If they did not really appreciate the hospital and what it meant to their welfare, it wouldn't have mattered what we Sisters did. We had to keep the hospital going together."



“Let us continue on the road that has brought us to where we are.”

– St. Paul (Sister Maureen Comer quoted Saint Paul in a 1984 *InTouch* letter she wrote to the employees.)



SISTER MAUREEN COMER, OP

Administrator, 1978-1985

The Henderson hospital toughed it out even though many people in other parts of the valley had relegated St. Rose to the status of a sleepy little hospital in the tired little town of Henderson. *"Henderson wasn't easy to get to, so it didn't mean much to some folks unless they got a rattle snake bite out at the lake,"* said Sister Maureen.

Other people believed the hospital had become one of Southern Nevada's best kept secrets. A young radiologist named Dr. J. Paul Wiesner was among them. *"I can tell you that times were changing in hospital care. Technology was in high demand, and while we didn't have it all yet, Rose de Lima was serving as a mini trauma center. We took on a full load of traumas from Henderson, Boulder City and even Arizona,"* he said.

Patients did well because of the staff's *"intuitive knowledge,"* said Dr. Wiesner. *"We had a highly-skilled, uniquely qualified team of doctors, nurses and clinicians. They had worked together for years through an era when the technologies we know now did not exist. They had honed their diagnostic skills by closely examining patients, watching them and asking them many questions. Their medical ethics were also unsurpassed."*

Sister Maureen vividly recalls a Sunday afternoon when the sounds of sirens flooded the air. She headed from her office to



SISTER VERONICA GONTHIER, OP

Hi Mr. Davis,

In the spring of 1986, I become very ill during my first pregnancy. I lost my baby at approximately six months of pregnancy. When I returned to work and my duties cleaning the labor and delivery units, I became very emotional. Sister Veronica sat with me, listened and allowed me to cry my heart out. I vividly remember the hope she instilled in me. The compassion she showered me with was remarkable. I will never forget the time she gave me, ever.

– Nancy Belcher, *Credential Coordinator*
St. Rose Dominican Hospitals

Sister Veronica Gonthier, the founder of St. Rose's Pastoral Care Department, suffered from severe rheumatoid arthritis. Because of her own illness, she had an intimate appreciation for the physical afflictions of others. She also understood the spiritual needs of patients and their loved ones.

Nancy Willets, perioperative director, clearly recalls an evening that she was called in for an emergency surgery on an elderly gentleman. *"His wife was frail and anxious. Sister Veronica sat with the woman throughout the night,"* said Willets. It was after sunrise when the gentleman was moved from recovery to the ICU. *"Sister Veronica was still there. It touched my heart. Veronica herself was not well, yet she stayed by the woman's side the entire night without reservation,"* said Willets. *"She put her faith in God and put everyone else's needs before her own."*

Sister Veronica was admitted to the ICU that very same morning. When Nancy asked why she had concealed her own ailments, Sister Veronica told her, *"I told someone and He helped me by giving me the strength I needed."*

the emergency room where ambulances were bringing in multiple victims of a head-on collision. Among the victims was a young family of four. Their infant was dead on arrival and one of the parents quickly expired. Their toddler, miraculously, was fine. *"There were patients and families everywhere. We had no place out of the fray where the grandparents could tend to the toddler or say good bye to the parent and infant," she said. "That night I vowed to build a new ER with enough space that physicians, nurses and chaplains could communicate with victims' families without having them in the throws of trauma treatment. We built a new ER because people deserved a sacred space. It is a terrible story about the reality of ERs. But it is also one of the reasons we strived to grow – to attend to the dignity of how people are treated."*

Sister Maureen planned and worked to secure funds for a new emergency department while completing other hospital expansions and improvements. A second medical professional building was finished with the help of hospital auxiliary members. The coffee shop was remodeled as was the maternal child care unit. The state's mental health clinic moved from a small section of the hospital to a much larger space previously occupied by the VA Clinic and a maintenance building was completed. The most extensive remodeling project was the





expansion of the hospital's intensive/coronary care unit and radiology rooms. The intensive/coronary care unit expansion included additional beds, EKG and life support systems. Radiology got much needed space and new equipment that provided St. Rose de Lima's ER, inpatients and outpatients a full spectrum of services including x-ray, ultrasound, nuclear medicine and mammography.

While the hospital worked to keep up with rapidly advancing medical technology, the *Henderson Home News* wrote that *"Rose de Lima Hospital is striving to keep its medical costs down in an effort to provide lower costs to patients."* Newspaper comparisons of hospital costs were shown. One example noted that the cost of an x-ray (two views) was \$71 at one Las Vegas hospital and \$72 at another but just \$42 at St. Rose de Lima.

In Fall 1982, a newspaper article featured a photo of Dr. Corey Brown and medical staff with the photo caption, *"St. Rose de Lima New Emergency Department – now awaiting final approval for the construction of a completely new emergency room. Construction of the four million dollar emergency room facility will take approximately one year once approval is granted."* Yet, just weeks later, newspaper headlines read, *"Financing for Hospital's New Emergency Room Hits Snag."*

notes

1982

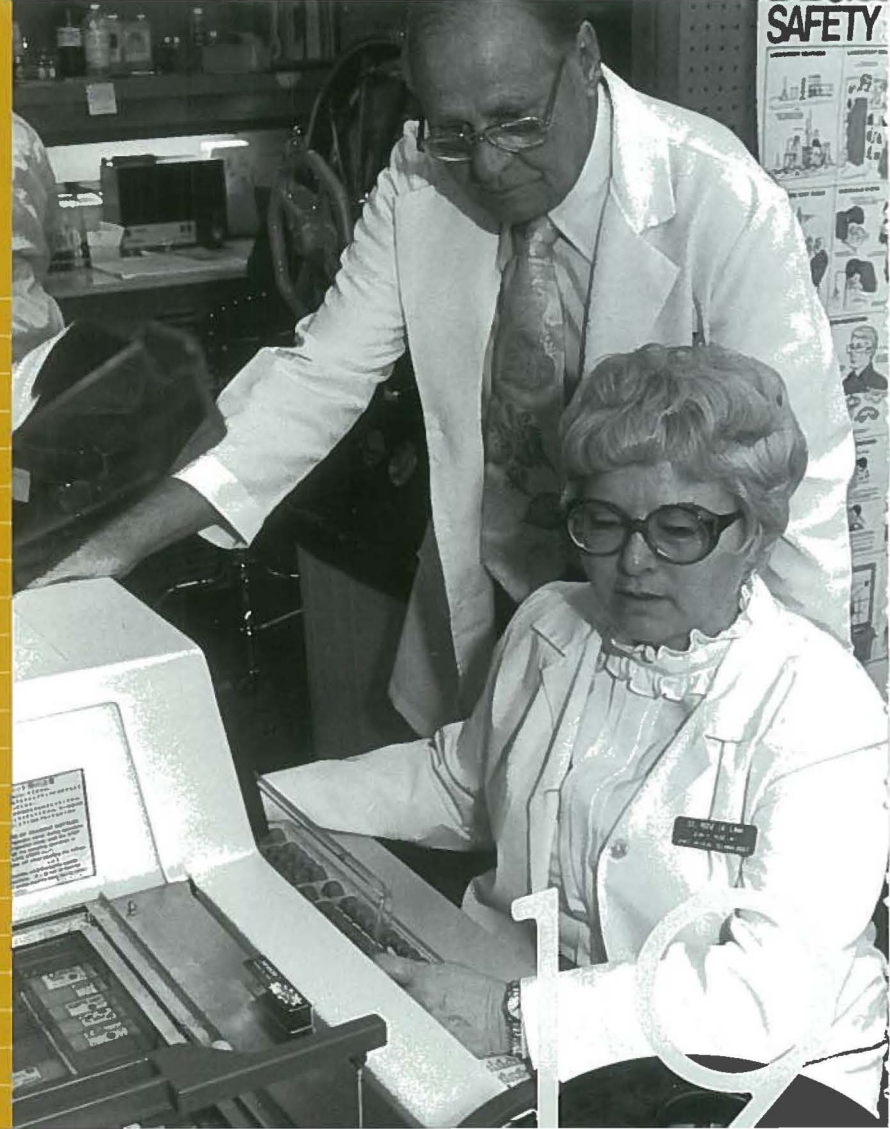
The St. Rose Auxiliary celebrated its twenty-fifth anniversary in 1982. Through the years, hundreds of women generously gave their time and talents to help care for the hospital's patients and raise funds for hospital improvements and equipment.

1984

In 1984, the Adrian Dominican Sisters celebrated their centennial of service in the United States.

1989

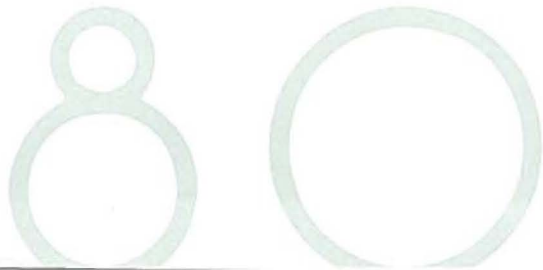
In 1989, St. Rose de Lima Hospital's name was changed to St. Rose Dominican Hospital.



An issue arose when the hospital tried to purchase FHA insurance on a tax-exempt revenue bond to help fund the new emergency room. The US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) sent an initial letter of tentative approval but stipulated that the word "religious" would have to be removed from the hospital's articles of incorporation in order to secure financing. HUD's legal council stated that a Catholic hospital seeking funds from the federal government denoted a conflict of church and state.

"It was totally inconsistent with our past experiences," said Sister Maureen reflecting on the founding of Rose de Lima Hospital and Hill Burton federal dollars provided for the three-story tower that opened in 1960.

The issue was eventually resolved with HUD, and financing and construction of the new ER moved forward. In the May 1984 issue of the *InTouch* employee newsletter, Sister Maureen wrote, *"We are in our 'week.' It seems as if the American Hospital Association has specifically designed National Hospital Week this year for us at St. Rose as they have chosen the theme 'We Care for You.' I know of no other hospital where the staff shows a deeper caring toward patients and each other than here at St. Rose. . . . It seems particularly appropriate that during this week we are approaching the major dedication of the new ER outpatient facilities."*



When the Sisters founded the hospital, they spent countless hours nursing the medical, emotional and spiritual needs of patients. By the late 1970s, the hospital had grown to employ many lay nurses. Thus Sisters such as Veronica Gonthier, Sister Catherine Ann Burke and Sister Mary Assenbacher were able to focus on the “spiritual side” of the hospital’s services. Their staff, though small, had an immeasurable influence on patients and their loved ones.





On May 14, 1984, Sister Maureen's hopes and dreams – five years in the making – were realized. When she spoke about the expansion, she emphasized how the new ER would better enable St. Rose to care for trauma victims and their families. She believed the new facility would also improve the hospital's ability to meet the needs of ambulatory patients since nationally walk-in and outpatient services were on the rise while hospital admissions and length of stays were on the decrease.

As patient admissions waned, competition for patients increased in Southern Nevada's for-profit healthcare environment.

"We came from a noncompetitive culture, so the shift was difficult," said Sister Maureen. "Other hospitals began advertising their technological capabilities and they enticed prospective patients to schedule their admissions on weekends when their census was typically the lowest. One hospital even ran a promotion offering prospective patients a chance to win prizes."

St. Rose eventually began to do some advertising of its own.

"We had to do what the community responded to, so we ran ads designed to present a fresh and medically credible image of St. Rose," said Sister Maureen.

July 1984 marked a new fiscal year for the hospital and St. Rose opened a third medical professional building with the support of a donation made in honor of Sam Boyd. But the



St. Rose's first medical office building was built with the help of auxiliary members like Rae Rinehardt and her husband, Phil, who rallied crews to support construction of the offices. During Sister Comer's years at the hospital, medical office buildings were built with donations made in honor of Sam Boyd (pictured) and hospital supporters such as Don and Ruth Marker (pictured with S. Veronica Gonthier). Having medical offices on-site helped attract physicians to work at St. Rose.





biggest change of that year was the introduction of Medicare's diagnostic related groupings (DRGs). It not only affected St. Rose de Lima Hospital, but all hospitals. Medicare had previously paid hospitals based on an individual's diagnosis and the cost of his care. With the passage of new legislation, hospitals were no longer reimbursed based on the specific costs of caring for an individual patient. Rather, they began paying hospitals a certain predetermined amount for a specific DRG.

In her regular column in the *InTouch* newsletter, Sister Maureen explained the new reimbursement system and ended by saying, *"As drastic as these changes might be, I know that we at St. Rose will always maintain our commitment to providing care in a spirit of reverence."*

Though Sister Maureen wrote about the hospital's struggles in an open and candid manner, her writings also reflected the eternal optimism of the Adrian Dominican Sisters' ministry. She was, for example, extremely positive about the hospital's outlook when Hank Greenspun's master-planned community, Green Valley, began to take shape on Henderson's western edge. As raw desert was replaced by attractive housing developments and commercial buildings, she eagerly awaited the chance to serve the area's new residents. Another hospital, however, quickly jumped at the opportunity to open a surgery center in Green Valley and anticipation turned to apprehension.



"We feared that Green Valley would grow up without a St. Rose, not-for-profit medical presence," said Sister Maureen.

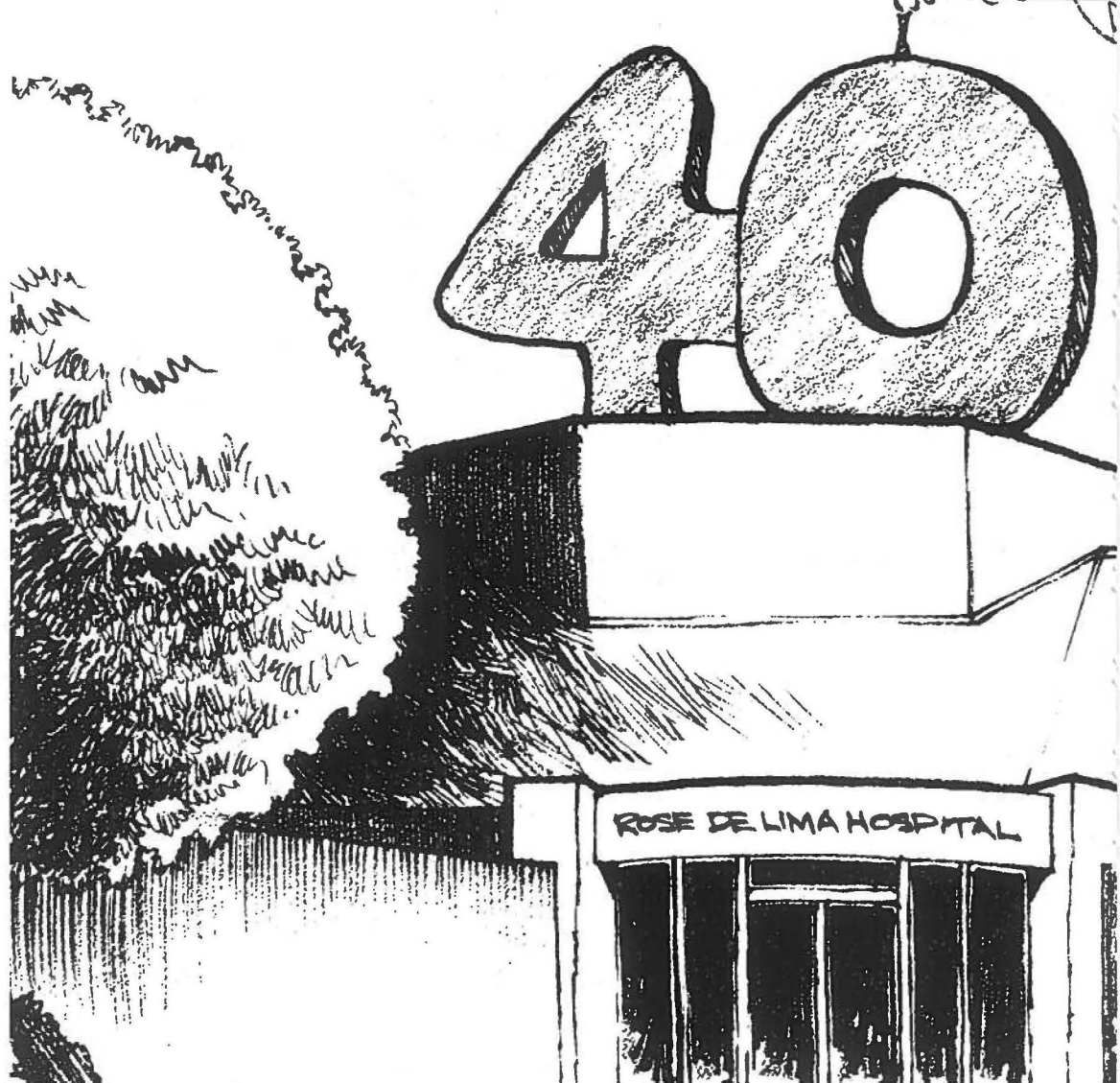
When the surgery center did not make it, American Nevada Corporation called upon St. Rose. *"Having medical services that were easily accessible to residents was critical to our master-planned community concept,"* said John Kilduff, former president of American Nevada Companies and current chair of the St. Rose Community Board of Directors. *"The Sisters took over the space and brought in physicians representing a wide range of medical specialties – pediatrics, family practice, surgery and so on."*

St. Rose allowed physicians the flexibility of renting office and clinical space in blocks of time. *"It was a unique time share. We shared everything from desks to exam rooms and we shared it well. It was a real joint effort between the hospital, medical staff and the developers. We worked to make it user-friendly for the physicians, thus for the community,"* said Sister Maureen.

That step would prove crucial for the Adrian Dominican's ministry considering the vital part of Henderson that Green Valley was to become.

In 1985, Sister Maureen's term as St. Rose's administrator came to an end and she was succeeded by the first of three lay persons to run the hospital in just six short years. The first

1987



lay leader was Melyvn Walton, who was succeeded by David Coats in 1987 – the hospital's fortieth year – which almost became its last due to a dispute over St. Rose's electricity.

Decades earlier, Senator Pat McCarran had helped see that Rose de Lima Hospital would receive free power and water for as long as the Sisters provided care to the community. The industrial plants argued that the hospital's power bills, which totaled about \$100 a month in the 1940s and 1950s, had since risen to between \$20,000 and \$30,000 a month.

Reporters asked Coats whether the hospital could cover the current month's bill of approximately \$25,000. He said that it could write a check for that particular month, but doing so month after month was not feasible. The dispute escalated when the *Review-Journal* reported that *"despite a pending lawsuit that may provide a much-needed saving grace, the board of directors for St. Rose de Lima Hospital has decided to turn off the lights for good at the forty-year-old institution that is Henderson's only hospital."* The article went on to say, *"The closure of the hospital will put 250 people out of work. . . [and] also bring a severe shock to the growing area around Henderson."*

Las Vegas Sun
Editorial Pictorial



Upon hearing the news, Governor Richard Bryan said, *"It would be a community tragedy if the hospital closed."* He offered to hold a forum aimed at helping the hospital, BMI and the Colorado River Commission come to an agreement. The issue was settled a month later. The hospital would remain open and would be weaned from its free power and water supply over an eight-year period.

On May 4, 1988, a different type of tragedy occurred when a fire ignited in the PEPCON plant at the BMI facility. The fire set off a series of explosions that destroyed PEPCON and its next-door neighbor, the Kidd Marshmallow plant. It also damaged scores of homes and businesses throughout Henderson. The booms of the blasts were heard and felt as far away as Boulder City, downtown Las Vegas and North Las Vegas.

One hundred and ten plant employees were on duty at the time of the explosions. All but two escaped the blaze. Those who were injured were transported and treated at St. Rose de Lima Hospital. The tragedy deeply affected the community and provided new appreciation for the hospital's role in the community's well-being.

Teresa Delaria, the daughter of St. Rose Registered Nurse Janice Kiplinger, experienced tremendous fear and pride for her mother that day. *"Most of us [residents] were panicked."*



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**St. Rose de Lima
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a proved tragedy

We wanted to get home to make sure everyone we knew was okay. It was my mom's day off, but all she thought about was getting to the hospital to help," said Teresa. "We didn't know if there were going to be more explosions. But St. Rose employees like her went straight to the hospital because they cared enough about others to look beyond the danger that might have been."

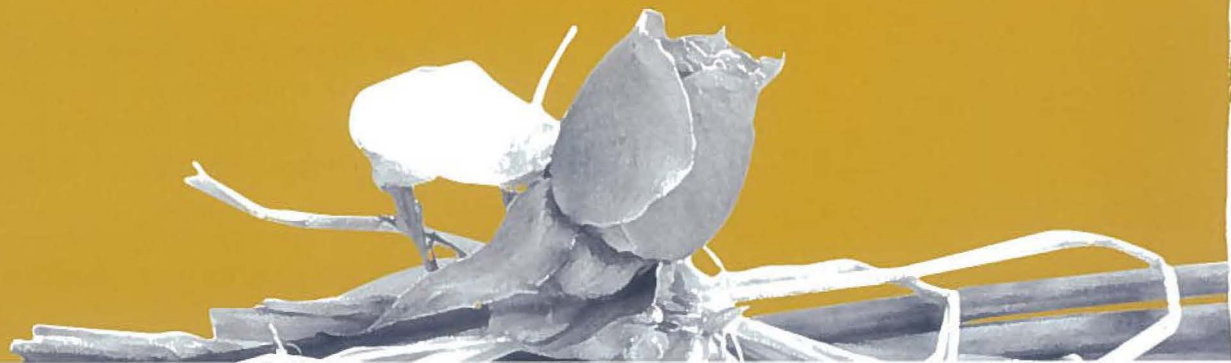
Registered Nurse Lori Mann was amazed at the swift response of the entire valley. *"The residents of Henderson, Las Vegas and surrounding areas came out to this hospital to help us. Sunrise Hospital set aside a couple of dozen nurses that they could spare. Somebody showed up at our back door with a truck full of oxygen. All the surrounding doctor's offices in the medical professional buildings were here to help us. People just bent over backwards to help us through the crisis. . . . As big a crisis as it was, I don't think the response could have run any smoother."*

In a *Las Vegas Sun* editorial, "Southern Nevada learned a lesson in divine mercy Wednesday as an industrial fire and explosion caused widespread injuries in Henderson. Those suffering in the devastation found a haven at St. Rose de Lima Hospital.

Most Southern Nevada residents and visitors don't give St. Rose a second thought during day-to-day tragedies. Babies are born

Ken McClothlin and John Downey can tell you a great deal about the hospital's history. They also share many personal recollections. When Ken McClothlin's niece sought out his help with her anatomy homework, he said *"If it is the anatomy of a Scotch Marine Boiler you are interested in, I'm your guy."* Ken was born at Rose de Lima and came to work in the environmental services department more than twenty years ago. He now serves at the campuses plant operations manager. *"I've watched the physical growth of the hospital, so if it needs fixing, I know right where to go,"* says Ken. *"But, unfortunately for my niece, what I know about the physical anatomy of Rose de Lima won't help a bit with her human anatomy class."*

John Downey has worked for the hospital for sixteen years and his mother, Helen, worked here for twenty-two years. In fact, she was even married in the Rose de Lima Chapel and gave birth to John and his older sister at the hospital. A few years back when Helen was in the last stages of life, her family decided not to move her to hospice. *"She was as much at home at Rose de Lima as she was anywhere,"* said John. Like Helen, both John and Ken consider St. Rose their home.



there, the ill and the injured seek its special brand of healing . . . Henderson's wrenching thrust into the national spotlight was softened by the care provided by its own hospital. . . . If anyone needs further proof of why St. Rose should stay open, this week said it all."

Though the tragedy stirred positive pride in St. Rose and its disaster preparedness and response capabilities, many residents of the rapidly expanding Green Valley area continued to utilize Las Vegas hospitals for their nonemergent hospital needs.

Thus, Coats and the Sisters continued to seek out ways to keep the Adrian Dominicans' ministry alive in Southern Nevada. St. Rose expanded its outpatient services by purchasing a two-story, 30,000-square-foot building on Mountain Vista in the Green Valley area. The hospital invested nearly \$2 million in purchasing, remodeling and equipping the building, which offered radiology, outpatient surgery, cardiology and psychiatry services, as well as a myriad of private physician offices and an on-site pharmacy. A story in the *Green Valley News* stated that the center would offer services *"from your nose to your toes,"* and went on to read, *"St. Rose de Lima has extended a healing hand that will provide immediate and convenient care."*

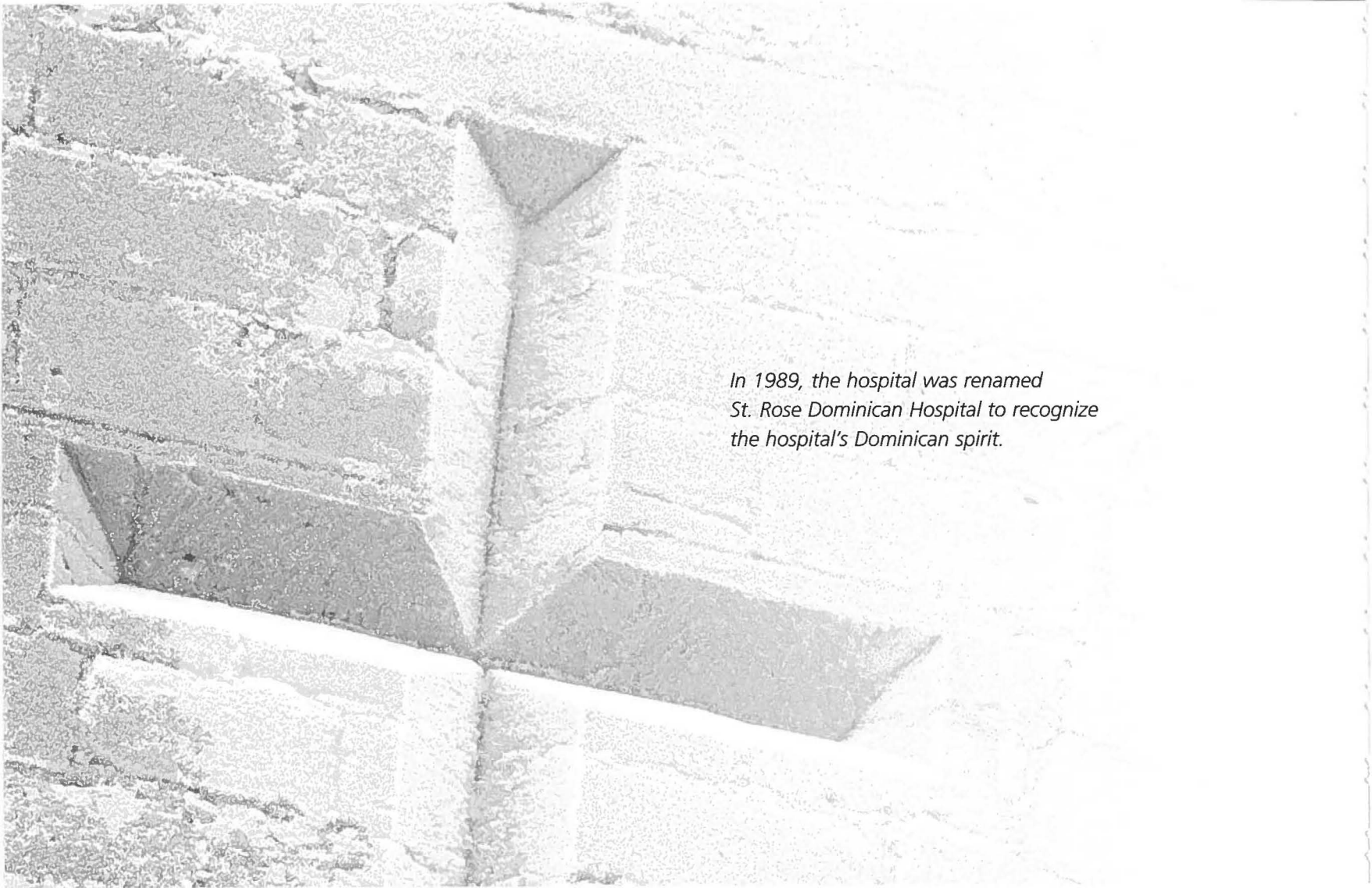
St. Rose Dominican Hospital  CHW





The most critical decision the Adrian Dominican Sisters made at that time was to join hands with Catholic Healthcare West (CHW), an organization founded in 1986 when the Sisters of Mercy Burlingame Regional Community and the Sisters of Mercy Auburn Regional Community merged their healthcare ministries in California. The union of the ministries made CHW the largest California-based healthcare system and the fourteenth largest in the nation among non-profits in terms of the number of inpatient beds it provided. The Adrian Dominicans became cosponsors of CHW with a firm belief that the collaboration would enhance their charitable capabilities, expand the Catholic healthcare ministry and promote social justice.

With the rapid growth of Henderson and the entire Las Vegas Valley, CHW was more than willing to invest in the growth of St. Rose Dominican Hospital. Thus the hospital moved forward with a \$20 million expansion which included a new four-story patient tower.



*In 1989, the hospital was renamed
St. Rose Dominican Hospital to recognize
the hospital's Dominican spirit.*

"As the only hospital serving the fastest growing city in the nation, it is imperative that we continue to meet the healthcare needs of Henderson," said Hank Costenbader, a hospital board member who served as St. Rose's interim president CEO after David Coats departure. "Southern Nevada has a very competitive healthcare market. If St. Rose Dominican Hospital was not able to accommodate the community, someone else would step in to fulfill the need."

On June 22, 1991, a standing-room-only crowd joined the Sisters and staff for a dedication blessing of the four-story tower performed by Bishop Daniel Walsh. Other guests included former U.S. Senator Howard Cannon, CHW representatives and Lorna Kesterson, the Henderson reporter turned mayor who had written articles about the Sisters and given birth to her children at the hospital in its early days.

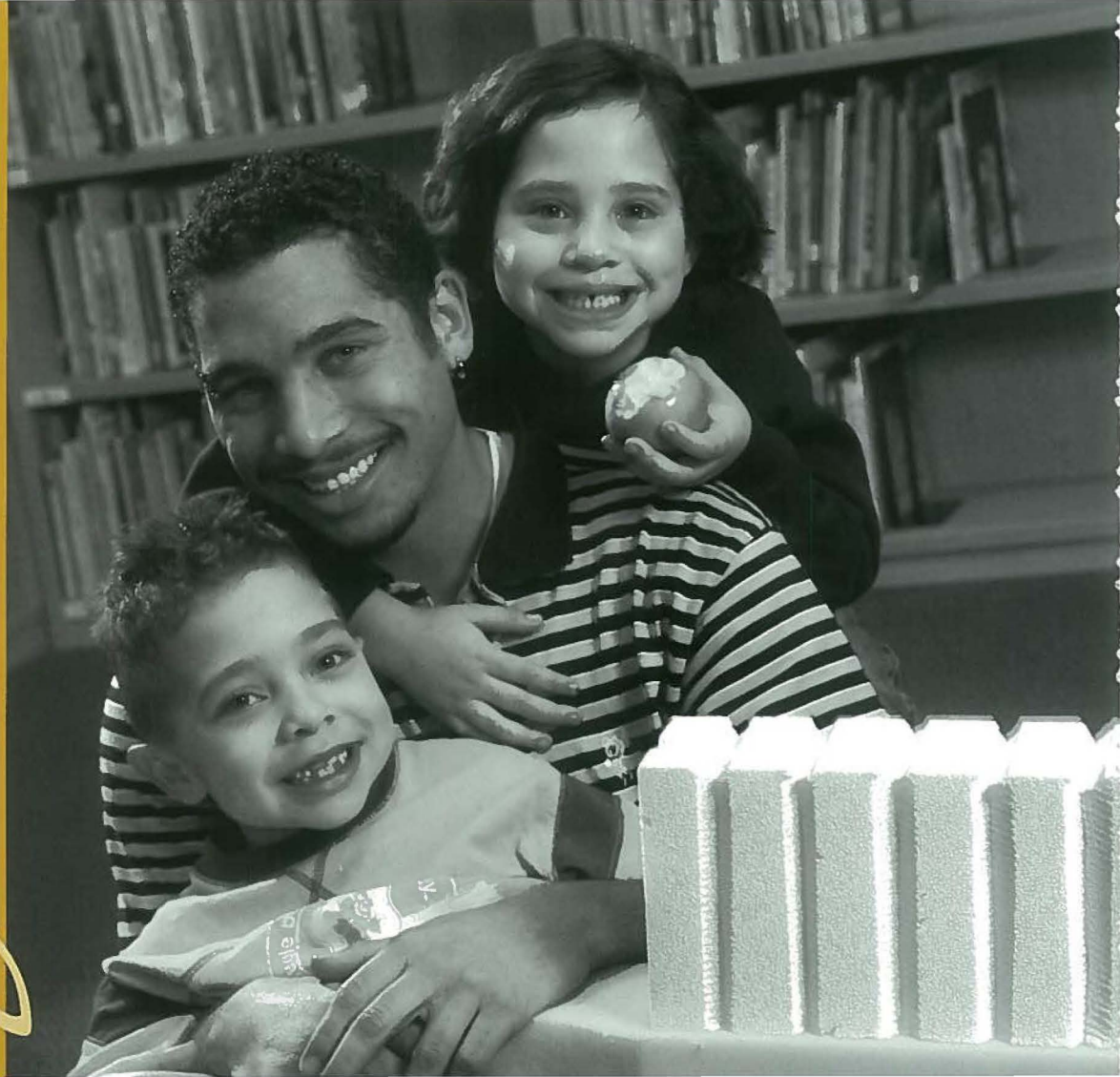
With the doors of the newly expanded hospital open, CHW and the Sisters would need to usher in a new leader.

JUSTICE

Advocating for change of social structures that undermine human dignity; demonstrating special concern for those who are poor.

Justice

Barry Family
Positive Impact patients



Physically speaking, Sister Robert Joseph Bailey was a soft-spoken, wisp of a woman. But she had a big heart and big ideas that became the backbone of St. Rose Dominican Hospitals' community outreach efforts.

When Sister Robert Joseph entered the Dominican order, she took the robust name Robert Joseph in honor of her brother. It seemed to set the tone for her hearty ministry which had a huge impact on the well-being of thousands of children and senior citizens.

Sister Robert Joseph taught at St. Peter's Elementary School and volunteered as a dietician at St. Rose during her summer breaks. After the school closed, Sister Robert Joseph came to the hospital to oversee its dietary department and later directed St. Rose's community education efforts.

Her passion for helping children led her to found St. Rose's Positive Impact program which provides free medical, dental and vision care to uninsured and underinsured children of income eligible families. Sister Robert Joseph organized the program after Frank Lamping, former principal of Burkholder Middle School, called seeking help for a student he found limping across the schoolyard. The boy had suffered a broken ankle three days prior and desperately needed medical attention. *"Sister Robert Joseph immediately arranged for a physician at St. Rose*

to donate his services and care for the youngster. . . . [She] touched so many lives as an advocate of the less fortunate," said Lamping.

Sister Robert Joseph also founded the Positive Impact on Reading program to help children who struggle with reading. By pairing students with volunteers – many of them seniors – both parties gain a sense of success. The program helped Robert L. Taylor Elementary become the 2004 State Champions and 2005 National Champions in the Reading is Fundamental Community Reading Challenge.

"Sister Robert Joseph knew just how to capture the hearts and imaginations of students," said Janet Dobry, Ph.D., past principal of Burkholder Middle School. When she and her hospital posse dressed up in western duds for Buckaroo Days, the fun-filled, informative field trips developed to alleviate the anxieties children have regarding hospitals, that's just what she did.

Sister Robert Joseph initiated many other programs at St. Rose, including Senior Bingo, senior walking programs and Safesitter babysitting classes to name a few. But it was her constant dedication to children that led the Clark County School District to name an elementary school in her honor in 2006.



CHAPTER SIX

St. Rose Dominican Hospitals 

Creating a Healthcare Safety Net

Building a Campus and a Culture

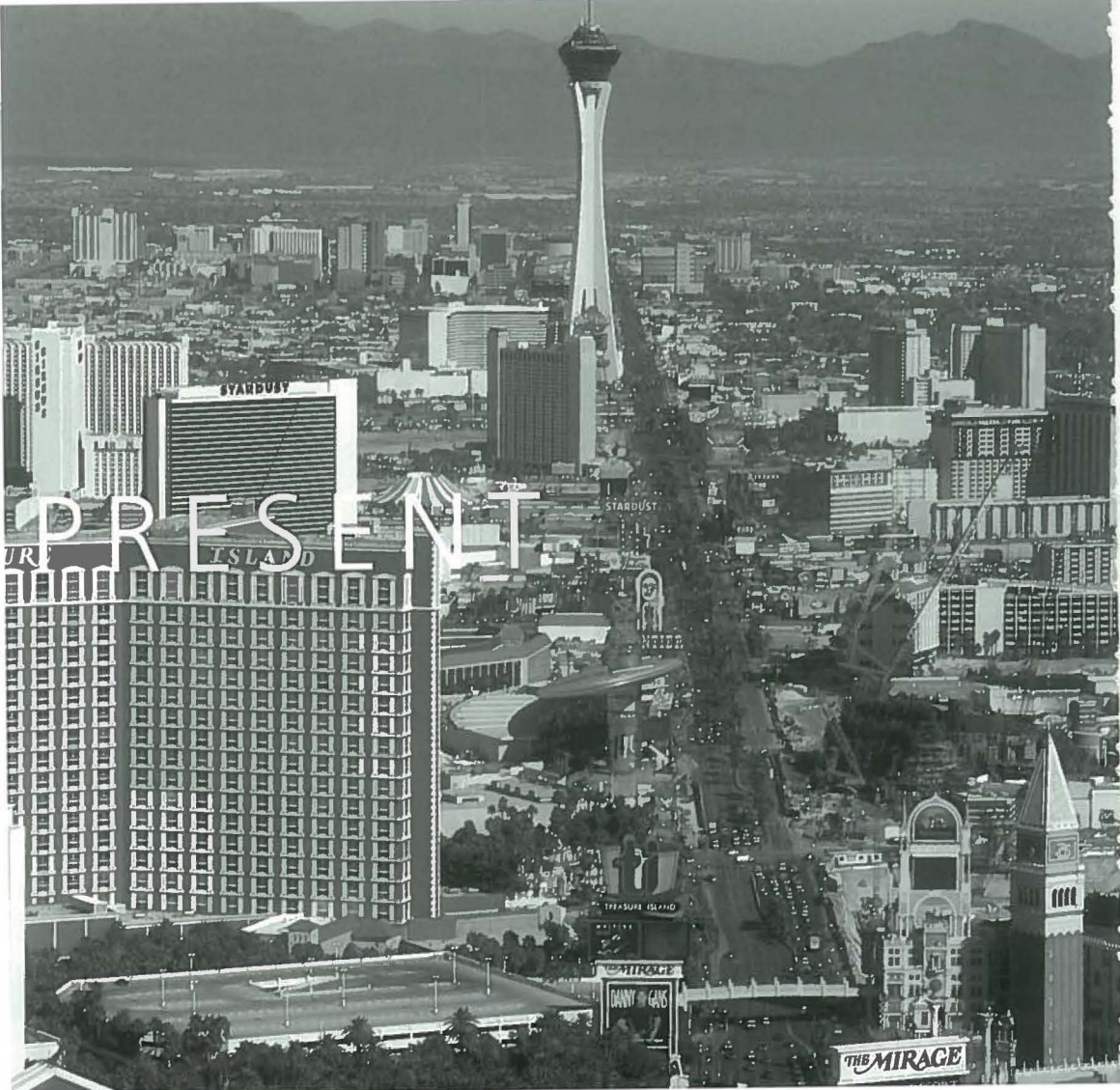
Opening a Second Campus

THE JOURNEY
CONTINUES



1991

PRESENT





St. Rose and CHW began the 1990s with an intense search for an administrator qualified to maintain and expand the hospital presence in an increasingly complex and competitive healthcare marketplace. Dave Burton, the senior medical director of Intermountain Healthcare and a CHW board member, immediately thought of Rod Davis, the chief operating officer of a 350-bed tertiary hospital that served Utah and Southern Idaho.

Burton knew that Davis was looking for a position that would prepare him to lead a large regional hospital of 500 to 700 beds. He thought that the completion of Rose de Lima's four-story tower, the rapid growth of Southern Nevada and CHW's willingness to invest in the area presented excellent opportunities for Davis.

Davis made a trip to Henderson to see the hospital. *"My initial thought was that there was a great deal to be done at St. Rose Dominican Hospital. But, the building of the tower was a good step toward developing a comprehensive community hospital that could continue to compete in Southern Nevada,"* said Davis, President Southern Nevada Market Area and St. Rose Dominican Hospitals. *"My wife, Cathy, and I saw a wonderful opportunity so we decided to take a chance on St. Rose."*

ROD DAVIS

CEO, President Southern Nevada Market Area and
St. Rose Dominican Hospitals
1991-Present

According to the Adrian Dominican Sisters, nobody tells the story of their journey to Southern Nevada better than Rod Davis. *"It shows his admiration for our ministry and his passion for helping our employees live out our core values in caring for our patients,"* says Sister Monica Stankus, vice president of mission integration for the Rose de Lima Campus.

Sister Molly Nicholson, vice president of mission integration for the Siena Campus, believes Davis is a *"wonderful leader and decision maker because of his strong values."*

Davis says that he bases his decisions on what serves as both a call to action and a litmus test. It is the hospitals' mission statement, which says that the hospital will provide care *"under the sponsorship of the Adrian*

Dominican Sisters and in response to the changing needs of the people of Southern Nevada."

According to the Sisters, his most important decision during his sixteen years with St. Rose was the firm resolution with which he went forward in building the Siena Campus. *"It was his leadership in building a second St. Rose Dominican Hospital that kept our mission in Southern Nevada alive and enabled it to flourish,"* says Sister Vicky Dalesandro, the former director of mission integration.

Named one of Nevada's Foremost Respected CEO's by the Nevada Business Journal in 2006, Davis has lent his leadership skills to numerous medical and business organizations. During his term as the president of the Henderson Chamber of Commerce, he founded the

Chamber's Leadership Henderson program, the Henderson Development Association and he also worked with Mayor Jim Gibson to co-found the Southern Nevada Medical Coalition.

"Rod Davis is one of the most respected business leaders in our community because of his compassionate leadership." said Alice Martz, CEO of the Henderson Chamber of Commerce.

Henderson Mayor Jim Gibson said that St. Rose, under the guidance of Davis and the Sisters, gives all businesses an institution to look to as an example of excellence.

(R to L) Rod Davis and his wife, Cathy, are pictured with Adrian Dominican General Prioress Donna Markham, OP, Nadiya Shameez, OP and Nancy Jurecki, OP.



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"The human mind may devise many plans, but it is the purpose of the Lord that will be established."

- Proverbs 19:21



Sister Marge Mehigan, a member of the hospital board, recalls Davis's interview with the board. She feared he would learn too much about the hospital's terrible financial condition and not accept the position. Davis remembers the challenging questions she asked. *"We looked at him very carefully because our future was on the line. . . . at stake,"* said Sister Marge. *"I remember walking one of our Sisters up and down the street trying to calm her because another layperson – rather than a Sister – was coming to run the hospital."*

On December 2, 1991, Davis assumed the role of the hospital's president and chief operating officer. *"When Rod came to St. Rose, he was keenly interested in why the Sisters first took on this ministry, and he showed great respect for the Sisters who helped keep our mission alive,"* says Sister Marge. *"He has always been open and eager to absorb and to integrate our mission. I believe Rod's own missionary background with The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints was beneficial to his role here. His mission readiness is part of who he is and what he brings to St. Rose."*

Two years after Davis took the helm of the hospital, CHW was approached by a major national hospital system interested in purchasing Rose de Lima. Davis broached the subject with the hospital's board. *"It wasn't a complete surprise because it was not the first time the Sisters and hospital board had been faced with determining the fate of the hospital. All the same, it was gut wrenching,"* he said.

...I do believe in a higher power, I do not practice a particular faith. But, my faith was certainly strengthened by the kindness and attentive care I received during my recent illness. I not only received excellent medical treatment, but it also was given with such concern for me as an individual. It is apparent that your people are doing more than a job. God is present in your hospital and his good works are carried out through your staff.

...Your hospital offers excellent nursing and medical services. It's a very peaceful place, and, with a beautiful chapel where I could pray and ask for the help of God for my family member. If a time comes when I need hospital care, I would like it to be here. Bless you all!

...I want to thank you very much for your Patient Care program, and the help you provided to us even though we had no insurance. Through your help, my daughter was able to receive the care of that was very deep, down to the nerve. She underwent a canal procedure and not just a filling. Thank you for your excellent services. Thank you again.

To Whom It May Concern:

I had a complete hip replacement at your Joint Replacement Center. Your staff made my stay as pleasant as possible. I would like to thank Cindy, the case worker for her tireless efforts in getting me prepared for rehab and my return home. My nurse, Sharon, ensured that all my medical paperwork, physician releases and prescriptions were handled quickly. What a professional. I would also like to thank Colin and Mandy for showing genuine interest in my well being. Whether it was a cracker for an upset stomach or a cup of tea at 4 a.m., you responded with a true desire to make my stay easier. All credit goes to St. Rose Dominican Hospital.

Send Chat Attach Address Fonts Colors

To: srdhwebfeedback@chw.edu

Cc:

Subject: Compliment/Complaint - Website Feedback

Signature:

Friday, March 10, 2006 6:01 AM

Dear St. Rose, My best friend's mother, Anne, was admitted to your hospital in a very short time after a stroke. She received wonderful care. During that time, a female chaplain visited them and somewhat hesitant about Christians trying to "save" them. The chaplain visited them was so sensitive to Anne's condition and so wonderful with her. At the time she reached into her envelope to leave something behind with Anne. A friend who visited her at the time thought "Oh no, here it comes." To both of their pleasant surprise, the chaplain left Anne a sheet of Jewish prayers. Thank you.

Thank you. You reinforced my belief that Catholics universally are living examples of acceptance. Please pass this along to the angel who visited with my friend.

Gina

Dear St. Rose,

Thank you for having such a competent, professional staff. This Sunday I had the emergency care and went to the Siena Center. As a nurse, I had a certain amount of angst about receiving end instead of the giving end of

The staff displayed both professionalism and compassion for me and my sister. It is obvious there is a strong sense of being embraced by the leaders of your hospital and your employees.

I am very appreciative of
Congratulations

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care they gave me.

"We seriously analyzed whether St. Rose could continue to compete with the for-profit hospital systems that had much stronger contracts with managed care companies."

Davis said that a great deal of contemplation was also given to what the Sisters and the board believed was the most significant matter at hand. *"What would it mean to the community if there was no longer a St. Rose – if the very hospital that helped breathe life into the community ceased to exist?"* asked Davis.

The roots of the Adrian Dominican order ran deep at St. Rose – and they spread well beyond the borders of the campus right into the homes and hearts of those she had served. Father Caesar Cavilgia was the pastor of St. Peter's Church at the time. He said, *"We couldn't afford not to have St. Rose. Even when the hospital was operating in the red, the quality of care was constant. The healing environment and attentiveness to human compassion and dignity set the bar for healthcare excellence in Southern Nevada."*

St. Rose's approach to clinical treatment also attracted the attention and the response of other medical facilities. *"Other hospitals routinely looked at the way we approached employee relations, patient care and meeting quality indexes,"* said Davis.

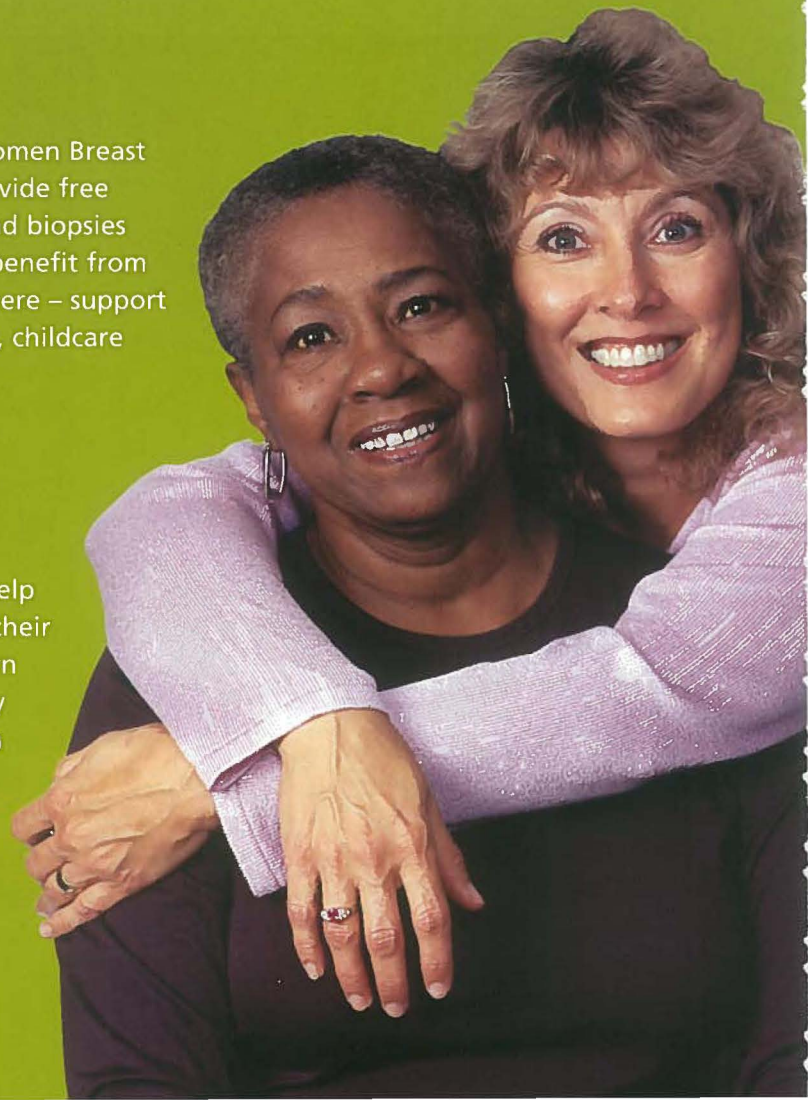
R.E.D. ROSE

The collaborative R.E.D. Rose program – funded by the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation and supported by St. Rose – was created to provide free breast exams, mammograms, ultrasounds, surgical consultations and biopsies for women who are uninsured or underinsured so they too could benefit from early detection and treatment. And the assistance does not stop there – support services such as transportation to doctor appointments, counseling, childcare and domestic assistance are also available.

HELPING HANDS/LIFELINE SAVING LIVES

Living independently is important, and two programs at St. Rose help people do just that. Helping Hands allows individuals to maintain their independence by providing services that help them live in their own homes. Sisters Janet Ackerman and Jean Berg of Helping Hands say the program's success is due to an incredibly giving volunteer team that shops for groceries, runs errands, gives rides to appointments, provides companionship and calls regularly to check in on clients.

The Lifeline program is aptly named – its clients, whether frail, disabled or elderly, have instant access to an emergency calling system for potentially life-threatening medical problems.





"Thus, we realized that if we were no longer present, the overall level of care in the valley would not rise to the level that we pushed our own organization to achieve."

Sister Marge also believed that the community would lose something if St. Rose Dominican Hospital was sold.

"Historically, our mission has been to serve an area of great need. In doing so, we prepare the lay people – in this case the doctors and staff – to carry forth the mission if we are called elsewhere. This situation was different. If the hospital was sold, the Sisters would not only leave, but the hospital would also lose its not-for-profit status. We felt it was important that patients, employees and physicians continue to have the choice of not-for-profit, religiously affiliated healthcare in Southern Nevada," said Sister Marge.

Breast cancer survivor turned WomensCare Center volunteer Cecilia Moseley (seated) is embraced by Jackie Brown of the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation.

St. Rose's Siena Campus was the first hospital in the state, and one of the first in the western region, to have digital mammography capabilities.

With a decision made to press on, the hospital needed a plan.

"If we were to succeed – to grow and adapt in response to the community's changing needs – we needed to better anticipate and plan for the future," said Lou LaPorta. "Rod Davis put together a SWOT team to identify the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats before us and brought in a consulting firm to do a year-long analysis of the community's growth."



VICTORIA (VICKY) VANMEETREN

President, San Martín Campus

In more than one speech at more than one facility opening, Rod Davis has called Vicky VanMeetren the "go to person," referring to the vital role she played in the construction of the Parkway Medical Plaza and St. Rose Dominican Hospitals' Siena and San Martín campuses. Thus, when a president for the San Martín Campus was needed, the job went to the "go to person."

The term also aptly applies to Vicky's approachability as a leader. *"I did employee 'cookie cart' rounds with Vicky just today,"* said Teresa Griffen, vice president of mission integration for the San Martín Campus. *"She is enthusiastic and available to staff."*

VanMeetren's wealth of practical and learned experience come from her years as a registered nurse, her leadership roles in nursing and quality assurance, her past experiences managing operations in a 410-bed hospital and the seven years she served as St. Rose's vice president of operations.

VanMeetren's collaborative spirit helped the Siena Campus design team earn the Design Team Award given by the American Institute of Architects.

She was named president of the San Martín Campus in 2004.

The data from the analysis – in particular, the number of beds that would be needed to serve the rapidly expanding Henderson area over the next two to three decades – was startling. But how to grow was a big question mark. The amount of land owned by St. Rose and the configuration of the current campus would make it difficult to build a hospital of the size necessary to meet the projected needs.

Davis' strategy was to build a second hospital on the western edges of Henderson. *"Rod and I took CHW representatives up in a helicopter to show them the proposed site for the second campus. The area was wide open. There were no businesses along that portion of Eastern or St. Rose Parkway at the time and much of Anthem was still in the planning stages. But because of fantastic local board members like the mayor, Selma Bartlett, and Tony Traub, we had an insider's pulse on real estate and business growth plans,"* said Mark Burmester, St. Rose's strategic planner at the time.

CHW seized the moment and approved the site and none to soon, said Vicky VanMeetren, who was hired on as St. Rose's vice president of operations in 1996. *"I came from the Valley Health System. I knew they were developing plans to build a hospital in Henderson and that Columbia-HCA had not only plans but land."*





St. Rose quietly acquired the land at Eastern Avenue and Lake Mead Drive (now St. Rose Parkway) in order to be the first to break ground on a new hospital in the high growth area. *"Serving Henderson was our mission,"* said Burmester. *"This was a key initiative for us."*

The plans for the \$100 million, four-story hospital and attached medical office building were announced on June 27, 1997 – fifty years after the Sisters had begun their mission in Southern Nevada. Twelve months later, on a forty-acre plot of ground at the corner of Eastern Avenue and St. Rose Parkway, the Sisters donned hard hats. So did Davis, Bishop Daniel F. Walsh, Mayor Jim Gibson and representatives of CHW and the St. Rose Dominican Hospital board of directors. They dug their shovels – and their heels – into the ground and a definitive statement was made: *"We care for this community."*

"The news sent a wave of excitement through the community," said Mayor Jim Gibson. *"Henderson's growth had been tremendous, but now we had an anchor for the western half of our city. It brought businesses and homebuilders. The area took shape almost overnight."*

"It also brought doctors," said Selma Bartlett. *"For years we had prayed for doctors, pleaded for doctors. Siena became a 'build it and they will come' scenario, which helped the Sisters' ministry flourish."*



Rose de Lima Campus

In 1998, Father Joseph O'Brien founded the Saint Therese Center with the collaboration of St. Rose and the Roman Catholic Diocese of Las Vegas. The center, located on the Rose de Lima Campus, assists those affected by HIV/AIDS through support groups, pastoral counseling and retreats. Patrons also receive complimentary haircuts, transportation and food assistance.

CREATING A HEALTHCARE SAFETY NET

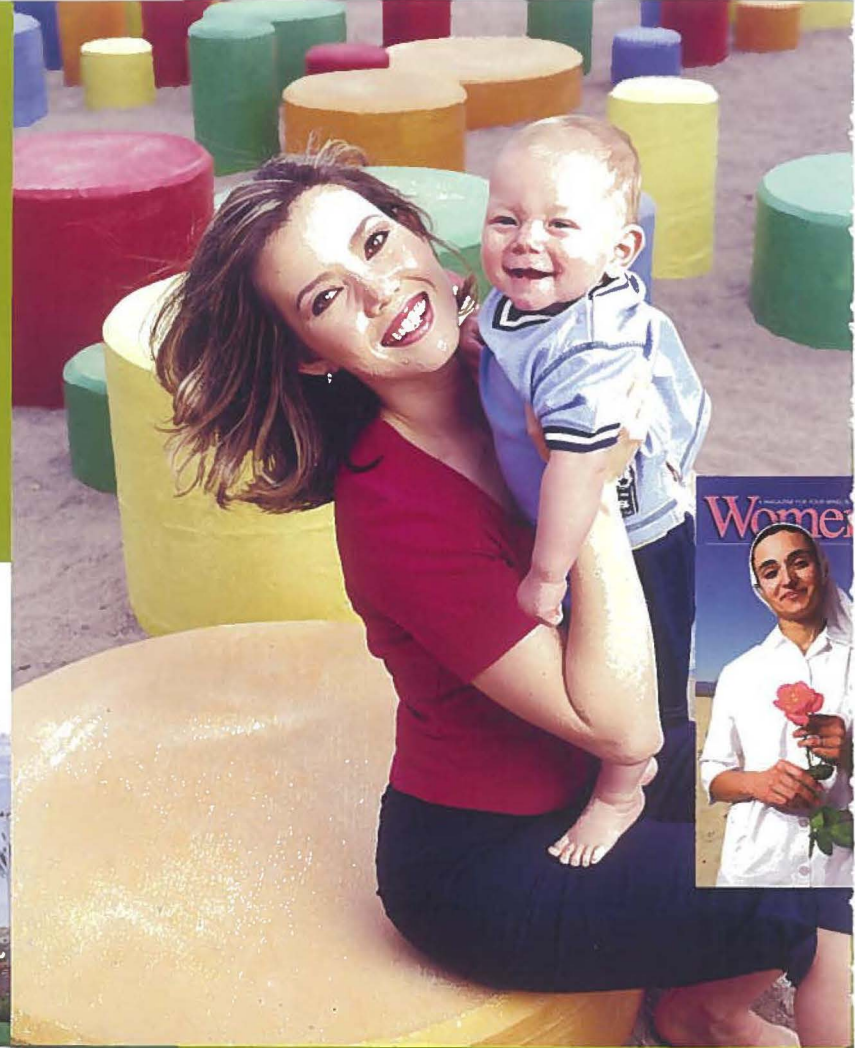
While the second acute care hospital would position St. Rose for long-term success, the fastest growing community in the nation needed healthcare “stat.” So with the opening of the Siena Campus still two years off, St. Rose began crisscrossing its way through Henderson creating a healthcare safety net of services for the city’s residents, as well as residents in the surrounding areas.

In 1998, twenty additional rooms and two new surgical suites were opened at the Rose de Lima Campus, and the Parkway Medical Plaza, a joint venture with American Nevada Corporation, was completed. The three-story, 93,000-square-foot medical center located on Green Valley Parkway provided the influx of new residents access to physicians representing various medical disciplines, a St. Rose urgent care, outpatient physical therapy and a pharmacy. The hospital, through joint operating agreements, also opened a same-day surgery center and a diagnostic imaging center within the Plaza.

More than 200 community leaders and physicians attended the dedication of the building presided over by Bishop Walsh. On that same day, St. Rose opened the doors to new concept – one that accentuated the feminine spirit of the hospital by serving the healthcare decision

Approximately 35,000 participants a year avail themselves to the vast array of classes, health screenings, support groups and events offered by The Barbara Greenspun WomensCare Center of Excellence each year.

A second WomensCare Center location opened in August 2007.



Parkway Medical Plaza opened in 1988.

WomensCare Magazine – an extension of the Center – is a free publication mailed to 400,000 residences each quarter.



makers of America's households – women. It was called the St. Rose WomensCare Center of Excellence. *"St. Rose realized that women were facing mounting challenges with the increasing demands of work, rearing children and often caring for aging parents. With less and less time to give to their own needs, the qualities of many women's health and lifestyles were being compromised,"* said Holly Lyman, director of the center. *"The center was St. Rose's response to the physical, emotional and spiritual well being of women."*

At the time the Parkway Medical Center opened, the WomensCare Center occupied temporary offices meant to suffice until a larger suite was built. The name of the center proved temporary, too. Davis appealed to the Greenspun Family Foundation for support. What better way for the area's developer to underscore its commitment to the community than by supporting a center dedicated to nurturing the needs of the known healthcare decision makers of most homes – women.

The Foundation concurred with Davis and made a \$3 million donation, including a \$1 million endowment to support women's services within the hospital, to the WomensCare Center. Thus, in January 1999, the center moved into a new suite of offices with a new name. The Barbara Greenspun WomensCare Center of Excellence was dedicated in honor of the Greenspun family's matriarch who, along with her late husband Hank, had shown decades of friendship and support to the Sisters.

Saint Catherine of Siena

A remarkable healer, Saint Catherine of Siena worked tirelessly to restore the health of those stricken with the plague, which was rampant during her ministry. With great humility and tenderness, she personally prepared and buried the bodies of those she could not save. Her happy and joyful disposition brought solace and comfort to those around her. With equal regard for all God's children, she sought out all she felt she could help and was known to visit prisoners sentenced to death in an effort to convince them to make peace with their Maker. Possessed with an innate gift of fairness, many leaders asked for her help in mediating conflicts and old family feuds. Her peace-making ability helped her encourage the leaders around her to seek unity and peace within the government and the Church.

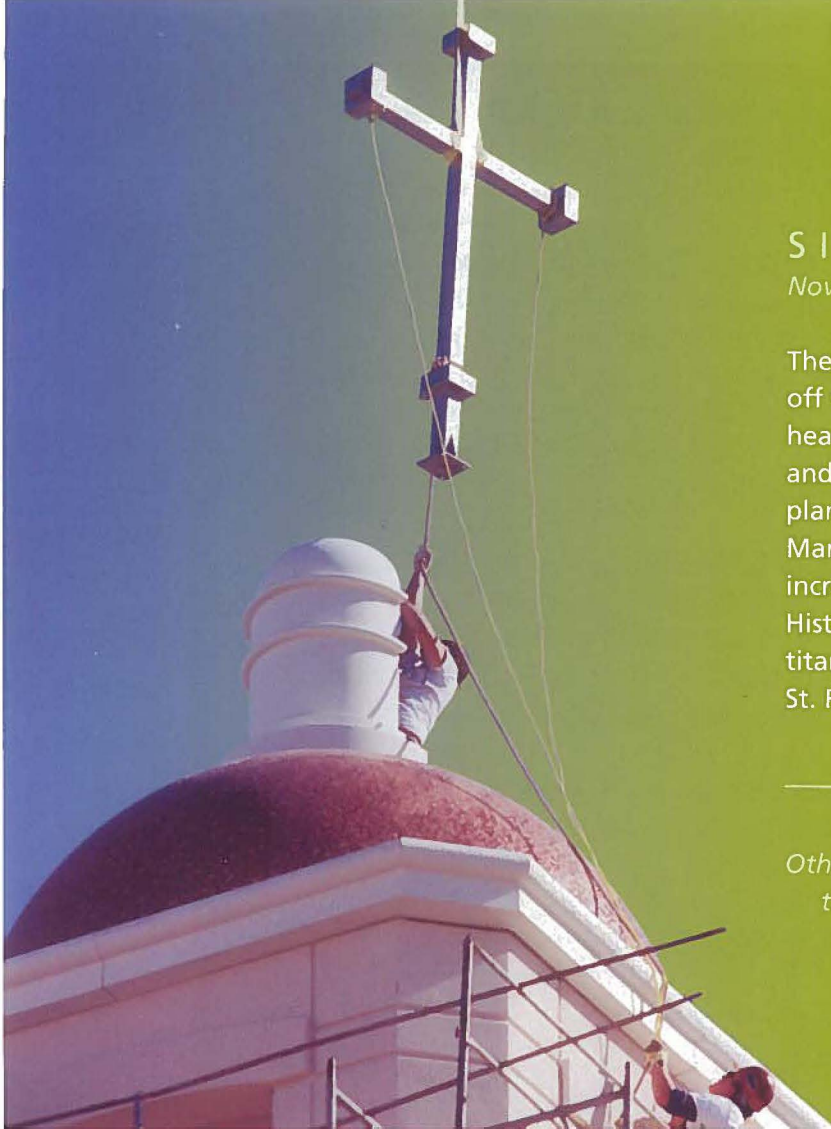


BUILDING A CAMPUS AND A CULTURE

March 1999 marked the opening of St. Rose's Hartwell Medical Center on Warm Springs at Spencer Avenue, which brought easily accessible medical services to the residents of southeast Las Vegas and the northwest edges of Henderson. St. Rose also opened new offices for its expanding home health services, a Family to Family Connection Center, and the Anthem Wellness Center in Sun City Anthem. The Wellness Center was designed to help senior assess their health and fitness levels and make positive strides toward healthy aging.

The Rose de Lima Campus was expanded as well. A \$2.5 million investment was made in the emergency department thereby increasing its bed count to twenty-five beds, expanding the waiting room and enlarging and lighting the helicopter pad.

Building the Siena Campus was more than constructing a second acute care medical facility, said Davis. *"It was our opportunity to develop a true environment of healing, to express our core values and to build on the Sisters' belief that healthcare must attend to the physical, emotional and spiritual health and dignity of each individual."*



SIENA BELL TOWER

November 1999

The 100-foot bell tower at the Siena Campus was topped off with a cross that symbolizes compassion and the great healer Jesus of Nazareth. It also represents the friendship and fidelity between St. Rose and Henderson's industrial plants. The cross, fashioned by Timet employee Ray Martinez, stands 11-feet high yet because it is made of incredibly light weight titanium it weighs just 75 pounds. History repeated itself on February 10, 2004, when a second titanium cross donated by Timet was raised to the top of St. Rose's San Martín Campus.

Other symbols of peace and God's love are clearly visible at the Siena Campus. Iron handles on the chapel doors were fashioned into olive branches by Lyle Anderson, a master tradesman who has fixed this, that and thousands of other things in his years with St. Rose.

CHW did not have a design team at the time. However, the hospital was in good hands with HKS, Inc. serving as the architect, Kitchell Contractors acting as the general contractor and Project Control providing project oversight and strategy. As construction of the hospital progressed, Davis appointed Vicky VanMeetren to oversee various phases of the hospital development. Working together the team created an award winning hospital honored for its collaboration and recognized for bringing advanced medical technologies together in high touch surroundings.

He also brought on a number of new executives to nurture the unique spirit of St. Rose among its expanding workforce, as well as to design business systems that would enable the two campuses to operate effectively under one administrative team. Among the new leaders were Sister Monica Stankus, Sister Molly Nicholson and Renato "Val" Baciarelli. *"I came from a multi-hospital management role and St. Rose was growing toward a multi-hospital role. It was an excellent opportunity to help integrate business systems and services across two campuses,"* said Baciarelli, president of the Rose de Lima Campus. *"We needed systems that would successfully launch the Siena Campus while improving the overall outlook of St. Rose Dominican Hospital."*

Siena Campus Notes

Siena was the first hospital in the valley to offer a fully-digital radiology department. It allowed the radiology department to take, archive and transmit diagnostic images digitally. The Siena Campus was the first hospital in the state to offer a 64-Slice CT scanner, BrainLab's Vector Vision technologies and state-of-the-art bi-plane neuro-interventional radiology capabilities.

The Siena Campus was designed to maximize efficiencies with nurses stations located between patient rooms, two-way nurse servers and a pneumatic tube system.

The Siena Campus' warm and welcoming design showcases a 100-foot bell tower. Entrance doors lead into a four-story lobby that draw eyes, spirits and expectations upwards. Gentle archways throughout the hospital are etched with inspiring sayings.

Patient rooms provide ample patient and caretaker space and couches convert to beds so that a family member or friend may rest comfortably close to their loved one.

Siena Healing Garden

The soothing sounds of waterfalls and bird chirping intermingle with the pleasing sights and smells of indigenous greenery in the Siena Campus Healing Garden. Their curative nature helps to lower stress levels and enhance feelings of well-being among patients, visitors as well as employees and physician.

The garden – made possible through the generosity of Ron and Kitty Boeddeker of Lake Las Vegas – has yielded an abundance of touching patient stories.

Sister Molly Nicholson fondly remembers a husband who asked his wife – a patient in her last stage of life – for one last dance. He dressed her in a flowered robe, wheeled her from her hospital room down to the garden, plugged in a boom box and pushed play. Bathed in sunlight and surrounded by the flowing waters of the fountain, “the woman was at peace and her husband created a beautiful memory of his final times with his wife,” said Sister Molly.



In some respects, the challenge was easier than Baciarelli anticipated. *"My background was in Catholic healthcare, but the Sisters at St. Rose were more visible, available and involved than I had experienced in other hospitals," he said. "There was also a strong core of employees who were very dedicated to the hospital's mission. It made for a very strong culture."*

Developing strong business systems was also vitally important. By early 2000, St. Rose was more than seven million in debt while CHW was also weathering woes of a difficult operating environment. CHW was among eight West Coast based health systems which Moody's and Standard and Poor's downgraded based on their debt outlook. But the Siena Campus provided reason for hope as did the appointment of CHW's new President and Chief Executive Officer, Lloyd Dean, just days before the dedication of the new hospital.

The week of June 19, 2000, finally arrived and St. Rose quietly unveiled its second-acute care facility to physicians, Southern Nevada's ministerial community and local and regional reporters. *"Our staff did a beautiful job in getting the hospital ready for showing," said Vicky VanMeetren. "Even so, I remember some of our administrators getting down on their hands and knees, in business suits, to clean the tile rosette in the lobby for photographs. It provided a real sense of respect for the first seven Sisters who scrubbed and cleaned Rose de Lima in their heavy wool habits."*



SISTER MONICA STANKUS, OP

Vice President of Mission Integration

When Sister Monica Stankus joined St. Rose in 1999 it was a homecoming. She had worked as a laboratory technologist at the Rose de Lima just after graduating college. But, it was not until she herself was hospitalized that she was called to join the Adrian Dominican order.

"The Sisters would come and sit and chat with me during my week or so in the hospital," she said. Those conversations changed her life's direction. She became the first and only St. Rose employee to take the vows of an Adrian Dominican Sister.

Nearly 40 years would pass from the time Sister Monica entered the convent to the time she would return to work at the Rose de Lima Campus. She spent about 20 of those years working for the National Institute of Health in Bethesda, Maryland.

"I had spent most of the last two decades looking through a microscope for answers to pediatric leukemia," said Sister Monica. "I found my Community Outreach responsibilities at St. Rose somewhat outside my comfort zone."

Sister Monica adapted to the challenge of seeing that the hospital's mission was integrated into the community and found that responding to the needs of vulnerable populations was very rewarding.

In early 2007, Rose de Lima's laboratory manager moved to Arizona and Sister Monica was asked to take on the additional responsibility of Interim Laboratory Director. *"My life has come full circle. My life as an Adrian Dominican and life at St. Rose are very fulfilling."*

On Friday, June 23, 2000, an official dedication of St. Rose Dominican Hospitals - Siena Campus was held. More than 800 public officials, clergy and friends of St. Rose were present as interim-bishop Monsignor Patrick Leary blessed the front doors of the Siena Campus and the attached Del E. Webb Medical Center (named in honor of the late Mr. Del Webb whose foundation donated three million to the new facility.)

"The opening of the Siena Campus was something special, something spiritual. The hospital was gorgeous. Having the community and Sisters from across the county there to celebrate St. Rose was wonderful," said Sister Marge. "But it was the hundreds of employees – all so eager to carry out our values – that I found so overwhelming. You could just feel the caring spirit bouncing off the walls."

In the following two days, approximately 10,000 residents previewed the hospital. Then the State toured and inspected the hospital and provided St. Rose Dominican Hospitals an official certificate of occupancy for the Siena Campus.

On July 17, 2000, the hospital officially opened 72 of its 141 patient rooms, as well as its 29-bed Emergency Department.



SISTER MOLLY NICHOLSON, OP

Vice President of Mission Integration

Sister Molly Nicholson joined St. Rose in 1999. She sees her role as being present as a Sister to the St. Rose family – its administrators, managers and employees – and to walk with them in such a way that keeps them rooted in the hospital's mission and helps them be the best healthcare givers that they can be.

Sister Molly holds a master's degree in pastoral counseling and psychology, as well as a master's degree in speech and drama. Thus, her teachings and reflections often incorporate prayer, poetry, ritual and even movement.

When called upon to ease the anxieties some employees

felt about the growth of St. Rose, she compared the "journey" toward the Siena Campus to a pilgrimage – an ancient and universal form of praying with your feet. She spoke of pilgrims who traveled to Mecca, the river Ganges, the Wailing Wall in Jerusalem, the Himalayas and to Rome. She reminded the St. Rose family that pilgrims "traveled with a sense of faith that a path, while not always clear, would be shown to them."

She encouraged current and new employees to welcome one another as pilgrims, to walk together and to have faith that the hospital's growth would preserve the ministry, thus better serve the community's needs. She ended with a quote from G.K. Chesterton, which reads, "*The purpose of all trips is to come home with a new set of eyes and a new heart.*"

Sister Molly often finds that she is not only called on to fortify the hospitals' mission, but also to help employees discover their own personal paths in order to put their best feet forward. Debra Cunningham, a mammographer/imaging technologist, said "*I had a lot going on in my life recently. I asked if Sister Molly would counsel me. She listened and cared about my opinions and thoughts. She took what I said seriously and professionally.*"

Within its first ten minutes of operation, a heart attack victim arrived in the ER. Within the first thirty days, thirty-two additional inpatient rooms were added. By the end of its first six months, 7,534 patients had been admitted, and 1,305 babies were delivered at the Siena Campus. A Joint Replacement Unit and Open Heart program were also introduced and became fully operational in that time.

By the end of its first year of operation, all 141 patient rooms at the Siena Campus were in use and the three key strategies Davis had set forth in building a second campus had been met: St. Rose Dominican Hospitals' expansion had deterred other hospital organizations from building in Henderson's high growth area, thus preserving the hospital's legacy of service; it had more effectively positioned St. Rose to compete for healthcare contracts; and it provided residents of Henderson and its surrounding areas greater access to the St. Rose ministry of caring in a values-based healing environment.

St. Rose Dominican Hospitals enjoyed financial success from its newest investment. Thanks and praise were given for this blessings. Decades of toil, "near closure" experiences and persistent prayer had brought the Adrian Dominican Sisters' ministry to a high point on the road of an ever evolving journey. *"As a not-for-profit institution, we didn't have stockholders,"* said Davis. *"Thus any revenue we realized after expenses had*



RENATO "VAL" BACIARELLI

President, Rose de Lima Campus

When Val Baciarelli talks about the Rose de Lima Campus he refers to the facility as "she" and "Rose." *"It is a distinction," Baciarelli said. "St. Rose applies to all the hospitals and 'de Lima' does not truly define who we are here. 'Rose' reflects what this campus stands for and it places the focus on the Dominican saint our Sisters looked to and honored in naming this campus."*

Baciarelli, the former vice president of Operations for CHW's Southern California region, joined St. Rose in 2000 as chief operating officer. *"Val is very hands on and in tune with the operational efficiencies of our many departments," said Rod Davis. "If he isn't physically available to respond to a situation or an employee, he makes himself available via e-mail."*

Today, as the president of the Rose de Lima Campus, Val enjoys walking the halls of Rose de Lima. Employees often stop him to talk about the gigantic, lid-free candy jar that is strategically placed in his office. *"It is a tool of engagement. I might stop up to the floor and someone will come up and say, 'Hey, I popped by your office and you are getting low on Mounds bars.' It is often a little thing like that – a common ground other than patient care – which makes our employees comfortable. If our employees are not secure in their environment and their ability to do their jobs, how can we expect them to provide comfort to others."*

to be reinvested into services and facilities that benefited our community.”

The call for further reinvestment proved to be urgent. Henderson’s population grew by 155% in the 1990s and showed no signs of slowing after the millennium. Additionally, Las Vegas’ fastest growth area became zip code 89123, which bordered St. Rose Parkway and Eastern just across from the Siena Campus. Patients poured into the hospital and overcrowding became a daily concern. In the early months of 2002, furnishings and equipment from physical therapy and cardiac rehab units had to be relocated and temporary patient units – MASH units – were erected in their place. Plans for the build out of the hospital’s fourth floor were accelerated.

“When we set out to build the Siena Campus, we didn’t know if other hospital systems would go forward with plans to build in Henderson. Determining how many patient beds were needed took a great deal of analysis,” said Vicky VanMeetren. “Our budget allowed for only 141 beds, but Rod pushed to spend the additional \$3 million to shell in a fourth floor for future use. It turned out to be the best design decision we made.”



Becky Flores, a St. Rose Nutritional Department aide, and her husband were able to buy their first home with the help of St. Rose's Housing Assistance Program.

Stewardship



STEWARDSHIP

Cultivating the resources entrusted to us to promote healing and wholeness.

In 2002, the perfect storm unleashed on Nevada. The State ranked #1 in terms of the national nursing shortage with just 520 nurses to every 100,000 residents compared to a national average of 783. Nevada also suffered from a critical shortage of respiratory therapists, radiology technicians, and pharmacists. Just when it was thought that matters could not get any worse, Nevada's physicians were struck with doubling and quadrupling malpractice rates. St. Rose responded to the situation by effectively stewarding its most important resource – its dedicated staff. The hospital provided its employees up to 100% reimbursement for their education, made more than \$150,000 in annual nursing and pharmacy scholarships available through Nevada's universities and colleges, initiated in-house training programs for respiratory therapy, and designed a housing assistance program that Congressman John Porter called a model for the state and the nation. The program, which provided employees monies toward the down payment on a home, was so well received that it was replicated by gaming corporations seeking to make housing more affordable for their employees. According to

Governor Kenny Guinn, Rod Davis was instrumental in helping the State mitigate the medical malpractice crisis. A temporary State insurance plan was put in place buying doctors enough time to establish a physician-sponsored program to which area hospital donated significant funds.



"During my three years in pharmacy school, I was sent to work at other hospitals and retail pharmacies. What I found was that whether or not I had won the scholarship, St. Rose is where I wanted to work," says Brenda. "Our hospitals are focused on providing the best in patient care. Because of our values, we tend to attract quality, genuine professionals. It makes for a positive, team-oriented environment."

Brenda Wang
Pharmacist



CHAPTER SEVEN

THE FUTURE IS
"FAST TRACKED"





San Martin Campus



The twenty million dollar, 66-bed expansion of the Siena Campus' fourth floor was highly anticipated by the community, but the announcement Rod Davis made on behalf of CHW and St. Rose Dominican Hospitals on November 12, 2001, came as a complete surprise. St. Rose would build a third hospital in southwest Las Vegas. The future expansion of St. Rose Dominican Hospitals had been "fast tracked."

The announcement was carried by both local newspapers and every local television station. Channel 13 anchors said that many in the medical community responded by saying the news came not a moment too soon due to the valley's shortage of hospital beds.

"Rod drove us to many potential sites for the San Martin Campus in his SUV," said Matt Koschmann, the hospital's former vice president of strategic planning. "There was nothing near the site on Warm Springs Road. You couldn't pull up directions to the site on his SUV's navigational system. But, it was the spot."

"We did considerable analysis in determining the need for the San Martin Campus," said Davis. "All studies of the



St. Rose's former Medical Director, Dr. Joel Bower and his late wife, Carol (right) are pictured with St. Rose's current Chief Medical Officer, Stephen Jones and his wife Cherida.

Dr. Joel F. Bower joined the staff of St. Rose in 1971. As an OB/GYN, he delivered nearly 5,000 babies. As St. Rose's former medical director, Dr. Bower dedicated considerable time to organizing symposiums designed to provide physicians and healthcare professionals the information and support they needed to make difficult, medically ethical decisions related to palliative care.

Dr. Bower's late wife, Carol, authored numerous children's books about the women of St. Rose.

P E T T H E R A P Y

A growing body of research suggests that interacting with pets can positively influence a patient's health through a decrease in blood pressure, stress and anxiety levels. At St. Rose, pet therapy volunteers like Nana (pictured at right) can also reduce a patient's requests for pain medication, and in some instances, reduce overall recovery times.

N E V A D A T O P D O G S

U.S. Senator Harry Reid, Sig Rogich, Henderson Mayor Jim Gibson and Brian Greenspun. Each had a childhood illness or injury that the Sisters of St. Rose responded to with compassionate care. A young Brian Greenspun remembers his mother and father walking him into the hospital where he was met by a woman in white – his first encounter with a Sister. *"The Sister took me by the hand and gave him a lollipop and brought me ice cream after surgery. I'd say the care was excellent. My parents were very close to the Sisters,"* said Brian Greenspun, publisher of the Las Vegas Sun.



southern part of the valley, which was growing at a phenomenal pace, indicated a need for a third St. Rose acute-care campus. We also talked extensively with local religious leaders and non-profit organizations. There was a strong need and desire for medical services and community outreach programs that would support the spiritual well being of the community.”

As welcome as St. Rose’s announcement was, some medical professionals expressed concern as to whether the hospital could recruit the substantial number of nurses and clinicians they would need to staff a third facility. St. Rose believed it could and forged ahead with confidence. As the fourth floor of the Siena Campus was built out and design plans for the San Martín Campus were solidified, St. Rose also developed innovative plans and programs that readied the hospital to recruit and retain a quality team of physicians, nurses and clinicians.

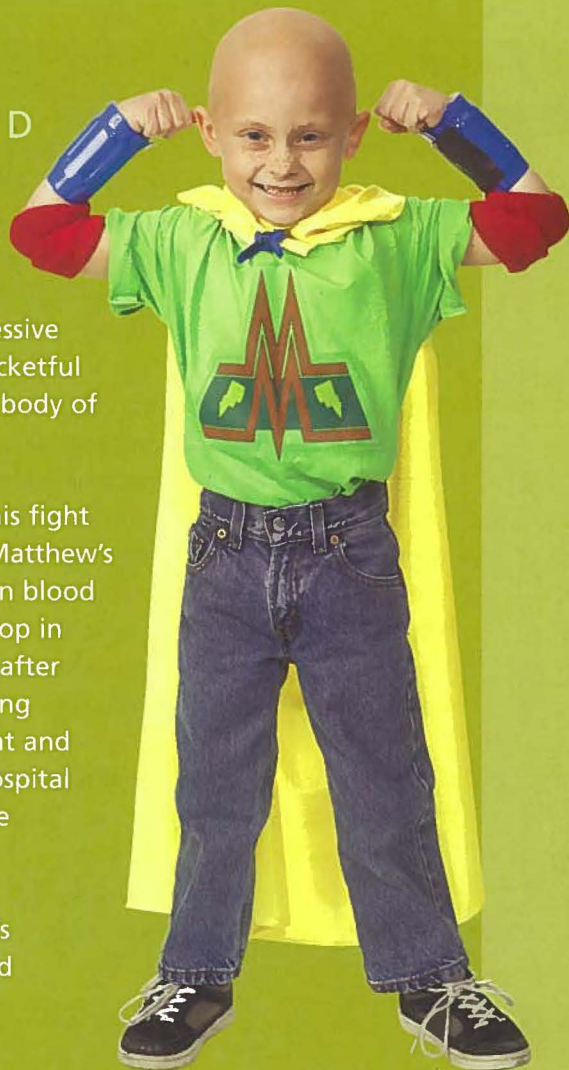
Planning and preparing for the San Martín Campus became a bit of a déjà vu experience, said VanMeetren. *“Our best design and recruitment efforts were still fresh in our minds and we were able to take the lessons we learned at Siena and improve upon them in planning San Martín.”*

SOMETIMES EVEN SUPERHEROES NEED A LITTLE HELP

Matthew is crazy about superheroes. He is just as heroic. Matthew successfully battled an aggressive rhabdoid kidney tumor that, like a pocketful of kryptonite, robbed the superhero's body of its powers.

One of Matthew's secret weapons in his fight against cancer was stem cell infusion. Matthew's stem cells were harvested from his own blood to help him overcome the dramatic drop in white blood cells that he experienced after each round of chemotherapy. By helping bring Matthew's white blood cell count and his super powers back up faster, his hospital recovery was reduced from four to five weeks down to two weeks.

Matthew went on to become St. Rose's Children's Miracle Network (CMN) child of the year.



When a little girl named Gabby was paralyzed from the neck down, her medical team worked tirelessly in hopes of restoring her mobility. They also placed a priority on helping Gabby understand the procedures she was undergoing. They communicated to her in her first language and on a level a three-year-old could comprehend. Childlife specialist, Mark Mostar, also developed non-verbal tools such as a Dora the Explorer doll fitted with a medical halo, tracheotomy tube and gastrointestinal tube to help explain the medical devices being used on Gabby. The doll did more than that. It brought Gabby comfort because the doll she wished to be like became more like her.

On the sunny morning of February 10, 2004, ground was officially broken and blessed by Bishop Joseph A. Pepe at the San Martín Campus. The hospital that had once prayed that physicians and patients would travel to Henderson had grown the financial legs to walk its not-for-profit ministry right into Las Vegas.

The three years leading up to the opening of the San Martín Campus were full of advancements for the ministry of St. Rose. The Siena Campus' fourth floor opened making 66 new beds (34 medical/surgical beds, 16 OB/GYN and the 16-bed Boyd Family Pediatric/Pediatric Intensive Care Unit) available to the community. A second C-section suite, a new Cath Lab, a GE 16 Slice CT scanner and an expanded pharmacy were also added. The Siena Campus also opened an intracranial neurosurgery program followed by a bi-plane interventional radiology program and the southeast valley's first trauma center. At the Rose de Lima Campus, the transitional care unit was converted to an acute rehab unit, a bariatric (gastric bypass) surgical program was opened and an outpatient Wound Care Center that featured hyperbaric oxygen chambers for the treatment of slow healing wounds also opened. St. Rose also celebrated becoming the Southern Nevada home of Children's Miracle Network (CMN), a national non-profit organization dedicated to raising funds for children's healthcare.



Saint Martín de Porres

At age 24, Martín de Porres entered a monastery and devoted his life to those who were rejected. The first person of African descent to be given the habit of a Dominican brother, he established an orphanage and hospital for poor children, becoming known for his ability to provide physical and spiritual care to the sick and poor. He also maintained an animal hospital. He is remembered for his great humility, his immense love of all God's creation, his sense of justice, and his ability to heal and empower others.

Dedication Day – Bishop Pepe blesses the front doors of the San Martín Campus.





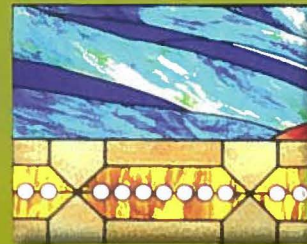
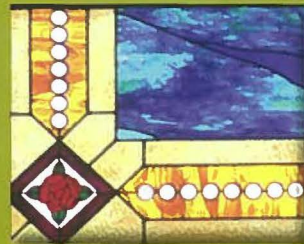
When 2006 arrived, St. Rose prepared to open the San Martín Campus. As had happened so many times in the hospital's long history, St. Rose blessed and dedicated the new facility on an extremely hot summer day. Governor Kenny Guinn was present and praised the hospital for its enduring commitment to healthcare excellence and to its kindhearted care for the community. Bishop Pepe presided over the blessing and then a flock of doves representing God's promise to take care of all his people were released into the Las Vegas sky.

After a public sneak-preview and health fair were held, St. Rose welcomed inspectors to tour the hospital. An unexpected delay occurred as a result of the Clark County smoke alarm assessment. Though the fire system appropriately detected the presence of smoke and sounded alarms, a problem with signal relays was identified. St. Rose began working with the manufacturer to remedy the problem. Procuring, installing and testing the system enhancements were expected to take a few weeks. In actuality, it took a few months. *"It was unsettling,"* said Vicky VanMeetren. *"We were on schedule to start new employees and to open our doors prior to that point. We had to remind ourselves that delays in a project of San Martín's magnitude with stringent hospital requirements were not uncommon. We prayed a great deal during that time. . . . faith and prayer are what St. Rose was founded on."*



Prayers were answered and the doors to the beautiful St. Rose Dominican Hospitals – San Martín Campus opened on November 8, 2006. *“There was a silver lining to not being overcrowded just after opening like we were at the Siena Campus,”* said VanMeetren. *“We invited so many new employees into our ministry to open the campus that we have had time to really get to know one another, to share our culture and values and to train extensively so our staff is expert and practiced. It earned San Martín Campus the highest customer satisfaction rating among CHW’s 42 hospitals.”*

June 27, 2007, marked the sixtieth anniversary of the first day the Adrian Dominican Sisters opened the doors to Rose de Lima. On the hospital’s anniversary, the Joint Commission of the Accreditation of Hospitals inspected and renewed the accreditation of St. Rose’s three campuses, including Rose de Lima – the first accredited hospital in Southern Nevada. A meeting was held to discuss the timeline for the completion of neonatal Intensive Care units (NICU’s) at the Rose de Lima and San Martín campuses, and a Level III NICU at the Siena Campus. Status reports were also given on the late-Summer introduction of an open heart program at the San Martín Campus and the introduction of da Vinci Robotic surgical system.



The seven roses in the stained glass of the Rose de Lima Campus represent the seven Sisters who set forth St. Rose's ministry.

A special Mass was also held in the chapel at the Rose de Lima Campus. Sister Monica spoke of the first seven Adrian Dominican Sisters and said, *"I doubt in their wildest dreams did they ever imagine that what they found in the Summer of 1947 would look like this in the Summer of 2007."* She talked about the difficult assignment that faced them and how their prayer life and their belief in the mission sustained them. She described the Sisters as *"energetic and not afraid of hard work."*

Sister Molly then spoke of the women who are often referred to as the "angels of mercy." *"They were not given amazing power. Rather, they were willing to commit to doing the ordinary with faith and extraordinary love,"* she said. So the pioneering Sisters tended compassionately to the ill and the injured, they fervently cleaned floors, they assisted doctors, they prepared comforting meals, they reached out to the community, they held the hands of those transitioning to the life beyond and they cradled new life, touched its tiny fingers and gave praise. . . .just like the St. Rose Dominican Hospitals' family of healthcare professionals do today.

"The original seven Sisters who came to Southern Nevada would be proud that the rose they planted in the desert sixty years ago is in full bloom today," said Davis.



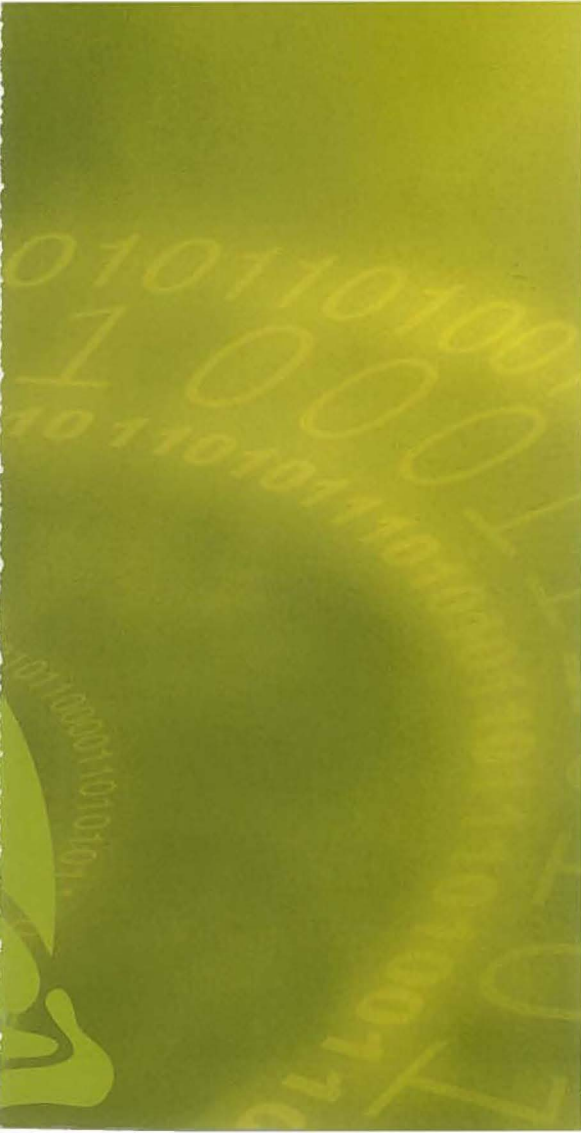
Collaboration



CHAPTER EIGHT

THE ROAD BEFORE US






It is likely that in the years to come the road that lies before us will be lengthened and widened more than once. With that in mind, St. Rose Dominican Hospitals will continue to look toward the future with a firm commitment to adapt our not-for-profit, non-tax supported and religiously affiliated ministry to best serve the needs of the people of Southern Nevada.

The Adrian Dominican Sisters look ahead with a continued sense of humility and hopefulness. Their confidence is based on several factors. The first is the endurance of the Dominican tradition of caring, which dates back more than 800 years.

The second is the extraordinary commitment of the first seven Sisters who opened the doors of Rose de Lima Hospital and their arms to the people of Southern Nevada. The mission and core values they established continue to serve as a timeless road map for all who follow in their footsteps.

The third is that our lay people – from our administrators, physicians, employees, volunteers and supporters – are so eagerly willing to walk side-by-side with the Sisters in an effort to live out a mission of mercy and medical excellence. Working together, St. Rose Dominican Hospitals journeys forward as an institution where advanced medical technology mends and the spirit of compassion heals.



THE WOMEN RELIGIOUS
OF ST. ROSE DOMINICAN
HOSPITALS (1947-2007)

Janet Ackerman, O.P. (Racine)*
Anne Arabome, S.S.S.*
Mary Assenmacher
Robert Joseph Bailey
Norita Marie Barrett
Mother M. Gerald Barry
Francesca Bartos
Helen Belsito
Linda Bevilacqua
Beverly Bobola
Georgina Marie Bowers
Mary Ann Breidenich
Loretta Broderick
Jeanne Burg, O.P. (Racine)*
Catherine Ann Burke
Mary Burke
Jeanne Burns
Rina Cappellazzo
Virginia Corley
Maureen Comer
(Administrator 1978-1985)
Mary Teresa Crimmins
Victoria Dalesandro
Catherine DeClercq
Pauline Dibb, C.S.J.P.*
Alice Monica Dibley
Dolores Marie Dolan
Mary Louise Doyle
Rose Dominic

Georganne Duggan
(Administrator 1965-1978)
Carol Elya
Marie Amada Garcia
Mary Ada Grantham
Mary Lourdes Fitzgerald
Carol Fleming
Joseph Eugene Fogarty
Jane Celeste Fries
Sister Grace Gianella
Marie Amada Garcia
Rita Gleason
Veronica Gonthier
Virginia Hafey-Wells
Felicia Haidysz
(Administrator 1953-1959)
Mary Carolyn Harrison
(Administrator 1947-1953)
Patricia Hebert
Barbara Ann Hehr
Ellen Hirzel
Phyllis Hughes, RSM*
Eileen Hussey
Julie Hyer
Genevieve Jeziolkowski
Mary Johanne (Mardi) Keevers
Adrian Kettler
Virginia Kleckner
Benedicta Marie Ledwidge

Helen Peter Lockfeer
Frances Lombaer
Marian O'Loughlin
Mary Jude Ludwig
Marie Daniel Lundy
Madonna Maier
Rose Xavier Maier
Roseen Maier
Hillary Mallon
Barbara Matteson, OP (Edmonds)*
Helen Agnes McDonald
Marie Brigid McDonald
Marie Jane McGoldrick
Helen Margaret McGinley
(Administrator 1959-1965)
Noreen McKeough
Margaret Mehigan
Marie Irene Miller
Charlotte Moser
Judy Nelson

Molly Nicholson
Kathryn Noonan
Mary Louis Nowaske
Joanne O'Connor
Jeanne O'Laughlin
Mary Noella Osentoski
Elizabeth P. Parham, DC
Clara Patricks
Margaret Richard Pillon
Anne de Lourdes Plourde
Agnes Helen Rabe
Pauline Richter
Lois Mary Rochon
Mary Redempta Scannell, RSM*
Rita Schaefer
Mary Scheibel
Janice Scholl
Joan Schroeder
Patricia Siemen
Marie Augustine Seissiger

Nadiya Shamees
Mary Singer
Marie Michaela Siplak
Edwina Sisson
Marie Joyce Smith
Daniel Theresa Smith
Phyllis Smith
Barbara Stanek
Monica Charles Stankus
Ruth Steiner
Mary Catherine Snyder
Joseph Sullivan
Marie Vera
Anne Wasco (Marie Angelita
Wojciechowski)
Michael Thomas Watson
Mother Genevieve Weber
Frances Wetzel
Patricia Wiley
Joanne Wimmer

L to R: (Seated) Charlotte Moser, OP, Dolores Marie Dolan, OP, (Second Row) Carol Elya, OP, Monica Stankus, OP, Maria Amada Garcias, OP, Michael Thomas Watson, OP, Nadiya Shamees, Bishop Joseph A. Pepe (*The Roman Catholic Diocese of Las Vegas*), (Third Row) Molly Nicholson, OP, Judy Nelson, OP, Nancy Jurecki, OP, Janice Scholl, OP, Jeanne Burg, OP (Racine), Janet Ackerman, OP (Racine), Anne Arabome, S.S.S., Marian O'Loughlin, OP

* Indicates Sisters of other Dominican communities or other orders.



Excellence





Rod,

Thanks again for the outstanding care extended by you and your staff last week. All displayed tremendous teamwork and were always ready to provide sincere assistance in every way possible. You made the recovery process 'almost' enjoyable!

Thanks again.

Lon Kruger



EXCELLENCE

Commitment to quality in our work and services through teamwork and innovation.

From the UNLV Center for Business Research's rankings to the National Research Corporation's surveys on consumer satisfaction and image, St. Rose Dominican Hospitals' campuses continually earn high marks and accolades based on the compassion and dignity with which the St. Rose staff treats patients.

A continual commitment to excellence has also earned St. Rose awards such as the Governor's Silver State APEX Award, which is awarded to institutions that excel in performance excellence. The Rose de Lima Campus and Siena Campus have also been recognized as the state's top performing hospitals in terms of quality by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid based on publicly reported quality care data, including heart attack, heart failure and pneumonia.

When UNLV Rebel basketball coach Lon Kruger required open heart surgery, his sextuple bypass was performed at the Siena Campus. The campus is ranked #1 in the state for overall cardiac services, #1 in the state for percutaneous coronary intervention (PCI) and #1 in the state for cardiac surgery by HealthGrades.



ADRIAN DOMINICAN SISTERS
1257 East Siena Heights Drive
Adrian, Michigan 49221-1793

517-266-3501
517-266-3507 fax
www.adriandominicans.org

Mr. Rod Davis
President
St. Rose Dominican Hospitals
102 E. Lake Mead Drive
Henderson, NV 89105

Dear Rod and Members of the St. Rose Dominican Hospitals family,

On this wonderful occasion of the 60th Anniversary of the founding of the hospital, it is my honor to express to you the prayers, warm wishes, and heartfelt congratulations of the Adrian Dominican Sisters. In light of this anniversary celebration, I decided to re-read history of the hospital that is housed in our Congregation archives. And what a history it is!

As Mother Gerald Barry accepted Bishop Gorman's invitation to take over the hospital following World War II, a chain of decades of bold service in response to the needs of people in need of quality healthcare began. While Mother Gerald originally wished to name the hospital Gorman Hospital, after the bishop, the bishop was not keen on the idea. Mother Gerald decided on a

compromise, Rose de Lima, a Dominican saint whose feast fell on the bishop's birthday! So, from that moment on, a beautiful connection was made between the Adrian Dominicans and the local church, in service to the people of Henderson.

The seven sisters who opened the hospital have been followed by numbers of truly remarkable people – sisters, physicians, administrators and volunteers – all deeply committed to carrying on a ministry of compassionate care to all those who enter the doors of this hospital. You are a blessing to us all and remain our treasured partners in the mission of healing. May God's blessings be upon each of you and may Rose of Lima continue to watch over the sensitive and competent care you extend to so many people in need of physical, emotional and spiritual care.

With the prayers of all the Adrian Dominican Sisters and with our best wishes on this wonderful occasion,

Sister Donna Markham, OP
Prioress of the Congregation



Catholic Healthcare West

185 Berry Street, Suite 300
San Francisco, CA 94107
(415) 438-5500 telephone
(415) 438-5724 facsimile

To the St. Rose Dominican Family:

On behalf of Catholic Healthcare West's more than 60,000 employees, physicians, and volunteers, congratulations to all at St. Rose Dominican Hospitals on your sixtieth anniversary. For six decades you have brought excellence, healing, and hope to the people of Southern Nevada. The spirit of the seven Adrian Dominican sisters who came to Southern Nevada so long ago lives on each day in your hands – in your compassion, your caring, in your dedication to your communities.

As the only not-for-profit, non-tax supported and religious based hospitals in the Las Vegas valley, you are unique in the care and services you provide – in your focus on the health of the mind and spirit as well as the body, and in your dedication to the poor, sick and oppressed. But there is so much more that sets you apart. There is a special sense of friendliness and caring at St. Rose Dominican Hospitals' campuses. I have experienced it in my visits to you, and I know each day all who walk through your doors – patients, colleagues, physicians, visitors – experience it as well.

To the employees, physicians and volunteers at the Rose de Lima, Siena and San Martín campuses, and at all your offsite centers, thank you for everything you do each day in the service of our healing ministry. You embody Catholic Healthcare West's mission to deliver high quality, compassionate health care to those who need it most. All of us at Catholic Healthcare West join with you in celebrating sixty years of service to those in need. As you go forward, I am confident that your welcoming spirit, compassion, excellence and community service will continue to be an inspiration within your communities, within CHW and across the health care industry.

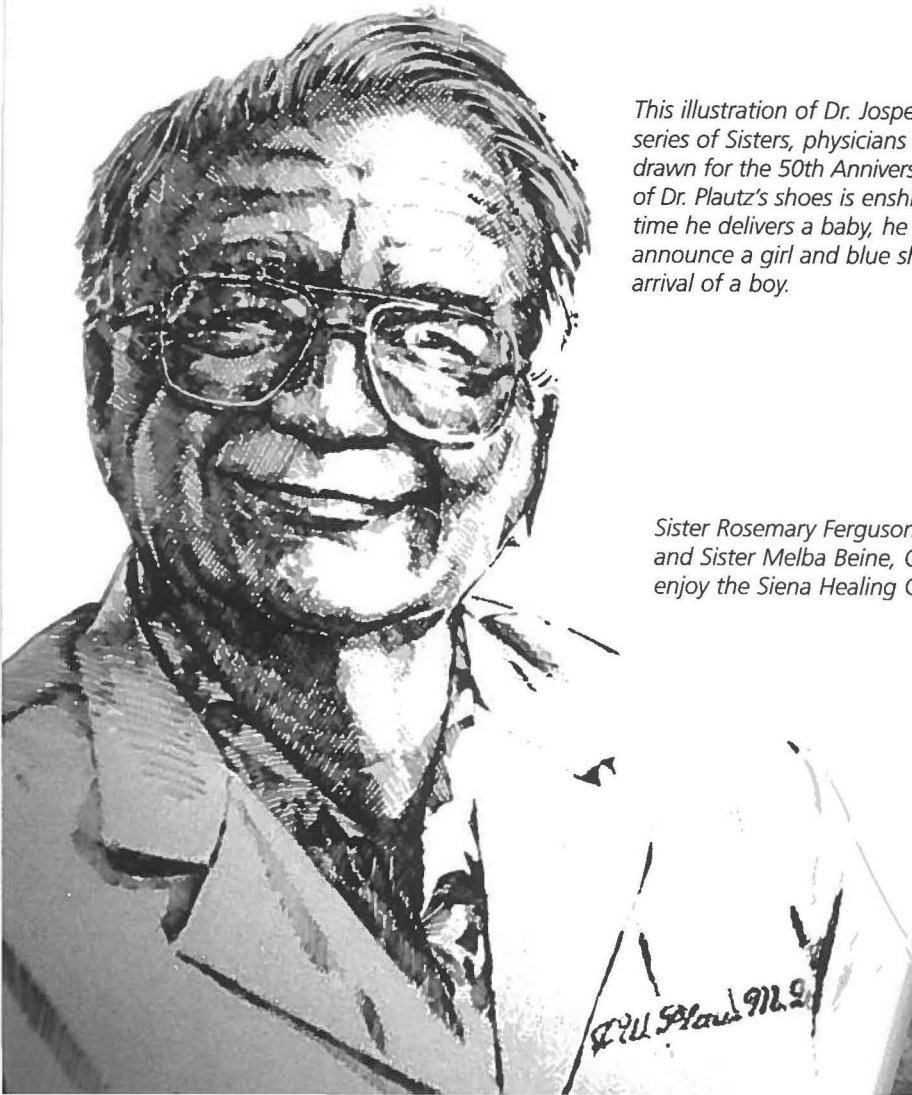
Sincerely,

Lloyd H. Dean
President/CEO

Lloyd Dean was appointed the President and CEO of Catholic Healthcare West (CHW) in June 2000, just days before St. Rose held previews of the Siena Campus. Thus, on his first visit to Henderson, he put his faith in the taxi driver when he asked to be taken to the St. Rose's new Siena Campus.

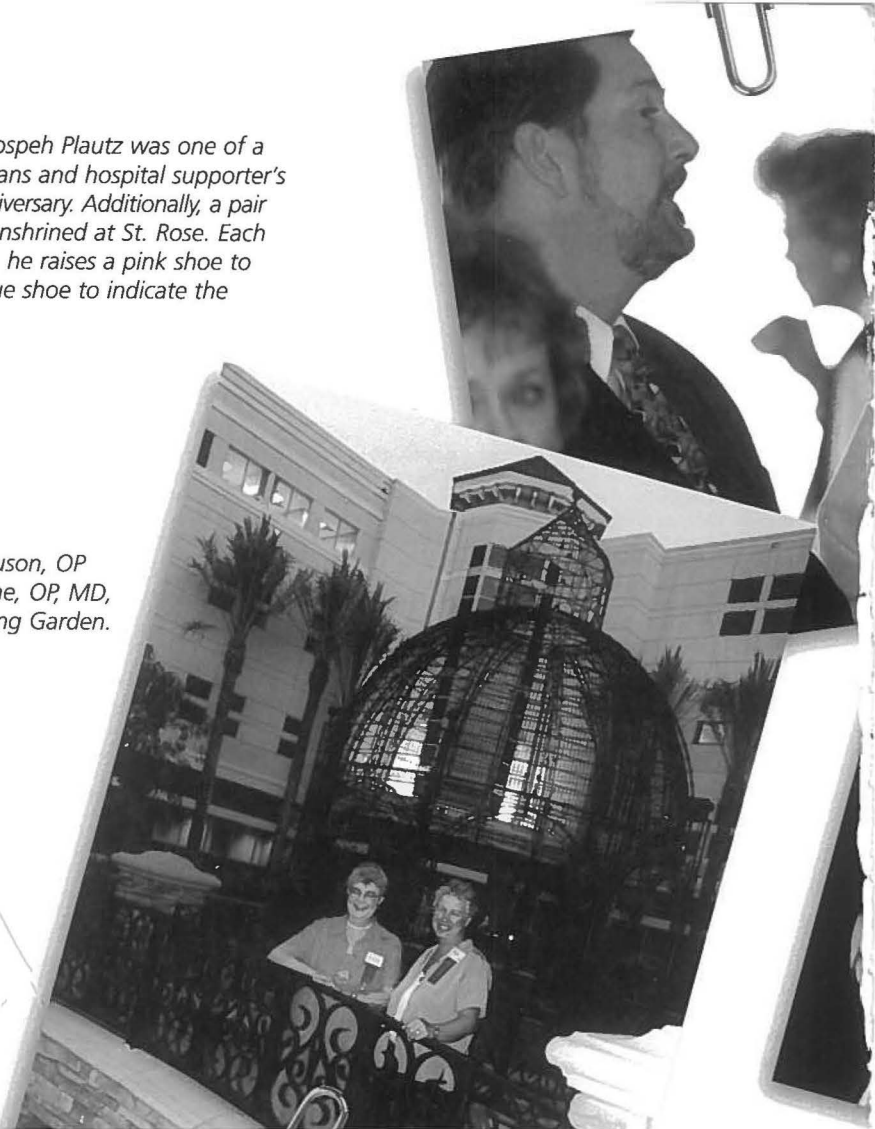
"No problem," said the driver, who boasted about St. Rose's positive image as he drove. Lost in the stories he told to Dean, the cabby drove directly to the Rose de Lima Campus. As Dean exited the cab, he quickly realized that he was at the wrong campus. An employee offered Dean a ride, but the cab driver wanted to make up for his mistake.

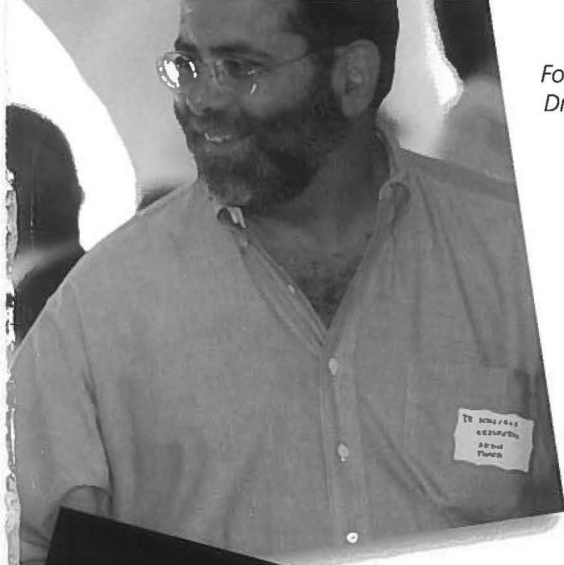
Dean appreciated the employee's offer, however. In fact, so much so, that in front of a room full of St. Rose managers and employees, he provided a humorous recap of his journey. He finished the story on a more serious note. He said, *"The employee did not know me from Adam. He only knew that I had a meeting at Siena and that I was going to be late. That open attitude and that willingness to help another is what I have heard makes St. Rose so special. I have now seen it and if I could, I would bottle it up and sell it to other hospital systems throughout the United States."*



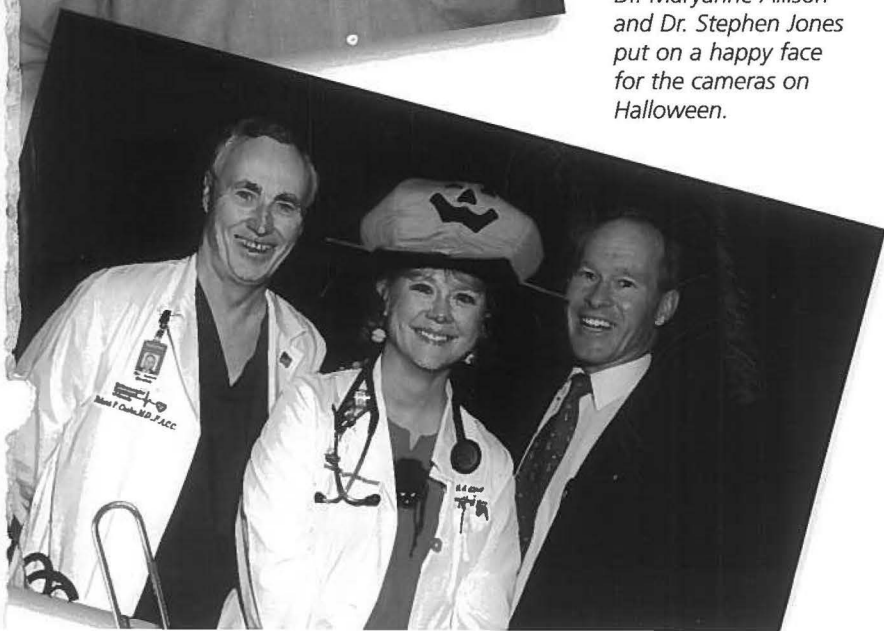
This illustration of Dr. Joseph Plautz was one of a series of Sisters, physicians and hospital supporter's drawn for the 50th Anniversary. Additionally, a pair of Dr. Plautz's shoes is enshrined at St. Rose. Each time he delivers a baby, he raises a pink shoe to announce a girl and blue shoe to indicate the arrival of a boy.

*Sister Rosemary Ferguson, OP
and Sister Melba Beine, OP, MD,
enjoy the Siena Healing Garden.*

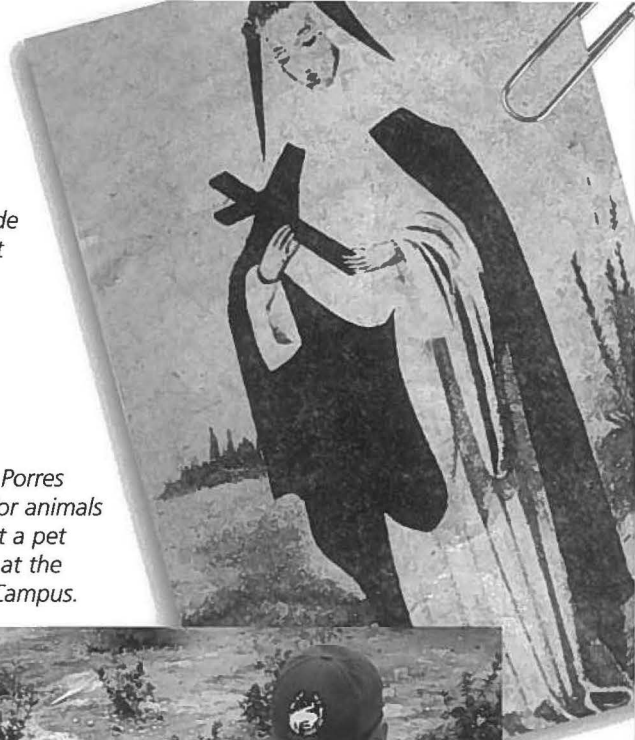




*Former board member
Dr. William Weisberg.*



*Dr. Robert Croke,
Dr. Maryanne Allison
and Dr. Stephen Jones
put on a happy face
for the cameras on
Halloween.*



*Painting of Saint Rose de
Lima donated by Artist
Salvatore Costello.*



*Saint Martin de Porres
love and care for animals
is reinforced at a pet
blessing held at the
San Martin Campus.*

When the size and page count were designated for this book, there was some question of whether we could fill nearly 200 pages. It turned out that we could have filled an additional 200 pages. Thousands of people have played a role in St. Rose's history. Unfortunately, we could not cover everyone's contributions. While this book is bound, there is still much of the St. Rose story – past and present – to be told. If you would like to share your St. Rose story, please send it along with your contact information to St. Rose Dominican Hospitals' Communications Department at 3001 St. Rose Parkway, Henderson, NV 89052. We will archive such information for future publications.



WRITER

Shauna (Cuddy) Walch is a native of Southern Nevada. She joined St. Rose Dominican Hospitals in 1998 and served as the Executive Director of Communications for six years during which time she founded *WomensCare Magazine*, which now reaches 400,000 Southern Nevada residences each quarter. Today, she works part-time as the editor and writer of *WomensCare Magazine*, which affords her more time to spend with her husband, Greg, and the two boys they gave birth to at the hospital. She also oversees special projects such as the creative design of the Mardi Gras Ball. Walch describes her years working with the Adrian Dominican Sisters, Rod Davis and the entire St. Rose team as "blessed" and says, "I knew God had a hand in my life's direction when Sister Michael Thomas Watson and I began working at St. Rose on the very same day. Sister Michael taught at my grade school and had a profound influence on my brother's life."

ART DIRECTOR/DESIGNER

Eric Selvig is the Creative Director of St. Rose Dominican Hospitals' advertising agency, teamAMC. He has overseen the art production of St. Rose's advertising and collateral work for eight years. In addition, Eric and the entire staff of teamAMC donate their time to produce all of the invitations and collateral materials associated with the St. Rose Dominican Health Foundation's annual Mardi Gras Ball and annual golf tournament.

SPECIAL THANKS TO

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Mandy Stanley – Communication Department Members
Sister Molly Nicholson, Sister Monica Stankus,
Veronica Cortez – Mission Integration Department



Renee Paper served as an ER nurse at St. Rose for years. During her time with the hospital she also founded the Hemophilia Foundation of Nevada to assist people with bleeding disorders. St. Rose provided the foundation with its first home on the Rose de Lima Campus.



Sister Dolores, a St. Rose Positive Impact on Reading volunteer, listens to and supports a child learning to read.



Sister Pauline Dibb is a member of the Congregation of St. Joseph of Peace. She is one of a number of women religious from other communities who have helped care out St. Rose's mission. She served as the director of spiritual care from 1997-2004 and is presently a chaplain at St. Rose.

In 1947, seven Adrian Dominican Sisters traveled cross country via train from their Motherhouse in Adrian, Michigan to Henderson, Nevada. They made a commitment to Southern Nevada and embraced a community in need by purchasing Basic Magnesium Hospital – renaming it Rose de Lima Hospital.

Sixty years later, their acts of faith, dedication and compassion continue to serve as the foundation of St. Rose Dominican Hospitals. Our hospitals, now three campuses strong, continue to live out the Adrian Dominican Sisters' mission to provide high quality care to all those in need.



St. Rose Dominican Hospitals

A member of CHW

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strosehospitals.org

