



The *Great* Canadian
Catholic Hospital History Project

Documenting the legacy and contribution of the
Congregations of Religious Women in Canada,
their mission in health care, and the founding and operation of Catholic hospitals.



Projet de la *Grande* Histoire
des hôpitaux catholiques au Canada

Retracer l'héritage et la contribution des
congrégations de religieuses au Canada,
leur mission en matière de soins de santé ainsi que la fondation et l'exploitation des hôpitaux catholiques.

Sisters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul of Halifax

**Immaculata Hospital
Westlock, Alberta
50th Anniversary
1927-1977**

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St. Vincent de Paul of Halifax

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Office of the
SECRETARY GENERAL

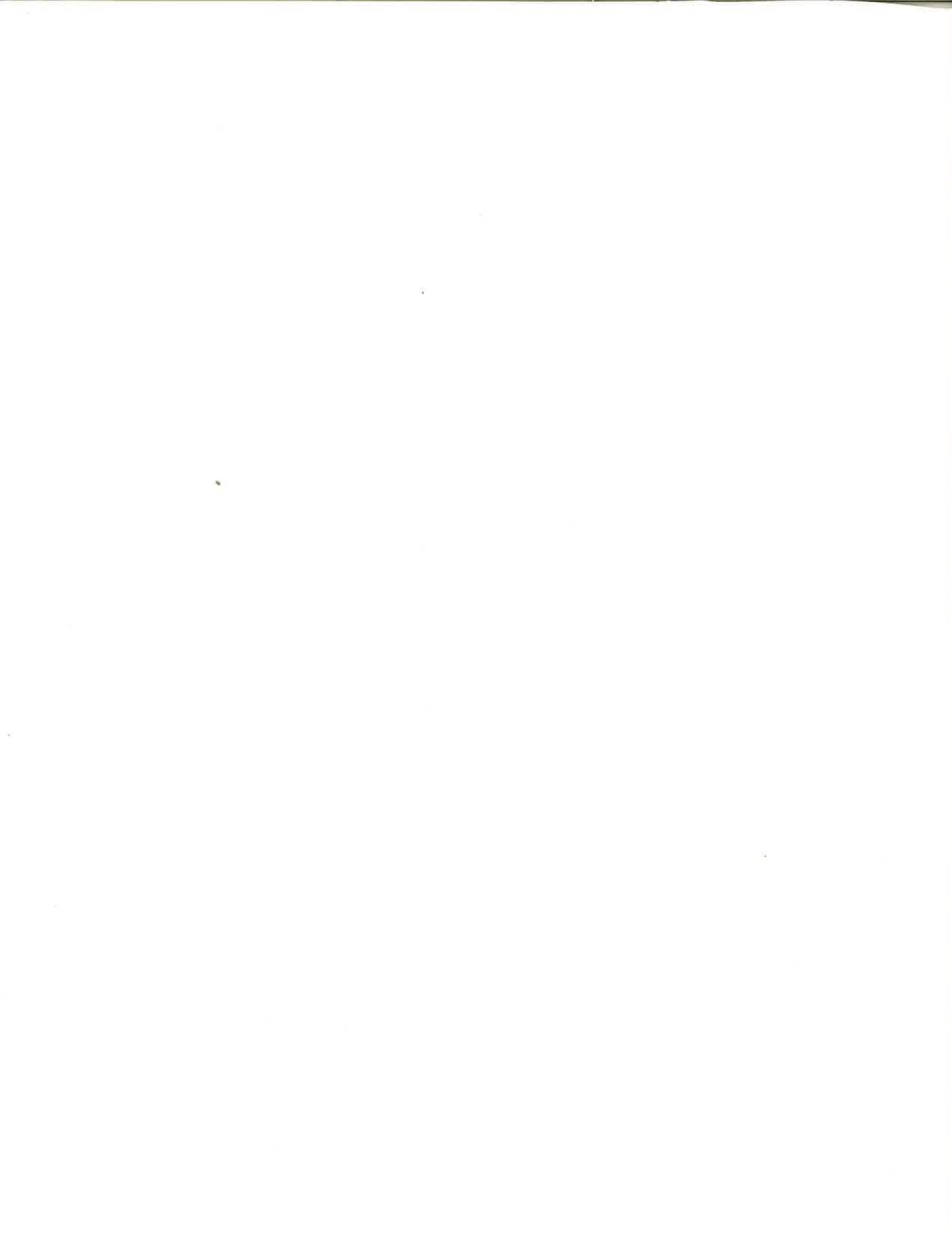
1927- 1977



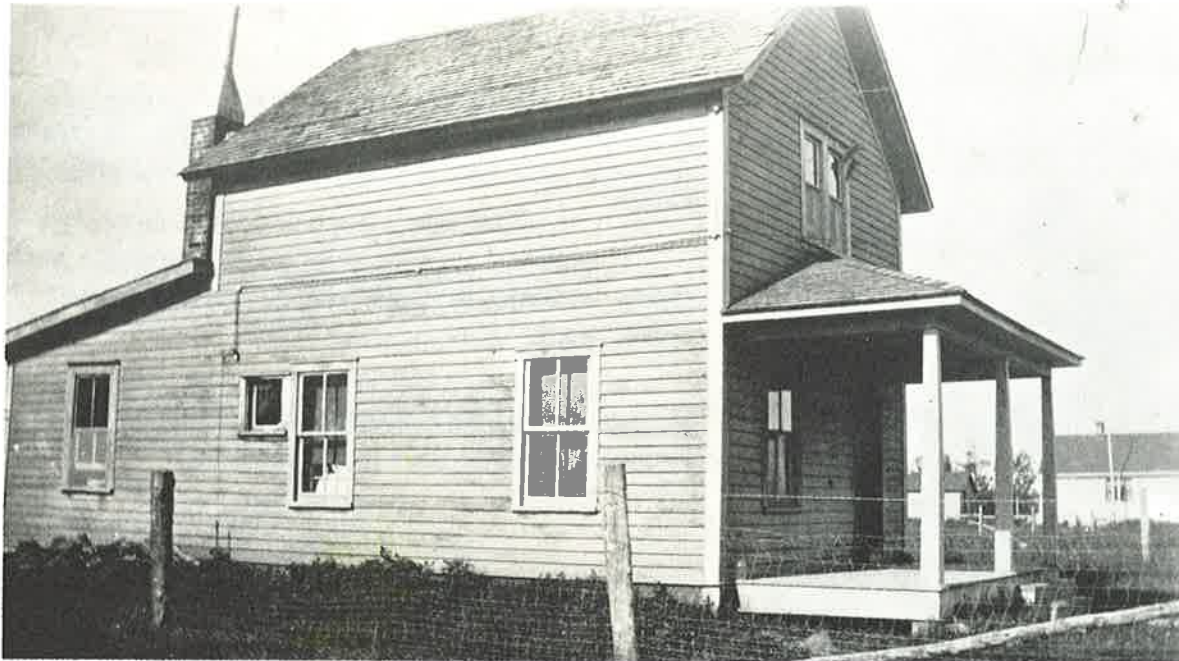
Sisters of Charity
of
St. Vincent de Paul of Halifax

*50th
Anniversary*

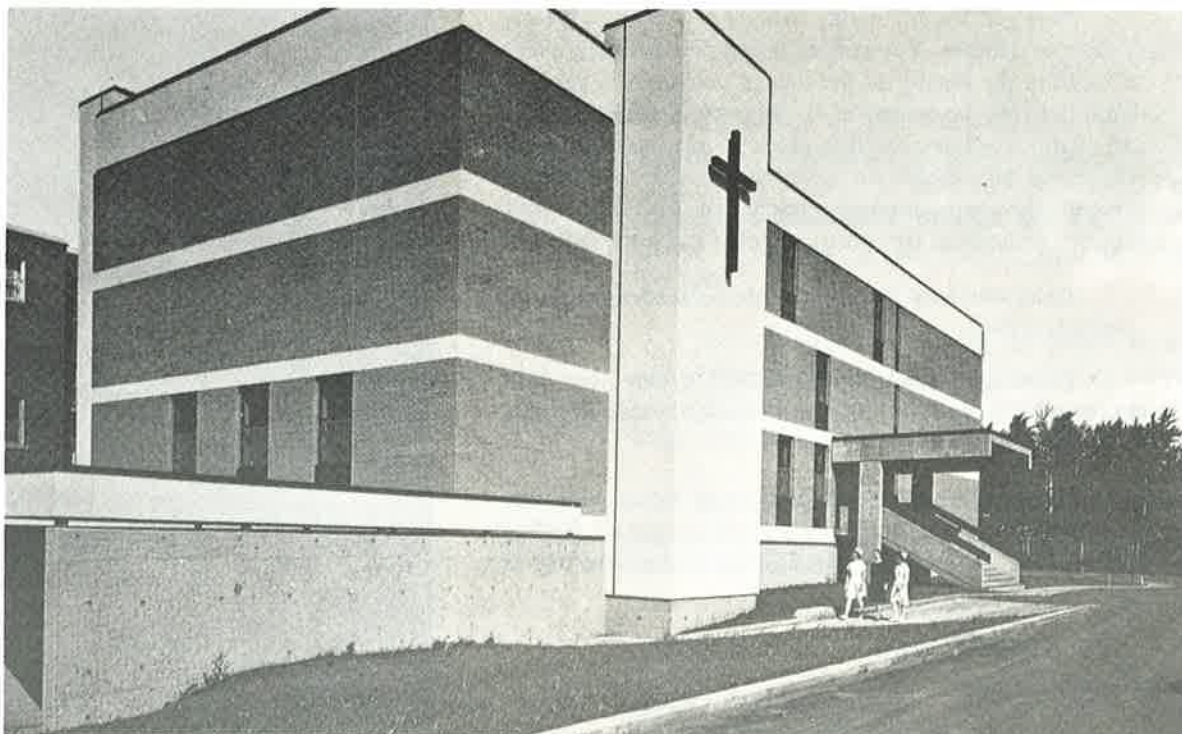
IMMACULATA HOSPITAL
WESTLOCK, ALBERTA



50 Years OF SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY

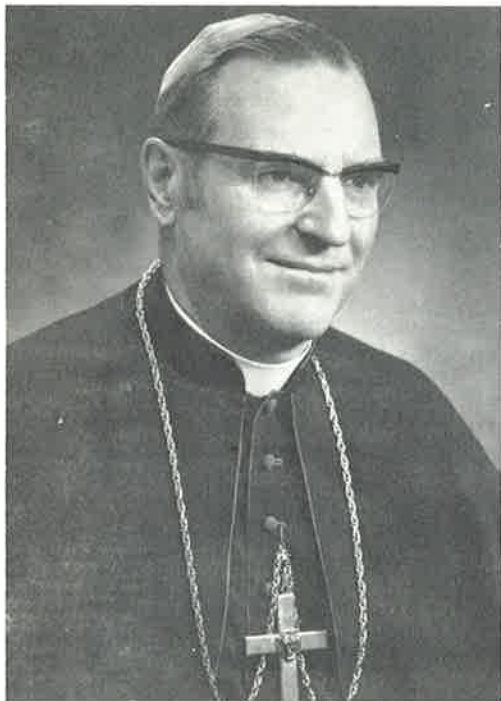


Building used temporarily as hospital in 1927.



Immaculata Hospital – today

Greetings . . .



*Most Reverend Raymond Roy
Bishop of St. Paul, Alberta*

It is in the very nature of the Church to be present to all human activity. So, hospital services and the medical field have never been estranged from the interest of the Church.

In this spirit of presence and service, the Sisters of Charity of Halifax have been with the Westlock community, serving the Church these last 50 years.

With all the members of the St. Paul Diocese, we congratulate the Sisters upon their good work and pray God to bless them with health and a fruitful apostolate.

Raymond Roy
Raymond Roy,
Bishop of Saint-Paul, Alberta.

What you are celebrating today is not merely a matter of days or decades. You commemorate, in fact, fifty years of belief in the dignity of the human person; fifty years of dedication and co-operation on the part of administrators and staff at all levels; fifty years of the restoration of wholeness and health to countless numbers of people through the compassionate exercise of the science and ministry of healing; fifty years of belief and hope and love.

To all who have been part of these decades and deeds, gratitude is due.

To all who are today associated in any way with Immaculata Hospital, I offer very sincere words of praise and congratulations.

To all who will continue through future years the hospital's traditions of providing compassionate healing service, I ask the guidance and blessing of the Lord who is Light and Life and healing Love.

Congratulations!

Sister Katherine O'Toole
Sister Katherine O'Toole
and the Sisters of Charity (Halifax)



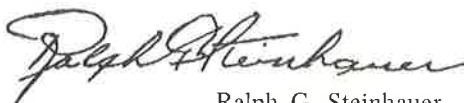
*Sister Katherine O'Toole, Superior General
Sisters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul
Halifax*

Greetings . . .

May I extend my sincere good wishes to your Order on the occasion of the 50th Anniversary of service that you have given to the area around Westlock.

No doubt there were the ups and downs that most organizations experience, but as usual the pioneer spirit prevailed and we look back on these as good experiences, and they become pleasant memories.

The services you have given in the past, I am sure, are very much appreciated by all concerned, and I wish you many more years of happy service.



Ralph G. Steinhauer,
Lieutenant-Governor.



*Honorable Ralph Steinhauer
Lieutenant Governor of Alberta*

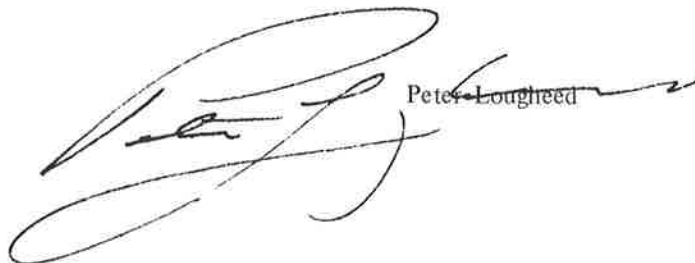


*Honorable Peter Lougheed
Premier of Alberta*

On behalf of the Government of the Province of Alberta, it is a pleasure for me to extend our congratulations on the occasion of the 50th Anniversary of the establishment of Immaculata Hospital and the service of the Sisters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul (Halifax) in Westlock.

The contribution made by the Sisters to the health and welfare of the people of our province is, I know, much appreciated by many Albertans, and I want to add my personal congratulations to the many you will be receiving.

My warm best wishes for continued success to the Sisters of Charity of Vincent de Paul (Halifax) as well as to Immaculata Hospital.



Peter Lougheed

Greetings



*Mr. R. F. Staples
Mayor of Westlock*

On this, the occasion of the Fiftieth Anniversary of the Immaculata Hospital, may I extend sincere congratulations to the Sisters of Charity, the founders, and to all those individuals and organizations who have assisted in the growth and development of this splendid facility.

The deep appreciation of the citizens of Westlock and district is deservedly extended to the Immaculata Hospital for the provision of such an efficient, well-managed operation.

Richard F. Staples

Richard F. Staples
Mayor of Westlock



*Mr. R. W. McLaughlin, Reeve
Municipal District of Westlock*

I offer my sincere appreciation and utmost thanks on behalf of the people of Municipal District of Westlock to the Sisters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul for their devotion to the service of caring for us through the establishment of the Immaculata Hospital, for the past fifty years. Let the future years be rewarding to you.

R. W. McLaughlin

Reeve
R. W. McLaughlin

"In Appreciation"

On behalf of the residents of the Village of Clyde, it is our privilege and pleasure to extend to the Sisters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul (Halifax), congratulations on the splendid and understanding manner in which they have served the community over the past fifty years. May that spirit of devoted service be appreciated in the future as in the past.

Sincerely,

Harry Stieger, Mayor
Paul Destruel,
W. J. Von Loewenstein, Councillors.

History OF IMMACULATA HOSPITAL

PRELUDE

The road leading the Sisters of Charity to Westlock begins in St. Joseph's Valley in Emmitsburg, Maryland. Here, in 1809, Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton formed her religious community. In response to the needs of the time, Elizabeth Seton with a few friends opened a day school for girls. She possessed great gifts as teacher and as religious leader and so the school and religious community flourished. Requests came from various cities in the United States for sisters to teach and to care for orphans. Some of her daughters were involved in nursing during the American Civil War when they nursed the sick and injured.

In 1849 Archbishop Walsh of Halifax, determined to improve education in that fair city, asked that sisters from the New York daughters of Elizabeth Seton come to Halifax. Four Sisters of Charity arrived on May 11, 1849. By May 24th, two hundred children were beginning their schooling with the sisters. This day also saw their first orphan come to them for a home.

A tragedy at sea in 1866 drew the first sisters to nursing in Canada. A ship carrying thirteen hundred immigrants and others arrived in Halifax harbor. A cholera epidemic was raging on board; three hundred had already died. The ship anchored off McNab's Island where the sick and the dead were taken. Three Sisters of Charity spent the duration of the epidemic nursing the afflicted and feeding the beleaguered doctors and their assistants. One of these sisters was instrumental in the establishment of our first hospital, the Halifax Infirmary.

Involvement in hospital work happened almost by chance it would seem. In 1886 the sisters planned to open a home for elderly ladies. When the home was ready to open, a lady brought her mother to stay while she herself went to Boston for surgery. Her doctor had the sudden thought that the operation could take place at this home where everything was clean and sanitary. After much preparation, the operation was successfully performed and the Halifax Infirmary was born.

Much was required in the way of equipment and supplies. Where to get the funds? The resourceful sisters opened a confectionery store on one of the main streets. It was operated by a friend of one of the sisters, but the candy and cakes were made by the sisters. Apparently this did the trick because the Infirmary served the people of Nova Scotia under the management of the Sisters of Charity until 1974 when it was sold to the Government of Nova Scotia.



*Saint Elizabeth Anne Seton
1774-1821
Founder of Sisters of Charity
of St. Vincent de Paul*

In the years following the establishment of the Infirmary, many other houses were opened both in Canada and the United States. The works stretched from the Atlantic to the Pacific. Today, the sisters are active in universities, schools, hospitals, homes for the senior citizen, homes for unwed mothers, and in other areas such as parish and hospital visiting, social work with the disadvantaged, and missionary work in the Dominican Republic and Peru.

BEGINNING AND GROWTH

The village of Westlock was without hospital facilities until early 1927. At this time a concerned citizen in the person of Father Eugene Rooney — that perennial booster and champion of all things Westlock — decided to take the matter in hand. Father Rooney went to Archbishop O'Leary of Edmonton to request that a religious community be asked to open and staff a hospital in Westlock. The Archbishop, being acquainted with the Sisters of Charity from Halifax, wrote to Mother Mary Berchmans making this request. The response was favorable.

One account has it that when told that she was to be sent, Sister Elizabeth Seton packed a few surgical instruments and other useful articles from the Infirmary and started in faith and obedience on the long road to Westlock, arriving in Edmonton with Sister Marion Francis on June 1, 1927.

The Annals say this: "June 9, Sister Elizabeth Seton and Sister Marion Francis took the four o'clock train to Westlock, which is fifty-seven miles north of Edmonton. While the hospital is being built, the sisters will reside in the priest's house, having another small dwelling house for the reception of patients." A pioneer citizen of Westlock, Mrs. Grace Bentley, describes the "small dwelling house" for us: "There were two large rooms upstairs, one of which was divided, but little privacy because of thin walls. There was, of course, a stairway. Downstairs a large front room, an ell to the west, a kitchen and another small room."

The priest who accommodated the sisters was, of course, Father Rooney. A book could be written on all that our beloved benefactor meant to the sisters and to the hospital until his death in 1975. Monsignor, as he later became, had at one time or another, turned his hand to almost every aspect of hospital operation — plumber, maintenance man, porter, mailman and board member. Many a time Monsignor came to the rescue of the sisters in their troubles. An indication of his steadfast devotion to being of assistance was the regularity with which the mail arrived daily. One could set one's watch by Monsignor's arrival for Mass, for meals or with the mail.

Six days went by after the sisters' arrival before the first patient was admitted. These, no doubt, were busy days of organization and preparation. Two patients arrived on the fifteenth, one during the day with blood poisoning, the second near midnight with fractured ribs. Two days later Dr. Henderson, assisted by Dr. Stauffer, performed an appendectomy, the first operation. Five days later, the first baby was born on June 21st. The first death in the hospital occurred on July 16th.

Meanwhile plans for the new hospital were in progress. The first sod was turned on June 27th by Father Rooney. It was hoped that the building would be completed by the end of the year.

In August, two more sisters arrived, Sister Patricia Clare and Sister Mary Anacletus. The mention of staff, other than sisters, is scanty during those first years, but

when three sisters went to the city Sister Elizabeth Seton and Miss Belliveau looked after the patients, so there was at least one other staff member at this time.

By the end of 1927 a total of 159 patients had been cared for at the "small dwelling". Although the hospital was not completely finished, an outbreak of smallpox expedited the move to the new building. Dr. Henderson asked that the patients be moved to the second floor of the new hospital so that the old building could be used for quarantine. The two doctors and some of the men of the town assisted in transferring the eight patients and such equipment as they had. It was all accomplished in three hours. A week later the sisters moved to the new hospital.



*Sisters Elizabeth Seton, Marion Francis,
Patricia Clare, Mary Anacletus
Pioneers at the Immaculata Hospital — 1927*

All things are relative, but it is interesting to compare the financial situation then and now. In August, 1927 the hospital received a "per diem" grant of fifty-six dollars from the government, covering two months' operation. Today, a similar period of operation would bring in excess of two hundred thousand dollars. In those days the sisters were truly grateful for donations of turnips, chicken and like items. While the sisters are still grateful when such are donated, a thank you is more often given for such things as cardiac monitors and ventilators, each valued around five thousand dollars.

Archbishop O'Leary officiated at the solemn blessing of the new Immaculata Hospital on Sunday afternoon, July 22, 1928. Close to four hundred people attended and were served a delicious supper by the ladies of the parish following a tour of the hospital.

One of the hospital's best friends and supporters was born during the spring of 1929 — the Ladies Auxiliary. The first officers of this organization were: President, Mrs. A. M. Crawford; Vice President, Mrs. Watt; Sec.-Treas., Mrs. G. Crane. These ladies and their successors have worked tirelessly and given invaluable service to the hospital. The first tag day was organized for May 24th that year. The sum realized was thirty-eight dollars and sixty cents. Again, to compare with today's figures, the last tag day netted the ladies well over one thousand dollars. During the first winter of their existence the auxiliary kept the sisters supplied with coal, bought an operating room light, bedside tables, some of which are still in use, as well as making housecoats and other clothing items. They certainly accomplished a great deal with the little they had to work with.



Immaculata Hospital - 1928

The thirties brought the Depression. The hospital, like the rest of the world, struggled for survival. The beds were often empty because the people could not afford to be hospitalized; often as not, those who were admitted, paid their bills with produce.

At one point when they had only ten dollars on hand, the sisters were faced with the threat of having to haul water when the motor on the well pump burnt out. It was estimated that a new motor would not be available for two or three months and would cost seventy-five dollars. This threat came to nought when the town electrician was able to repair the motor.

Where the keynote of the thirties had been financial survival, that of the forties was organization in the health care field. The nurses attended various nursing meetings throughout the province. The administration became active in the Associated Hospitals of Alberta and the Catholic Hospital Conference. This period marked the beginning of the "Age of Meetings".

In the early nineteen forties there was a dearth of doctors in town. Dr. Lawrence Kickham, who had been practicing here since 1932, had joined the armed forces. Dr. George Whissell of Legal, who had been operating here occasionally, was prevailed upon by Monsignor Rooney and the sisters to come to Westlock. Dr. Whissell consented to come temporarily, but happily for us he stayed and is still an active member of both the Medical Staff and the Advisory Board.

The first meeting of the hospital Medical Staff was held on October 2nd, 1946. It was agreed that the Medical Staff of Barrhead would be included. Meetings were to be held monthly for the purpose of discussing current cases and those of a more important nature in the interest of patient and staff alike. Those present were Doctors Whissell, Woodman and Kickham and sister nurses. Following from this first meeting much fruitful work has been done through the Medical Staff meetings throughout the years. Our present status as an accredited hospital is due in no small way to the efforts of the Medical Staff in helping to upgrade standards throughout the hospital.

Bed space was becoming a problem at this period. On several visits, the Inspector of Hospitals had commented on beds being set up in the corridors. This could be a fire hazard. Thought was given to planning a new wing. By May, 1948, the grounds were being prepared for the building.

The two hen houses were moved to the rear of the garage and machinery arrived to cut down the trees and shrubs on the needed ground. The first sod was turned on September 14th by Father Rooney with all members of the staff present.

The ceremonies for the laying of the cornerstone were held on July 20th, 1949. Contained in the cornerstone is a statement signed by Bishop Baudoux of St. Paul, Rev. E. Rooney, E. Stutchbury, R. Jorgenson, M.L.A. and Dr. M. L. Bow, Deputy Minister of Health. Also enclosed in the box are the names of the Sisters of the Mission for 1949, the current issue of the "Westlock Witness" and documents of the doctors. The new wing was ready for occupancy on November 20th, 1950.



Immaculata Hospital – 1950

A third floor was added to the original hospital, providing more accommodation to house the sisters, whose number was increasing. In later years, before the opening of the Auxiliary Hospital, some of the rooms were used for long term patients, though the nursing care facilities were less than ideal.

The official opening of the new wing took place on September 23rd, 1951. The records read: "... the opening day has dawned at last. After some very strenuous efforts to have it presentable and to have all departments in their proper places, all was in readiness by 3 p.m. including the new cubicles for the Nursery – which proved to be quite a novelty for all visitors. The day was fine overhead but quite cold. Present were: Bishop Baudoux, Archbishop MacDonald of Edmonton, Monsignor Rooney, the Lieutenant Governor, and the Mayor of Westlock. Mr. Stutchbury acted as chairman, Dr. McCallum represented the Depart-

ment of Health. Mrs. Kunelius, President of the Ladies Auxiliary, explained the work of their association and all they had contributed to the hospital. Miss Madge Smith of Westlock, accompanied by Mrs. Frank Woodman, sang a very beautiful and appropriate solo entitled 'Bless this House'." First superior of the hospital, Sister Elizabeth Seton, was also present.

The year 1952 was the Silver Jubilee year of the hospital. The day, June 9th, passed quietly with a Community centered celebration. Sister Elizabeth Seton was invited from Edmonton. Sister Joseph Mary happened to be here from Hardisty. These were the only two guests for the celebration.

During the fifties another member of the hospital family was born. Its name was the Advisory Board. The purpose of the Advisory Board is indicated by its name. It was thought desirable at that time, to seek the advice of knowledgeable business and professional men of the district in matters of concern to the hospital administration and thus to the people whom the hospital serves. In the twenty-two years of its existence, it has grown into an effective group of dedicated individuals. Many hours of valuable service have been given by this group and much assistance given to the sisters. There are nine lay members on the present board, representative of different aspects of community life.

Hospital Accreditation, that goal which assures the institution that it has achieved a high standard of patient care, was looming on the horizon in the late fifties. Preliminary to seeking a survey, much work is necessary on the part of Administration, Medical Staff and Nursing Service. The first survey in 1957 resulted in many recommendations for improvement before we would receive accreditation status. In 1971 the combined efforts of all were rewarded with the hospital receiving accreditation for two years. Once attained, vigilance is necessary in all departments in order to keep up the standards and to improve where necessary. The last accreditation was received in June of 1976 for three years – an indication of great satisfaction on the part of the hospital surveyor and Canadian Council on Hospital Accreditation.

As the population of the District was increasing in the fifties and sixties, more bed space was needed. The population was also aging and the need was for long term care. Elderly patients frequently remained for long periods in the hospital. This put a strain on availability of beds for

patients requiring acute care. The trend in the health care field in Alberta was towards building of auxiliary hospitals to which patients requiring prolonged nursing care could be transferred. This became a reality in Westlock in 1964 when the Barrhead-Thorhild-Westlock Auxiliary Hospital was opened. This hospital, along with the Nursing Home and Pembina Lodge for senior citizens, has certainly provided the necessary added dimension for the care of the pioneer citizens of Westlock and district.

Still, a new wing was sought, since many of the facilities were inadequate. After much consultation with government, architects and contractors, the sod was turned in June, 1967. Mr. Carl Muller, M.L.A. turned the sod, assisted by Monsignor Rooney, Dr. R. D. Little, President of the Medical Staff, and Mr. Brian Edwards, Architect. Speakers for the occasion were Mr. R. Sutherland, Mayor of Westlock, Mr. R. W. McLaughlin, Deputy Reeve of M. D. of Westlock, and Mr. Miller Watt, past Chairman of the Hospital Board.

The opening ceremonies were held on October 30th, 1968. It was rather a chilly day, but bright. Premier Manning was here to cut the ribbon, accompanied by his wife. Monsignor Rooney blessed and dedicated the new wing. Mayor Harvey Doherty was present. Mr. R. J. Edgar, Chairman of the Advisory Board, acted as Master of Ceremonies. Sister Florence James, Hospital Administrator, spoke a few words of thanks to all who assisted in the work of caring for the sick in the hospital.

The new wing provided little in the way of extra beds. Special areas, such as the Labor and Delivery Rooms, Operating Rooms, Central Supply, Recovery Room, Laboratory, X-ray and Emergency Departments, were vastly improved.

It is hard to believe, after this last addition, that we would still be looking for additional space. But in this age of such technological progress, more and more specialized equipment encroaches upon available space. When the equipment is all put to work in the Operating Room or Intensive Care, there is very little room remaining for personnel. When the equipment is not in use, there is the problem of storage. However, as new construction is not contemplated, we will live with the situation for the present.

As one peruses the scrapbooks of newspaper clippings pertaining to hospital activities, one cannot help but be

amazed at the endless photographs of presentations of one kind or another to the hospital. It is then that one appreciates the interest and generosity of the people of Westlock and the area which the hospital serves. Much of the equipment purchased since the new wing was built would not have been possible but for these generous gifts. The sisters realized this only too well and are grateful.

As we look down the road from the Golden Jubilee celebrations of this hospital, we do not know what the future holds. It is our hope and prayer that we will be able to continue to share in the work of caring for the sick in Westlock for many years to come.

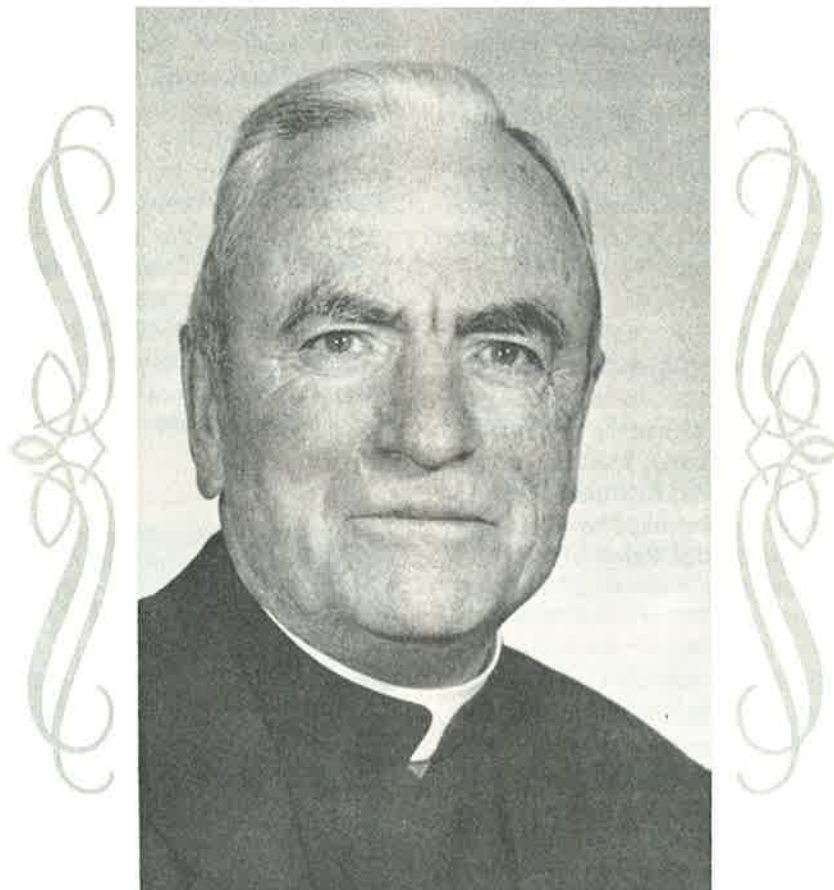


Sisters presently on staff: Sister Idella Cooke, Sister Theresa Burbridge, Sister Eileen Therese, Sister Teresa Ann, Sister Clare Fitzgerald, Sister Florence James and Sister Elizabeth Veitch



MONSIGNOR EUGENE ROONEY

May 29, 1899 – March 20, 1975



*Monsignor Eugene Rooney
May 29, 1899 – March 20, 1975*

A full half century ago, there arrived from Maritime Canada, a salty, vigorous young priest with a granite will to effect change for the better. He began with a hospital. His concern for the bodily, as well as the spiritual needs of the infant community enriched our town with four gallant Sisters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul and soon afterwards, the Immaculata Hospital.

Although his care and love for our hospital never in his lifetime waned, he then channelled his exuberant energy towards relief of the tedium of rural toil, cast his clerical collar for a workshirt, and built us a curling rink, then a golf course. His interest in the needs of his charges continued into all aspects of community life and his support of artistic, intellectual and recreational activities was always enthusiastic and encouraging.

Despite, however, the physical vessels which this potter shaped, it is a much simpler (he was a simple man) quality for which he is remembered. He was a friend. Not only was he a parish priest who exulted in his calling, he was a minister, padre, pastor, and possibly even rabbi. Those of us who prior to Pope John XXIII had never heard of "Ecumenism" had in fact been unwitting witnesses to the concept in action, for most of the lifetime of our beloved priest, leader, companion in joy and in grief, Monsignor Eugene Rooney.

Inside IMMACULATA HOSPITAL TODAY

Fifty years! From a humble beginning, the Immaculata Hospital has come a long way!!

Today we have eighty-four patient beds and a wide range of treatment facilities for medical, surgical, obstetrical and pediatric patients. There are no records available of early operating costs, but today the hospital is big business with an expected payroll of \$1,320,000 for 1977. The Immaculata Hospital represents not only a facility for health care, but provides a large economic input to the town and district. Total operating costs will approach \$2,000,000 this year.

The average person entering hospital for the first time is perhaps unaware of the many departments which provide services aimed at his well being. Each department has its own function, and each is dependent upon the other.

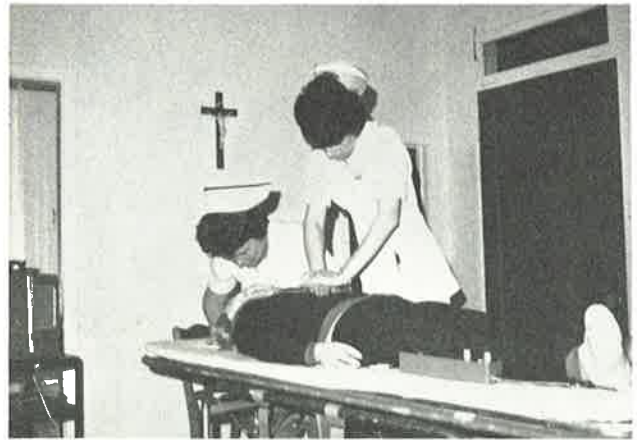


Mrs. Joyce Nadeau, Co-ordinator of Nursing and Sister Clare Fitzgerald, Director of Nursing – discussing staffing schedule.



Mrs. Maxine Munro and Mrs. Barbara Zelinsky – ministering care to bed patient. Mrs. Seiger, mother of Sister Mary Madeleine Seiger.

The Nursing Office is responsible for staffing all nursing departments. The Director of Nursing is always available for any problems which might arise. Through the Director of Nursing, staff members are encouraged to increase their nursing skills by attending lectures and demonstrations. The hospital has obtained a Resusci-Anne, which is a life size mannequin used for staff training, and practice sessions are held frequently. Several people in the Westlock area are alive today because of the on-going education and practice drills provided by this department.



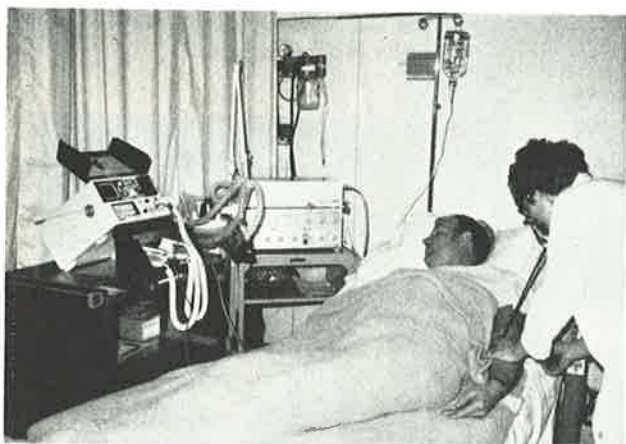
Mrs. Joanne Goldnick and Mrs. Irene Rimmer – practicing resuscitation technique on "Resusci Anne".

Medicine has made great strides in the past few years and as a result, the Immaculata has been working toward the establishment of a Special Care Unit to provide for patients with critical conditions. Staff is constantly being trained to care for these patients who formerly had to be sent to the city. Two heart monitors are available for



Mrs. Joanne Engler and Miss Nellie Van de Ligt with Miss Carmen Kurtz, work experience student – discussing new duties.

patients who have suffered heart attacks. An artificial respirator can be called into service for the patient experiencing breathing difficulty. These expensive machines are giving the patient a fighting chance for life which he might not have had formerly. There are still some areas where patients will have to go to the city, but more and more of them are staying right here for treatment.



Mrs. Gloria Fagnan – Checking blood pressure on patient in Special Care Unit.



Mrs. Louise Petryshen with Miss Tina Hermanutz, work experience student – supervising meal time in Pediatric Department.

A few years ago, the University of Alberta established a precedent in Westlock by providing an opportunity for Medical Students to study family practice in a small hospital setting. This type of elective is only available to the students in one other small hospital in Alberta. The Dean of Medicine at the University of Toronto was favorably impressed by this program and Ontario has now adopted

a similar program. Twelve doctors, three dentists, five radiologists, one pathologist and the Medical Officer of Health constitute the Medical Staff. These are available to the students, giving them a wide range of opportunities to see how a country hospital functions.



Medical Staff
Back Row: Drs. R. D. Little, W. S. Jamieson, J. K. Deacon
Front Row: Drs. G. L. Whissell, L. D. Dumaine



Medical Staff
Back Row: Drs. S. C. Patel, S. N. Ho, S. J. Gomes, A. C. Watt
Front Row: Drs. J. Guy Gokiart, P. F. Karpluk, W. A. Vaughan

The Maternity Department is perhaps the happiest department in the hospital. Last year 154 babies were born to swell the population! Liaison with the larger hospitals in Edmonton makes transfer of sick infants readily available, as a team will come from the city by ambulance with all the equipment necessary to care for the sickest of babies. Pre-natal courses are available for prospective mothers. Fathers are welcome to be with their wife during both her labor and delivery. Visiting is restricted in this department; however, the new baby and mother are allowed one visit by any small brothers and sisters.



Sister Teresa Ann – caring for a newborn.

At the heart of the hospital we find the Central Supply Room. Central Supply is responsible for providing sterile supplies to all nursing departments, stocking wards with intravenous fluids, providing isolation equipment, and ordering and distributing such items as bandages, dressings, adhesive tapes, etc. The operating room packs and surgical instruments are cleaned, packed and sterilized daily by central supply personnel. At least four loads of supplies are sterilized daily. Much of the equipment used in the hospital requires distilled water for operation and this is prepared in this department. A heat sealer is used to package many items for sterilizing. Color coded labels insure that sterile supplies are rotated to avoid long storage periods. This insures that sterility is maintained.



Mrs. Katherine Shelton – unloading sterile supplies from sterilizer.

Adjacent to Central Supply is the Operating Theater. Last year 675 operations were performed there. A wide variety of surgical procedures was done ranging from Caesarean Sections and Gallbladder operations to minor

procedures such as Tonsillectomies and Dental Restorations. The Operating Room has recently been equipped with a new artificial respirator and wall view boxes for illuminating x-ray films while surgery is in progress.



Drs. Patel, Vaughan, Karpluk, and Mrs. Colleen Rode – busy in the Operating Room.



Mrs. L. Foster and Sister Eileen Therese – caring for a patient in the Recovery Room.

From the Operating Room, the patient is wheeled to the Recovery Room to waken from the anesthetic. The Recovery Room has facilities for four patients. Blood pressure and vital signs are checked frequently and equipment is immediately available to treat any emergency which might arise. When the patient is fully conscious, he is moved to his bed in the ward where observation of his condition is continued.

Two very vital departments for aid in diagnosis are the Laboratory and Radiology. The Laboratory performs anywhere from 100 to 150 lab tests daily. Our Laboratory is well equipped to handle the tests required. Of interest is

the Blood Gas Analyzer which measures the amount of oxygen and carbon dioxide in a sample of blood. Formerly all bacteriology studies had to be sent to the city, but new facilities in this department have overcome this. Much time is saved when the doctor wishes to know what bacteria are causing an infection and which drug would be the most effective treatment.



Mrs. Cathy Lent and Mrs. Marion Zilinski – working in the Laboratory.

The Radiology Department is located next door to the Laboratory. Besides being responsible for routine and emergency x-ray films, fluoroscopy takes place on a weekly basis under the direction of a radiologist. All x-ray films are kept on file for five years or longer if necessary. Student technicians from the Laboratory and X-ray School in Edmonton gain practical experience under the watchful eyes of our own technologists.



Ms. Marjory Hodgkin – preparing to x-ray a patient.

The hospital Pharmacy is operated by a pharmacist, and a complete range of medication is on hand. Stock drug

supplies are maintained by the pharmacist at each nursing station as well as special individual prescriptions which are dispensed as required.



Mr. Bob MacKenzie – checking Pharmacy stock.

The Emergency Department is perhaps one of the most interesting departments. Service is available twenty-four hours a day. All patients who arrive through this door are given treatment according to their need, with a wide variety coming each day. The staff is ready around the clock to provide treatment for all conditions; which can range from lacerations, fractures, croup or convulsions in children, to serious accident victims. Treatment of patients with respiratory ailments is carried on in conjunction with this department. Last year, over 1,000 Bennett Respiator treatments were given to out-patients.



Dr. R. D. Little assisted by Sister Elizabeth Veitch – suturing a laceration in Emergency.



Mrs. Arlene Rains – adjusting Bennett breathing machine for patient.

The hospital Administrator is responsible for the day to day operation and management of the hospital. Diplomacy and tact are essential qualifications among others. The Administrator confers regularly with the department heads and members of the medical staff with the aim of providing the best care and service to all.



Sister Florence James, Administrator – reviewing Policy Manual.

Financial management of the hospital is controlled by the Accounting Office. This department also looks after the collection of most hospital statistics. The payroll constitutes a large part of the work. Periodic reports have to be sent to the government and other bodies, compiled from the financial and statistical records. Monthly and yearly financial statements have to be presented to the Hospital Board in order that the hospital may be managed in the most satisfactory manner with the funds available.



Mrs. Terry Swaren and Mr. Jack Phillips – discussing payroll records in the Accounting Office.

The Admitting Office is responsible for obtaining the information from each patient who receives treatment in the hospital. Bills for services not covered by the Government Insurance scheme originate here. The public address system and telephone switchboard are located in this department. Mail for patients is distributed by admitting office personnel.



Mrs. Debby Latimer – admitting a patient.

The Medical Record Department is responsible for transcription of doctors' notes and assuring that the medical records are complete before they are filed. These records are used when a patient is subsequently admitted to hospital and his medical history is reviewed; for compilation of statistics; for study and improvement of patient care; and assisting in protecting the legal interests of all concerned.



Mrs. Connie Brost – filing in Medical Records Department.

The Dietary Department is a busy department at all times, and one which is easily overlooked when bouquets are being handed out. The staff prepares over 200 meals per day. Fresh produce is ordered three times a week, milk is purchased daily, and canned goods are obtained on a weekly basis. Meat, an important dietary item, is amply provided through the week. In the course of a week, at least half a beef, some pork, chicken and fish are served. Special



Sister Theresa Burbridge and Mrs. Gwen Doherty – checking diets.



Mrs. Jessie Franchuk and Mrs. Katie Semeniuk – preparing dinner.

diets are planned and prepared, and any festive occasion is marked with a suitable holiday tray for each patient.



Staff Cafeteria.

The members of the Ladies Auxiliary provide a bi-weekly opportunity for the patients to purchase sundry supplies. This service is carried out on a year round basis. Through their generosity, the ladies donated various pieces of equipment, including hi-low beds and television sets. They also spear-headed a community drive for equipment for a special care unit.



Mrs. Sarah Heemeryck and Mrs. Pat Vadheim from the Ladies Auxiliary – selling supplies on their bi-weekly visit.

The hospital Chapel is located on the first floor. Mass is celebrated by the hospital Chaplain each day, Monday through Friday, and patients and staff are welcome to attend. The Chapel is always open to any one for a few moments of quiet prayer. The spiritual needs of all patients are provided for by visiting clergy of all faiths.



Father W. Laliberty – saying Mass in the Chapel.

The hospital Laundry and Linen Rooms are busy places. The laundry staff sorts and pre-soaks stained linen used by the hospital. Each day all patient linen is changed and this results in huge quantities of washing for the staff



Miss Sigrid Knippschild and Mrs. Lily Sams – loading the washer in the Laundry. Sister Idella Cooke – supervising.

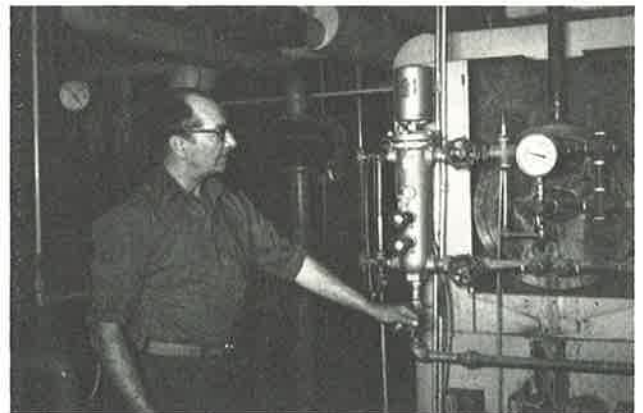


Mrs. Sarah Otto – repairing linen.

to handle. In the Linen Room, a busy seamstress is responsible for mending linen and replacing all worn out items. In addition to mending, she is also responsible for making the special uniforms worn by the doctors in the Operating Room and the draperies for the windows throughout the hospital. Alterations are done as needed to uniforms worn by the operating room, dietary and housekeeping staffs. All linen items used in the operating room packs are made here and linen for the whole hospital is marked with the hospital stamp in this department.



Mrs. Helen Miller – Housekeeping – Third Floor.



Mr. Albert Martin – checking steam boiler.

Housekeeping staff is responsible for the cleanliness of the hospital. Routine cleaning techniques, using approved disinfectants are carried out daily. A more thorough cleaning of special areas is done periodically according to a pre-determined schedule. The general spotless appearance of the hospital gives evidence of the staff's efficiency. This helps to make a pleasant environment for patients, staff and visitors.

Maintenance is another department which deserves a note of appreciation. These men are responsible primarily for the steam heating of the entire building, but they also repair much of the equipment as required and look after the general upkeep of the premises. They are truly Jacks-of-all-trades, and can be seen attending to plumbing, painting snow removing, incinerating of garbage, plus many other duties.

It is through the co-ordinated efforts of all departments that a high standard of care is provided for our patients. We hope that this illustrated review of the present Immaculata Hospital and your meeting with a few of the personnel have given you some idea of the health care facility serving the people of this district.

A Word of Thanks

A Jubilee is a time for rejoicing and for gratitude. We are happy that our sisters have been able to provide health care for the people of this area over the past fifty years. We are grateful for the support of many individuals and groups in helping us to serve.

First, recognition must be given to our own employees who carry out their duties with a spirit of loyalty and devotion. Many have been with us for a long time, and we appreciate their steadfastness.

The members of our Advisory Board give generously of their time and knowledge, and without remuneration, to assist in the management of the Immaculata Hospital. We are very grateful to these public-spirited citizens who show such a keen interest in everything pertaining to the growth of this institution.

We are fortunate in having doctors on our Medical Staff who are untiring in their efforts to give the best possible care to their patients. Our reports from the Canadian Council on Hospital Accreditation have commented on the excellent liaison and co-operation among Board, Medical Staff and Administration. We thank all who have worked to bring this about.

Special words of gratitude are due to the Ladies Auxiliary. We are indeed thankful for the support of this very active group, especially for their donations towards the purchase of hospital equipment.

The visits of the local clergy to the patients are appreciated. They make a valuable contribution to the patients' spiritual and psychological welfare, thus hastening, in many instances, the healing process.



*Sister Florence James
Administrator*

We are well aware of the interest of the citizens of this town and the surrounding district which is shown in many ways, and we are glad that we are here to take care of you when you need us.

It is fitting that we acknowledge the financial support provided by the Provincial Government in order to enable us to carry on the work of our apostolate. Amicable relations have been established with the Alberta Hospital Services Commission, and we trust that they will continue.

We appreciate the efforts of all those who have contributed so generously, through their time, talents, and contributions, to the celebration of this Jubilee.

And so, to one and all who have had a part in bringing us to this day, we express our heartfelt gratitude. We thank God for His many blessings over the past fifty years, and we pray for His guidance and protection in the years ahead.

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