

# Cross Currents



## HOLY CROSS HOSPITAL

Silver Spring, Maryland

Vol. 19 No. 5

October - November, 1983

### Hospital's Board Elects New Members

Prominent Washington area businessman A. L. Jagoe and Sister Geraldine Blume, C.S.C., principal of the Holy Cross Academy, Kensington, Md., have been elected to the 18-member Board of Trustees of Holy Cross Hospital.

Mr. Jagoe, of Kensington, replaces outgoing board member Joseph P. Blocher of the law firm of Linowes and Blocher. Mr. Blocher had completed his second three-year term on the board and was ineligible for reelection. Sister Geraldine fills a vacancy created by outgoing board member Sister Rita McQueeney, C.S.C.

Mr. Jagoe is Board Chairman and founder of Corporate Insurance Management, headquartered in Washington, D.C., and director of Protectogon, Inc., mass merchandiser of personal insurance. Additionally, Mr. Jagoe is director of the Salvation Army, Security National Bank, the David A. Dawson Company, and Keller-May, Inc.

Sister Geraldine has experience as a guidance counselor and teacher and holds a master's degree in both English and Theology from the University of Notre Dame in South Bend, Ind.



*A "Lifeline" home unit — Hospital employee Jean White holds a battery-powered call button used at home to summon help during an emergency. When pressed, the button causes the equipment under the telephone to automatically dial an operator at Holy Cross Hospital.*

### Holy Cross Offers Lifeline Service to Area Residents

Holy Cross Hospital now is offering a personal emergency response service for individuals who have a handicap or a medical condition which could precipitate a crisis.

A subscriber to the service, called "Lifeline," wears a device the size of a matchbook that contains an emergency button. Should a crisis arise, the person pushes the button to activate the Lifeline system. Then, electronic equipment attached to the person's telephone automatically dials the hospital's emergency response center (the Centrex office). The equipment will work even if the phone is off the hook or if there is no electrical power.

An operator at the Centrex office, which is manned 24 hours, will try to reach the subscriber by phone to see what help is needed. A file card containing medical information and a list of people who can respond to the subscriber's home in an emergency is kept in the Centrex office.

If the subscriber fails to answer the phone, the operator will attempt to contact a responder to go to the subscriber's home. But, if none can be reached, the operator will dial the 911 emergency number, and an ambulance will be dispatched.

If a responder is contacted, he or she will signal the hospital by resetting the Lifeline



A. L. Jagoe



Sr. Geraldine



**Earl Snyder (left), president of the Wheaton-Kensington Rotary Club, and Rotarian Dr. William Strahan present a \$998 check to Holy Cross Hospital's Kids in Safety Seats program. Accepting the Rotary Club's donation are Nancy Nagel, R.N., co-director of the hospital's project KISS, and pediatric nurse Dorothy York (right).**

## KISS Program Places More Infants Into Safety Seats

Holy Cross Hospital, through its Kids in Safety Seats (KISS) program, has helped parents place 614 infants into approved car safety seats since the project began in November 1982.

The demand for infant safety seats remains high — a sign that more and more parents believe they can prevent death or serious injury to their children if they are involved in an automobile accident.

In addition, a Maryland law requiring all children under five years of age to be secured in approved car restraints takes effect Jan. 1, 1984.

Under Holy Cross' ongoing KISS program, new and expectant parents come to the hospital two evenings a week to rent infant car safety seats and to attend a one-hour class on the proper use and care of the seats. The classes and rentals are available to all parents; birthing at Holy Cross is not required.

For just a \$12 deposit, parents may borrow an infant car seat for nine months or until the child reaches 20 pounds in weight. When the seat is returned clean and in good condition, \$5 is returned to

**KISS** (continued on back page)

### LIFELINE (continued on page 1)

equipment at the subscriber's home. The hospital then will call the responder to see what kind of help is needed. If medical assistance is necessary, the responder either can take the person to the hospital or summon an ambulance.

The Lifeline equipment also features a timer, which the subscriber resets automatically each time he or she uses the telephone. If for any reason, the subscriber is unable to reset the timer, the equipment will dial the hospital and start the emergency procedure.

### Lifeline Needs Your Support

Holy Cross is leasing the Lifeline equipment to qualified applicants for \$12 a month. However, a sliding scale fee arrangement will be used in case of financial hardship.

In an effort to defray the cost of the Lifeline system, the hospital is using volunteers, trained by the hospital's Safety and Communications Department, to install the equipment in the subscriber's home. In addition, Holy Cross would greatly appreciate the community's financial support to offset the cost of the service for those unable to afford it.

Anyone who wishes to assist with the Lifeline program should call Holy Cross Hospital's Safety and Communications Department at 565-1850.

### Ethics Panel to Discuss "No Code" Orders

Members of Holy Cross Hospital's Ethical Advisory Committee (EAC) will present their proposed *Guidelines for "No Code" Orders* and proposed *Principles and Guidelines for the Treatment of a Patient for Whom a "No Code" Order has been Written* at a panel discussion for hospital employees and physicians on Dec. 7.

A physician may issue a "No Code" order — which directs nursing personnel to refrain from heroic lifesaving measures when death appears imminent — after consultation with family members.

The panelists are Howard Goldstein, M.D., chairman of the EAC subcommittee that prepared the proposed principles and guidelines, and a member of Holy Cross' medical staff; Judy Greaver, R.N., 6th Floor Head Nurse, Morning Shift; and Barbara Hamilton, R.N., Coronary Care Unit.

Following the panel's presentation, nationally renowned ethicist Sister Corrine Bayley, C.S.J., will comment on the proposed guidelines and offer her reflections.



**Prominent Washington area pediatrician Morris Feitel, M.D., has been appointed to the newly-created position of Vice President for Medical Affairs at Holy Cross Hospital. Dr. Feitel, who was named Pediatrician of the Year in 1981 by the Montgomery County Pediatric Society, has been in private practice for more than 20 years. He will assume his new duties Jan. 2, 1984.**

## DONATIONS - GIFTS - MEMORIALS

Received July 15, 1983 through October 10, 1983

**DEVELOPMENT FUND CONTRIBUTIONS** — The gifts of many people make possible continuing improvements in health care services at Holy Cross. All gifts are tax deductible. Checks should be made payable to Holy Cross Hospital Development Fund.

Joseph Grefig

Regina Steinroth

**MEMORIALS AND REMEMBRANCES** — Gift memorials are a thoughtful way to express love and respect for a deceased relative or friend and to extend our sympathy to the family. Memorial gifts may also be used to honor special occasions—anniversaries, birthdays, holidays and other events. All gifts are tax deductible.

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## chaplain's CORNER

In the near future Holy Cross Hospital will inaugurate a "Wellness Center" for employees in conjunction with the recently acquired Holy Cross Resource Institutes. Many in the hospital community have long awaited the coming opportunities for help in shaping and structuring a healthy lifestyle. Besides all of the proactive programs that will be available, I feel it is good to begin to meditate on the fundamentals which underlie the concept of wellness. It seems to me that *responsibility* is a crucial principle to be considered.

Responsibility is a scary proposition for many of us. I believe the aversion many persons have to take leadership stems from a fear to take responsibility. Certainly, there is no lack of persons who crave power and authority. It is responsibility that many would just as soon not have to face. This is true whether one speaks of family, church, job, or most importantly him or herself.

Responsibility is accepting an obligation with all the attending accountability. If we can accept responsibility the possibility looms that one just may be singled out as the cause for events or results — enough to set timid feet scampering. In a word, responsibility translates commitment — a commodity in such short supply these days that the institutions which traditionally have given our lives meaning (family, church, state) all teeter on the brink of an abyss that few pundits now venture a hopeful scenario where our society can find a way out.

St. Paul writes to the Christians of Ephesus of his hopes that "we become the perfect man, fully mature . . ." (4:13). A way to enter into this hoped for adulthood is to take responsibility for our own lives without the stifling assessment of blame on other people or circumstances. The alternative to accepting self-responsibility is assuredly irrelevance in our homes and work place which will reap the dividends of alienation and fragmentation. In a word, hopelessness then pervades our lives. The payoff for embracing responsibility is that we gain our own self-esteem and self-worth. In this spiritual adulthood, formed in the crucible of self-responsibility for our own actions and decisions, we stand erect and proud as true heirs of God's kingdom, sons and daughters reared on wellness.

Brother James Jenkins, C.S.C.  
Director of Pastoral Care

### How Computers Make X-Rays Safer

The story of digital radiography at Holy Cross Hospital appears in the next issue of Cross Currents.

## Holy Cross Clinic Extends Maternity Care

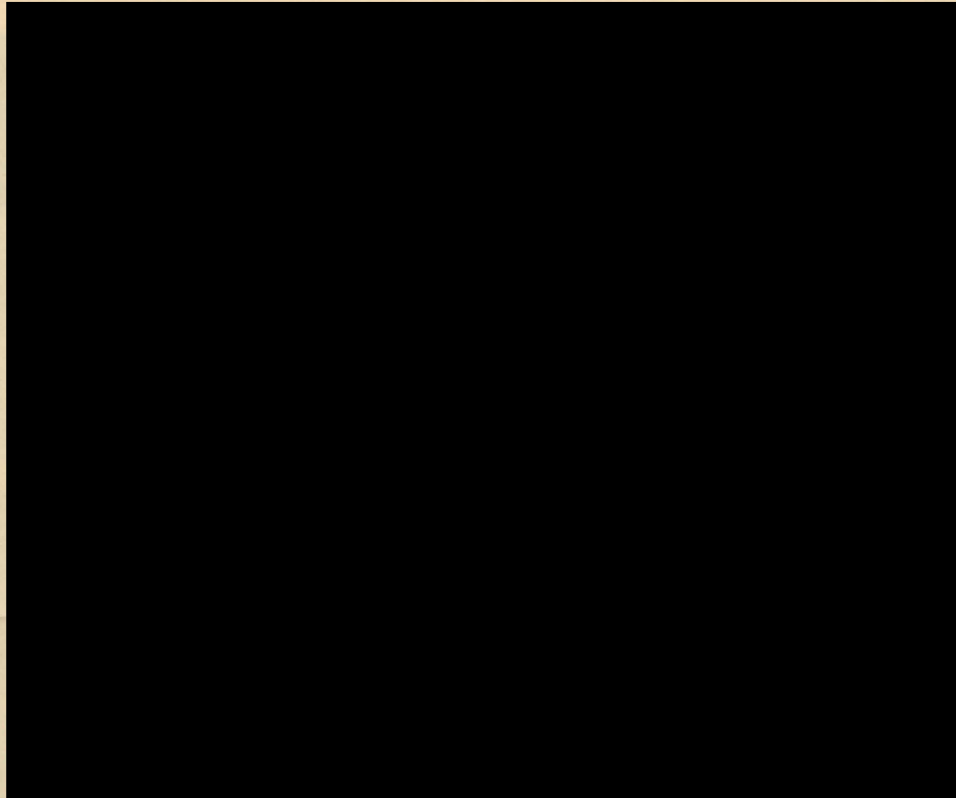
This November, Holy Cross Hospital marks the first anniversary of its obstetrical program for maternity patients who use Columbia Road Health Services in northwest Washington, D.C.

Through their affiliation, Holy Cross and Columbia Road have helped nearly 100 expectant mothers (and their babies) have a safe and pleasant birthing experience. This effort is noteworthy because most of these patients are new to the United States and are unfamiliar with our health care system. Moreover, they speak little or no English and are ineligible for insurance or medical assistance despite family incomes at or below the poverty level.

Anne Deegan, R.N., Senior Staff Nurse at the Holy Cross OB/GYN clinics, said, "These expectant women receive most of their prenatal and postnatal care at Columbia Road Health Services. They come to Holy Cross for one prenatal visit (usually between their 34th and 36th week) and return to our hospital to give birth. Women with complicated pregnancies are examined more frequently at the hospital."

During their hospital visit, expectant mothers are introduced to the physicians who will help them during labor and delivery. Following their examination, the women tour the labor and delivery areas, the nurseries, and the postpartum nursing unit.

Dr. Allison Hamilton, an obstetrician at Columbia Road, said this about the affiliation: "Our patients are very grateful for the warm treatment they receive from the Holy Cross staff. Since America is a new culture to most of our patients, the normal fears and anxieties that accompany



pregnancy are intensified. The hospital staff treats each patient with kindness and respect."

Continuity of medical care is enhanced by the weekly visits of Columbia Road staff, with their patients, at Holy Cross. Both staffs use these meetings to review each expectant woman's health and treatment.

The hospital is extending the same economic considerations to the maternity patients of Columbia Road Health Services as it does to the needy who live in Maryland, and the Columbia Road patients have faithfully met their financial obligations.

### **KISS** (continued from page 2)

the borrower. Medical Assistance recipients pay only the refundable \$5 fee.

The KISS program at Holy Cross Hospital would deeply appreciate the financial support of groups and businesses. All contributions will be used to purchase new infant car safety seats (at \$25 each). If your organization is capable of helping the KISS program reduce the number of infant deaths and injuries caused by auto accidents, please send a tax-deductible contribution made payable to:

Holy Cross Hospital  
1500 Forest Glen Road  
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Write "KISS Program" on the check.

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