

— INTRODUCING THE THREE NEW —
SISTERS OF CHARITY HOSPITALS
— THE PONTIFF IS SO PLEASED ! —

They have been preaching in our schools, now they are taking over our hospitals.

However, those hospitals were, in great measure, built and paid for by the sacrificing efforts of faithful Seventh-day Adventist church members over many years. Yet now we are handing them over to the Catholics.

You say, "*Impossible!*" But it is true. A Roman Catholic will be the CEO. A single board will work under him, and we are not told what religion its members adhere to! But we can be assured, because of the inequality of the merger (our 3 into 19 of theirs), that the priests have at least 80 percent of the vote.

You say, "*not several hospitals!*" Yes, several. **This initial merger hands over three Adventist hospitals. Our people are so kind and quiet about such matters, that more will probably follow.**

You say, "*It can't have already happened; the church members were never told and asked to approve such a merger!*" No, the church members were never told—until the announcement was issued on December 16 to the world in general. The press corps were the first to publicly hear the news.

Pope John Paul II knew what was going to happen, before any of our church members did!

This handover was slated to be completed in January 1996. So this offering to the Vatican will be a thing of the past by the time we have

learned enough about it—to get it into your mailbox. **But then, why should you be concerned? Our people are never concerned anymore about anything that happens in our church. Instead, they just walk around in continual shock.**

How could this happen? Well, that is an interesting question. Let us go back a few years. The people of God have a few things to learn. One is that they cannot always trust men.

In 1893 a retired pastor, John Fulton, visited Boulder, Colorado, in an effort to regain his health. Favorably impressed with the locality, he wrote to John Harvey Kellogg, medical director of the Battle Creek Sanitarium, and urged him to start a sanitarium in Boulder.

A small facility opened on December 4 of that year, and gradually it grew. Several buildings had been erected and dedicated for service by 1896. In 1905, this natural-healing institution was named the Boulder Sanitarium.

In 1910 it was turned over to the Central Union Conference. This was the way it should be, since the church members had paid for the facility to be erected.

Enlargement continued, as the years passed. It brought a strong Adventist presence into the region. (Boulder is about 30 miles from the state capital, Denver.)

In 1928, Henry M. Porter, a businessman from Denver, was deeply

impressed with Adventist natural healing methods at the Glendale Sanitarium, in southern California. Later, he went to the Paradise Valley Sanitarium for additional care. The natural healing methods which were used and the uncommon Christian care he received astounded him.

That same year, he and his daughter, Dora Porter Mason, gave to the Adventist Church \$330,000 to build and furnish a 75-bed hospital on a 40-acre plot of land in Denver, Colorado (\$15,000 for the site, and \$315,000 for the hospital).

The contract, signed on October 16, 1928, was the largest single gift received by our denomination up to that time.

The institution opened to the public on February 16, 1930. Many of the nurses came from the Boulder Sanitarium. They and the physicians were still using natural remedies by that date.

Later, Porter and his daughter, made a second gift of \$50,000 to pay for the erection of a nurses' dormitory.

With the passing of years, church members throughout the union contributed to help Porter Sanitarium grow larger. The objective was to use medical missionary work as an entering wedge to reach the great mass of humanity living in the Greater Denver region.

By the late 1940s, the facility had 130 beds. In 1949, it increased its capacity to 215 beds. The name "sanitarium" was later dropped, to

— VISIT YOUR NEW —
SISTERS OF CHARITY HOSPITALS
— THE PRIESTS AND NUNS WELCOME YOU —

reflect the fact that the medical institution was becoming just another hospital.

However, it was in trying to ape the medical practices of the world, that we gradually fell below them. Why should a person go to an Adventist hospital, when he can obtain similar care elsewhere? The effort to appeal to the world boomeranged.

From time to time, in recent years, we have noted the increasing financial problems of Porter Hospital. From the late 1980s onward, they have intensified.

As a result of the financial scandals, which have occurred here and there in the various Adventist Health Systems in the 1980s, the General Conference finally stepped in and tried to stop the financial hemorrhaging. **But the audaciously high salaries which were being paid by AHS, with General Conference permission, to its managers (\$90,000 to \$150,000 a year), only hastened**

"Let the watchmen on the walls of Zion not join with those who are making of none effect the truth as it is in Christ. Let them not join the confederacy of infidelity, popery, and Protestantism in exalting tradition above Scripture . . .

"The question has been asked, 'What do you mean by a confederacy? Who have formed confederacies?' You know what a confederacy is—a union of men in a work that does not bear the stamp of pure, straightforward, unswerving integrity . . .

"Men and women have confederated to oppose the Lord God of heaven, and the church is only half awake to the situation. There needs to be much more of prayer, much more of earnest effort among professed believers."—*Excerpts from 4 Bible Commentary, 1141-1142.*

the inevitable collapse. Our medical facilities became totally incapable of surviving financially in the stiff competition of hospitals in North America today.

First, we adopted the medical practices of the world. Then we began using their centralized health systems controls. Finally, our medical leaders decided to live like kings, as befitting their important titles.

Yet they enriched themselves, knowing that, each year, the patient bed count was shrinking. To make matters worse, new technologies required that, in order to continue aping worldly medical ways, even more expensive equipment, medicines, and surgeries must be used.

In the case of Denver's Porter Hospital, and its two subsidiary hospitals (located in Littleton and Avista, Colorado), the end essentially came at that December 16, 1995, press conference.

Think not that this will merely be a walking arm-in-arm arrangement. No, from what we read, it will be a corporate merger of our three Seventh-day Adventist hospitals—into Roman Catholic facilities!

Do not imagine it will be an even-steven kind of arrangement. **We entered the merger with facilities the far smaller of the two! This portends that our part of the merger will rather quickly get lost in the shuffle, because we can be outvoted on every issue.**

Why? because our three (3) hospitals, are merging into a large fleet of Roman Catholic institutions: sixteen (16) in all, consisting of hospitals, nursing homes and clinics! The Catholic facilities are located in Denver, Colorado Springs, Pueblo, Florence, and Canon City—all in Colorado.

And finally, according to news reports, this will be a full financial and management merger!

According to plan, by mid-January 1996, the three Porter Hospitals' facilities will have been swallowed up by the Roman Catholic Church. But do not blame them; we (in the person of our leaders) *gave* those three hospitals to them!

What, you might ask, did we gain in return for our remarkably generous gift? Nothing, absolutely nothing.

There is not one word, in the information released to the press, that our denomination was paid anything for the gift! Then why did we do it? You figure that one out.

If we had gotten tired of operating hospitals in that part of the country, at least we could have sold the hospitals to the highest bidders! But, no; we just gave the hospitals away—and we decided that the Catholics would be the best ones to receive this generous gift!

We are now giving away entire, fully staffed, and equipped hospitals! Porter Hospital, in Denver, Colorado, is one of the largest hospitals in our denomination. But it is no more; we have given it to the priests who manage a fleet of Roman hospitals in that region.

A Roman Catholic (Gary Susnara) will be the chief executive officer and, according to one accompanying news article, **it is predicted that much of lesser management (probably including the few Adventist subsidiary managers who will remain)—will soon be dropped. Our faithful nurses at those three facilities will have to get used to saying "father" and "sister" to the personnel over them.**

Well, read it for yourself and weep.

**— WE ARE GROWING BIGGER EVERY YEAR —
SISTERS OF CHARITY HOSPITALS
— A GIFT FROM OUR FRIENDS, THE ADVENTISTS —**

How did this happen? Terry White (president and CEO of the Porter Care Adventist Health Care System) agreed with his board and with the president of the Mid-America Union Conference, that this action should be taken. Church members have no voting authority over either the elections or the actions of the Adventist Health Systems or the union conferences. This should be changed! It is the AHS, CEO, and the union president who make these decisions, yet the members have no recourse, above the conference level, when wrong actions are taken.

We need to return to natural remedies for three reasons: (1) We would be obeying clear commands of God to do so. (2) The use of natural remedies requires teaching obedience to the laws of God. This prepares the people to receive our other messages. (3) There would be little competition. It is an area in which few are engaged, and produces excellent results with far fewer complications.

When will we do the work Heaven assigned us to do?

PAGE 3 — “*Adventist-Catholic Hospitals Align,*” *Our Sunday Visitor*, Sunday, January 7, 1996, p. 3. (*Our Sunday Visitor* is the largest Roman Catholic lay newspaper in America. As you can see, they express sincere thanks for our generous gift.)

PAGE 4 (TOP) — “*Avista Named in \$1.3 Billion Hospital Merger,*” *Louisville Times*, Saturday, December 16, 1995, p. 10. (Louisville is about 20 miles northwest of Denver, near Boulder, Colorado. The Avista Hospital is one of the three Adventist health-care facilities, which, according to the article, has been integrally combined, in finances and management, with the Roman Catholic Church.)

PAGE 4 (BOTTOM) — “*Catholic, Adventist Health Systems Join,*” *The Monitor*, Thursday, January 4, 1996. (*The Monitor* is another large Roman Catholic journal. Catholics everywhere are pleased; are you pleased also?)