A Perspective of Five Decades of Mission
On the Cover

Large photo: East Wing dedication ceremonies, August 1953.

Inset: To commemorate the medical center's 50-year history, SIMC employees gathered in front of the medical center's new, 191,000 square-foot Robertson Tower.
A Tribute to the Past
A Testament to the Future

To the Sisters of Providence, these terms aren't mere words. They're reasons for action. Motivated by this belief, this religious Order of Sisters began Saint Joseph Hospital 50 years ago. Since then, Saint Joseph Medical Center has grown from a one-story, 100-bed wooden structure into a 658-bed regional health-care resource. Although every decade of the medical center's 50-year history has brought advancement and adversity, one fundamental element has remained unchanged: the Sisters' unwavering commitment to enhance the value, dignity and quality of life in the community by providing compassionate health care to all in need, especially the poor. Please join us as we celebrate a half century of mission.

Dear Friends:

As administrator for Saint Joseph Medical Center, I'm looking forward to building on the last 50 years of this hospital's history. The next 50 years promise to be as exciting and even more challenging. And, thanks to the commitment from the Sisters, our medical staff, employees, volunteers and the community, we can move forward with pride.

Over the years, Saint Joseph Medical Center has emerged as one of the area's most highly regarded health-care leaders. An independent survey of San Fernando Valley resident perceptions, conducted by the nation's leading health-care market research firm, recently ranked Saint Joseph Medical Center first in overall quality among all hospitals in the Valley.

To maintain that success in the future, we need to work together. As we enter the next important phase of this institution's life, we must work to further the philosophies of the Sisters of Providence and to make sure the hospital stays focused on responding to the community's many and diverse health-care needs, from prevention to education to healing.

Meanwhile, as we move toward a major reorganization of health care, many will look to Saint Joseph Medical Center as a role model. As such, the medical center must better position itself for the future — a future that involves more managed care, more consolidations of health-care entities, and closer partnerships between the hospital and its doctors, its patients, and its community. As these relationships change and develop, patients will be more involved in their care. They will take a more active role in choosing their healthcare providers and in understanding their options. Through our ongoing efforts to make quality care available and our renewed focus on prevention and wellness, we will all experience better overall health and more responsive healthcare services.

Thus, while some predict a dire outcome for the future of health care, I for one see a brighter picture: one that includes awareness, prevention, teamwork, efficiency, greater communication, and most important, healthy open relationships among all participants. With that in mind, I look forward — with your help — to guiding Saint Joseph Medical Center toward future success as we begin another five decades of mission.

Respectfully Yours,

Michael J. Madden
Administrator
Chief Executive Officer
A decade of bobby soxers and Big Bands, The Best Years of Our Lives and National Velvet, pin-ups and Pearl Harbor, the A-bomb and D-Day, the ‘40s proved tumultuous years. As the decade began, Hitler continued his blitzkrieg across Europe. Although the United States at first pursued diplomacy rather than guns to stop him, by the end of 1941 we found ourselves at war on three continents. So began four years of austerity and sacrifice, characterized by blackouts, Victory Gardens, rationing and women at work in defense plants. After President Roosevelt's death in 1945 and Germany's unconditional surrender, President Truman ordered atomic bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, ending the war with Japan. This event, as well as the Holocaust in Europe, proved painful to us all. Rapid demobilization followed, along with housing shortages, labor strikes, soaring birth rates and a rush on long-denied pleasures — ice cream and silk stockings. Thus, with returning soldiers able to buy homes, start businesses and attend college on the GI bill, a decade that began with war ended with peace and prosperity.

Barren land and fruitful days. A time of war, hard work and camaraderie. This is how those who worked at Saint Joseph Hospital in the 1940s remember the early days.

A hospital built to provide health-care services to an area that had fewer than 100 hospital beds for nearly 300,000 people, Saint Joseph Medical Center emerged from a unique partnership between the Sisters of Providence and community leaders.

After the United States entered the war, area defense companies rapidly expanded their work forces, and enemy air raid posed an ever-present threat. The San Fernando Valley sorely needed reliable, adequate health services. As a result, Dr. Thomas Hearn, whom the San Fernando Branch of the Los Angeles County Medical Association backed, asked George Adams, a devout Catholic who had built many schools and churches for the Archdiocese, to help get sponsorship through Archbishop John Joseph Cantwell.

After hearing the pair's presentation in April 1942, the Archbishop contacted the Sisters of Providence in Seattle. Acting with characteristic decisiveness, the Sisters—daughters of Mother Emilie Gamelin who founded the congregation in Montreal in 1843 to serve the needs of the sick, poor and elderly — accepted the challenge of building and operating a hospital in the San Fernando Valley, provided they receive donated land and a federal grant. To better understand the task that lay ahead, Provincial Superior Mother Mary Mildred, S.P., and Sister Marcien, S.P., came to Los Angeles to visit hospitals, tour the San Fernando Valley and meet with local doctors. Among those who pledged their support were Drs. Hearn, Lund, McDermott, Bolander, Stadlinger, Peterson and Lakey.

One of the local companies that demonstrated its commitment was Lockheed Aircraft Corporation, which helped hospital boosters file an application for a $230,000 federal grant in May 1942. Working to facilitate the project on another front, Monsignor Thomas J. O'Dwyer, director of Catholic Charities and hospitals for the archdiocese, contacted the real estate firm of Frazier and Dunn, which convinced the City of Los Angeles to sell 11 acres of land across from Walt Disney Studios to the City of Burbank for the project. Sharing this good news in a letter to Mother Mary Mildred in August, Monsignor O'Dwyer added that Lockheed would pay the necessary fees for the land, which totaled $17,000, and donate it to the hospital. He also reported that the Federal Works Agency had approved the grant. Five days later, the Order's General Council in Montreal approved Foundation 167, as the project was then called, and gave their blessing to the new hospital.

Two months later, Mother Mary Mildred proclaimed that the name of the hospital would be Saint Joseph in honor of Saint Joseph, provider of the Holy Family, Jesus, Mary and Joseph. This name, first used in a letter from Mother Mary Mildred to architect George Adams, also honored Archbishop John Joseph Cantwell.

On October 25, Sisters Marcien and Flora Mary, S.P., arrived in Burbank to oversee construction. Although Sister Flora Mary, the hospital's foundress and first administrator, had never heard of Burbank and had heard rumors that the hospital would be built on a sand dune covered with rabbits, she looked forward to the challenge. In reality, the site was a tumbleweed-covered lot, surrounded by ranches and farmland.
The following month, attorneys Joseph Scott and J. Howard Ziemann oversaw the hospital's incorporation as "the Sisters of Charity of the House of Providence Saint Joseph Hospital of Burbank." In its new bylaws, the institution stated that its goal was to provide comprehensive, high-quality hospital services at reasonable cost to the people of the San Fernando Valley.

After receiving War Production Board approval to begin construction, the Sisters organized their Board of Directors in late December, then named Pozzo Construction Company as contractor. Several weeks later, in January 1943, groundbreaking for the four-wing, cross-shaped facility took place, with Monsignor O'Dwyer presiding. The estimated cost for the project was nearly $537,000. Blessing of the cornerstone took place on a sunny Thursday two months later. Scheduled to coincide with the centenary of the founding of the Order, the event marked yet another important milestone in the hospital's progress.

Although plans originally called for a second story, the Federal Works Agency ruled that all hospital projects had to be one story to save materials. Even at that limited height, finding materials for the building and its contents required resourcefulness. The Sisters shopped in second-hand stores for many items,

1941
Sulfanilamide first used to treat pneumonia in the United States.
Plasma discovered as a substitute for whole blood in transfusions.

1942
April
Archbishop John J. Cantwell asks the Sisters of Providence to build and operate a hospital in the San Fernando Valley (SFV).
August
Foundation approved.
September
Sr. Flora Mary named administrator.
November
Hospital incorporated.
December
Board of Directors organized.

1943
January
Groundbreaking.
November
Advisory Board established.
Hospital dedicated.
Streptomycin discovered. Term antibiotic coined.

1944
February
Hospital opens.
October
Ladies Guild established.

1945
Penicillin first used to treat scarlet fever.

1947
Heparin discovered.

1948
Sr. Zephirin succeeds Sr. Flora Mary as administrator.
Aureomycin developed.

Note: Italic type denotes national and international medical breakthroughs.
More than 900 babies were born in the hospital's maternity ward during its first year of operation.

and the builders could not use steel or cement to reinforce the building. Fortunately, thanks to Lockheed's connections with the Roosevelt White House, they found sufficient supplies to keep the project close to schedule.

In November 1943, shortly before Dedication Day, the Board of Directors announced the formation of an Advisory Board, which included Lockheed's John Canaday, Walt Disney, Blayney Matthews, Monsignor O'Dwyer, and J. Howard Ziemann among others.

On Sunday, November 28, more than 3,000 people attended Dedication Day, where Archbishop Cantwell, Mayor Hinton and Wright Felt, of the
Federal Works Agency, offered commendations.

Despite this fanfare, the hospital didn't open until February 1, 1944, because sterilizers were scarce. Although the doors were to open at 8 a.m., an imminent delivery forced Sister Flora Mary and Dr. Carl Lund to open at 5:30 a.m. As a result, Mr. and Mrs. William Smith and their 6 lb., 15 oz. son won a $100 war bond and the Stork Derby, a contest the hospital held to see who would have the hospital's first baby. Among those caring for patients in those early days were Stella DalCin, R.N., and Melba Rardin, R.N., who joined the hospital as a staff nurse, became director of nursing in 1946, and provided a model for compassion and commitment for the next 41 years.

By opening day, 12 Sisters of Providence were part of the hospital's staff, including Sister Mary Urbana in Laundry, Sister Elizabeth Mary, R.D., in Dietary, Sister Conrad Mary, R.N., in Maternity, and Sister Mary Berardo, R.N., in Surgery. Among the first medical staff members were Dr. Fenn E. Poole, former medical director of Lockheed and first chief of staff, and Drs. Hearn, Bolander, Walker, Peterson, Lund, Stadlinger, Laughlin and Ryan.

Attending to nearly 3,500 inpatients, 3,500 more outpatients, and 920 births by year end, the small staff worked long hours in less than ideal conditions. The hospital lacked air conditioning except in Surgery. So on hot days the Sisters closed all the windows in the morning and turned on fans. Other times, the staff would leave the hospital doors open for fresh air, only to find a rabbit or rattlesnake. Once they survived the heat, rain presented other problems. Because part of the land — where Providence High School now stands — became river bottom during heavy rains, the south side of the hospital had to be sandbagged to avoid flooding.

Because no antibiotics except sulfanilamide existed, nor did the blood bank, infection and hemorrhaging were ever-present dangers. Surgical nurses didn't have the benefit of a recovery room or orderlies then either, so they wheeled patients from their rooms, then returned them after surgery. Nurses even patched their own gloves.

Yet despite what might seem like primitive conditions, morale was high; and nurses like Carmen Powers, Phyllis Foulston, Gladys Nixon, Virginia Reilly and Margaret McGreevey, who joined the staff between 1946 and 1949, recalled that employees thought of one another as family. Likewise, Dr. Arthur Feinfield, who joined the medical staff in 1948, fondly recalls the hospital's warm, friendly staff. Since physicians didn't yet have their own dining room, all employees ate together. Decisions often came over a cup of coffee. Symbolizing the openness and camaraderie that existed, the front door remained unlocked, security guards were unheard of, and Walt Disney often stopped by to invite employees to cartoon and movie screenings across the street.

To involve other members of the community, Sister Flora Mary formed a Ladies Guild in November 1944, appointing Mrs. Joseph Schlarb as president and Mrs. Bob Hope as first vice president. To help the hospital grow, Sister Flora Mary put plans in motion to secure 10 acres for future expansion. Although the land she sought had been set aside for a public park, and the hospital's attorneys told her it was not for sale, she persisted. The hospital prevailed under Sister Zephirin's administration in 1949.

Thus as the decade drew to a close, what had only been a dream eight years earlier had become a thriving, bustling hospital.

Community Commitment

To help the Sisters raise money to complete the hospital, the community launched a fundraising appeal in 1943. Blayney Matthews, director of plant protection and personnel at nearby Warner Bros., served as chairman, and Burbank Mayor Walter Hinton took charge of special gifts. Among the many who contributed were an 11-year-old girl who sent 13 pennies, and a former area mailman who sent a donation from his Army paycheck. Lockheed's Employee Buck-of-the-Month Club contributed $25,000. Others contributed in more creative ways, like the dentist who used his own tractor to clear the lot's weeds.
Most people remember the '50s as a time of poodle skirts, hula hoops, Davy Crockett, Elvis and I Love Lucy. Yet this decade also brought the Korean War, the McCarthy Hearings, the Rosenberg treason trial and the landmark Supreme Court Brown vs. the Board of Education desegregation ruling. A time of social conformity, economic prosperity, atomic anxiety and political paranoia, the 1950s also witnessed the birth of the Cold War. Throughout these years, the emphasis remained on church and family. Clean-cut crooners proved all the rage, and cookie-cutter suburban homes the ideal. However, following Russia's successful Sputnik launch in 1957 and America's subsequent space program failures, the decade ended with dissatisfaction and doubt.

On the health-care scene, the decade opened with soaring birth rates and the nationwide movement of people to the suburbs. These trends combined to increase the demand for hospital beds in many areas. The San Fernando Valley was no exception. In Burbank alone the population had increased nearly 40 percent since the hospital opened its doors. As one newspaper reported, the Valley had only one hospital bed per 10,000 people, or 2,000 fewer beds than needed. At Saint Joseph Hospital, the bed shortage had grown so acute that the surgery schedule had to be cut because not enough post-op beds were available.

Eager to meet the community's needs and avert disaster, the hospital announced expansion plans. New construction added a service annex to house auxiliary services and 50 additional beds. When that solution proved only short-term, plans to build a five-story, 100-bed East Wing began.

Although the Sisters received a federal grant of nearly $600,000 and took out loans totaling $500,000 more to launch the project, experts estimated that the new wing would cost $2 million — or four times what the original building cost in 1944. To raise the additional money, the community once again came to the Sisters' aid. Prominent business leaders such as Robert E. Gross, president of Lockheed; Harry M. Warner, president of Warner Bros. Pictures; Herbert Yates, president of Republic Pictures; and William Goetz, production head for Universal Pictures, spoke out on the hospital's behalf.

Walt Disney, who headed advance gifts for the hospital's fundraising campaign, described the need for additional hospital beds this way: "It is inconceivable that a community the size of the San Fernando Valley should be as poorly equipped with hospital facilities as it is. As next-door neighbors, we have watched the growth of Saint Joseph Hospital and know of the grand work being done by the Sisters of Charity of Providence in caring for the people of the Valley. That is why we so heartily support the campaign for 100 additional beds."

With Bob Hope as chairman, his wife, Dolores, as residential donations coordinator, and Advisory Board member Wilfred Von der Ahe in charge of business contributions, the campaign proved successful.

Groundbreaking for the new wing took place March 12, 1952. Under architect John Maloney and Pozzo Construction Company's direction, the building took 17 months to complete. On Friday, August 30, 1953, Cardinal James Francis McIntyre, assisted by Monsignor O'Dwyer, led dedication ceremonies for the new facility. Speakers at the well-attended event included Burbank Mayor Karl King; Dr. Edward King, chief of staff; John Canaday, of Lockheed; Roy Disney; Nate Blumberg, president of Universal Pictures; and Mrs. Glen Graham, president of the hospital's Guild.

To handle the hospital's booming delivery rate, which averaged 1,800 deliveries a year, administration devoted three of the new wing's five floors to maternity. Under the direction of Sister Georgette Jean, S.P., who joined the hospital in 1951, the department moved to its new space October 11, 1953, a day chosen because it coincided with the Feast of the Maternity of the Blessed Virgin Mary. In 1954, Sister Mary Shearer, S.P., R.N., became supervisor of maternity services.

Besides adding much-needed space — including a free-standing auditorium — the hospital enlarged its medical staff during the 1950s. Among the first to arrive was Dr. George Campion, who became director of radiology in April 1950, a position he held for 32 years. Despite the fact that he worked long hours as the hospital's only radiologist, he still found time to launch an on-site x-ray technologist training school and the hospital's first nuclear
To help the hospital meet its fundraising goal for the East Wing during the early 1950s, Mickey Mouse gave Sister Zephira a check for $7,500 and 11-year-old paper boy Michael Adams contributed $1.10 from his earnings.

Community Commitment

During this progressive decade, the community showed its appreciation and support for the hospital in many ways. The Guild staged a successful telethon, featuring 60 radio, TV and screen personalities, to benefit the hospital’s East Wing fund-raising drive. Lockheed’s Employee Buck-of-the-Month Club contributed $60,000 for the same cause.

Other celebrities, such as Andy Devine, Ann Blyth, Virginia Mayo, Tony Curtis, Jack Benny and Donald O’Connor participated in a 1952 Salute to Mercy All-Star Show and a Raise the Roof benefit in 1953, which more than 5,000 people attended.

In 1957, the hospital’s newly formed Men’s Club and the American Guild of Variety Artists (AGVA) sponsored a three-hour program starring Pearl Bailey, Mickey Rooney, Jerry Colonna and Mel Torme at the Hollywood Bowl, with proceeds going to both Saint Joseph Hospital and AGVA.
1950
Gift Shop opens.
First kidney transplant performed.

1952
Groundbreaking East Wing. Heart-Lung machine developed.

1953
East Wing dedicated. Maternity Department moves to East Wing. Hospital receives JCAHO accreditation. Crack & Watson solve structure of DNA.

1954
Post-anesthesia recovery room opens. Emergency Room now open 24 hours a day. Sr. Genevieve, S.P., becomes administrator. Salk polio vaccine trials begin.

1955
First electroencephalograph in SFV installed. Sabin develops live virus anti-polio vaccine.

1956
First cobalt therapy unit in SFV begins operation. First air ambulance patient admitted. Hemodialysis pioneered.

1957
First Hearing Center in SFV opens. Outpatient cardiology outpatient clinic opens. Electron microscope donated to lab. First set of triplets born at hospital.

1958
St. Agnes of the Sacred Heart becomes administrator. Measles vaccine developed.

1959
Disaster drill program starts. Employees establish Blood Bank. Cardiac Catheterization lab opened.

As the medical staff grew, so did the number of Sisters. Clothed in full-length habits, some worked side by side with nurses on the units, setting high medical and moral standards, while ministering to patients’ physical and spiritual needs. For example, many still fondly remember Sister Gertrude Cecile, S.P., R.N., who established exacting standards for excellence in the operating room. Others, such as Sister Rose Lulay, S.P., who came to Saint Joseph Hospital in 1956, served in administrative positions. Like many of the Sisters, Sister Rose juggled several responsibilities. As the hospital treasurer, she headed up the business office, oversaw payroll and accounts receivable and payable, and served as the hospital’s buyer.

In 1954 Sister Genevieve, S.P., succeeded Sister Zephirin as administrator. That year set the stage for the tremendous growth in services that immediately followed. The hospital opened a post-anesthesia recovery room, and relocated and expanded the Radiology Department. The next year, the hospital added three new research laboratories, installed the first electron micrograph in the San Fernando Valley, initiated physical therapy treatment, started an employee credit union, made 24-hour medical care available in the Emergency Department, and began providing eye exams for needy children and adults at the Burbank Lions Eye Foundation clinic.

During the next four years, under the leadership of Sister Genevieve and Sister Agnes of the Sacred Heart, S.P., who succeeded Sister Genevieve in 1958, the hospital’s services and reputation continued to grow, and nursing became increasingly specialized. To help nurses gain the advanced training necessary to be able to deliver specialized services, Dr. David T. Lindenauer provided funds to launch a nursing education department in 1955. The following year, the Ford Foundation provided additional funds so the hospital could purchase a cobalt bomb unit — the first in the San Fernando Valley. This machine revolutionized cancer therapy by eliminating skin burns and improving cure rates. The following year, Saint Joseph Hospital opened the first Hearing Center in the Valley and an outpatient cardiology clinic, and purchased the first electron microscope in California — thanks to a generous donation from Republic Pictures Herbert Yates. That same year the State Assembly commended the hospital for having accomplished so much during its brief, 13-year history. Two years later, in 1959, the hospital’s cardiac service received American Heart Association certification, and a cardiac catheterization lab opened, setting the foundation for what would become a leading regional heart center. The hospital also established a disaster drill program to assist victims of air and natural disasters.

As the hospital advanced and expanded, its growing staff continued to function as a team. Physicians and employees of the time remember fondly the unwavering trust the Sisters put in them — allowing young physicians to initiate ambitious new programs, and nurses and ancillary staff to assume new responsibilities untied. Many also warmly recall the fun-filled holiday parties, and the Christmas creche that one year had live animals.

As the decade ended, those associated with the hospital — Sisters, medical staff, employees, and Guild and Advisory Board members alike — felt justifiably proud of what they had accomplished and determined to further the hospital’s mission.
Sister Elizabeth Mary (center) headed the Dietary staff during the early 1950s.

The cafeteria as it looked in 1951. Many employees fondly remember sharing stories and making decisions here over cups of coffee.

Republic Pictures Herbert Yates (seated) donated his electron microscope — the first in California — in 1957.

The cardiac catheterization lab opened in 1959, during Sister Agnes of the Sacred Heart’s administration.
Looking for new direction and leadership, the country elected John F. Kennedy president in 1960. So began a decade of social and political idealism, unprecedented civil rights demonstrations and legislation, remarkable space achievements, tragic assassinations, and the longest war and most active anti-war protest in American history. Students held sit-ins. Long hair, short skirts and psychedelics prevailed, and Dylan told those who hadn’t noticed that *The Times They Are A-Changin’*. Meanwhile, Martin Luther King led non-violent civil rights marches and delivered his stirring “I Have a Dream” speech before thousands in 1963. Afterward, President Lyndon Johnson and Congress passed the Civil Rights and Voting Rights acts, thus making blacks equal before the law. As a country, we responded to Betty Freidan and Ralph Nader, the Beatles and Joan Baez, the Watts Riots and Woodstock, collectively witnessing a nation speaking out against the status quo. Yet as the decade moved to a close, with Richard Nixon in the White House, the pendulum began to swing the other way.

As they did across the country, the ‘60s brought many changes to Saint Joseph Hospital, including the hospital’s first male nurse; disposable syringes, baby bottles and gloves; and Sisters wearing modified habits.

Talk once again focused on expansion. By now, the Valley’s population numbered nearly one million; however, Saint Joseph Hospital was no longer the only hospital in the area. Even with additional patient beds available at hospitals such as Holy Cross and Valley Presbyterian, Saint Joseph Hospital continued to operate at peak capacity, and the need for more beds and services continued.

As a result, groundbreaking ceremonies for a new, six-story West Wing took place Saturday, May 27, 1961. Walt Disney turned the first shovel. Speakers included Reverend John P. Lynch, Monsignor O’Dwyer, Burbank Mayor R.F. Brandon, Sister Agnes of the Sacred Heart and Dr. Allyn J. McDowell. Construction for the $6 million addition, designed by Welton Becket and Associates, began three weeks later.

Under the leadership of community leaders James Conway and Alan Petch, who became Advisory Board president in 1961, the hospital undertook back-to-back fundraising campaigns. Continuing its support, Lockheed donated $100,000 in 1962 for new equipment — the largest single gift to date in the hospital’s history. Likewise, corporations such as Pacific Telephone,
Community Commitment

In 1961, the National Charity League's Burbank chapter opened a children's medical clinic, under the medical direction of Dr. Wendell Coffelt. A children's dental clinic opened in 1968. To keep up with the Sisters of Providence's mission to care for the poor and needy, the hospital agreed to donate space, and the doctors and dentists donated their time. In 1964, Sister Flora Mary headed a caravan that transported much-needed food and supplies to Tijuana. The following year, hospital staff conducted a community Salk vaccine clinic. Then in 1969, members of the hospital's medical staff and administration joined Burbank police department and school district officials in organizing and running the Burbank Drug Council, which worked to prevent drug abuse.

Vons, General Motors, and Walt Disney Studios contributed to the cause. The hospital's Guild pledged another $100,000. To rally more support, Burbank Mayor Charles Compton urged community members of all faiths to contribute generously and declared July 8, 1962, Saint Joseph Hospital Sunday.

The following spring, two weeks before the new wing she helped oversee could be dedicated, Sister Agnes of the Sacred Heart died of cancer on April 28, 1963. Funeral services for the much-loved administrator — whom the medical staff's executive committee and Advisory Board had honored in 1961 by lighting a cross atop the East Wing — were held May 2. Nine days later, Cardinal McIntyre led dedication ceremonies for the new wing and for the hospital's new 108-seat chapel. Speakers included Chief of Staff Dr. Edward M. Greaney; James M. Doyle, president-elect for the California Medical Association; and Monsignor O'Dwyer. Alan Petch served as master of ceremonies.

On June 8, 1963, Sister Flora Mary, who had returned to Burbank in 1962 to oversee construction and serve as assistant administrator, succeeded Sister Agnes of the Sacred Heart. Thus began Sister Flora Mary's second term as administrator. Her first official act was to help transfer patients from the original one-story building to the new wing.

That fall, with the West Wing fully functional, remodeling on the East Wing began. Air conditioning topped the list of improvements, so that One North, a partially underground nursing unit, was no longer the coolest place to be in summer. Disney artists also contributed to the remodel, decorating the third floor Pediatric Department with Disney characters.
As the hospital campus grew, so did its technology and services. A new, six-bed Intensive Care Unit, which opened in 1961 under the medical direction of Drs. Richard Anderson and William Feeth, and nursing supervisor Sheila Bruce, provided centralized care for critically ill patients for the first time. Using bedside equipment for more timely monitoring and intervention, nurses began providing the specialized care we now know as critical care nursing. Charges for care in this unit were just $12 a day. That same year the hospital developed the first CPR program for physicians in Los Angeles County. Soon after, hospital physicians began teaching local firemen the life-saving technique, thus launching the city's first paramedic service.

In addition to critical care nursing, other nursing specialties developed at the hospital during this decade. As a result, the hospital opened adult medicine, pediatrics, orthopedics and urology nursing units for the first time. Under the direction of Carole Fischer, R.N., a community nursing department — created to assist with discharge planning and home care — also began. Based on its reputation for providing outstanding nursing care, the hospital became the clinical teaching site for Pierce and Valley College nursing students as well. Providing a learning experience of another kind, nurses Sophie Serkin and Margaret McGreevey launched the first instructional classes for expectant mothers in 1969.

Other advances during the '60s included the creation of a Red Cart system to improve cardiac arrest response in the hospital, the opening of an inhalation therapy and pulmonary function department, the expansion of vascular services, and the evolution of the hospital's Laboratory Research Program. Dr. Leopoldo Dulawa and Dr. Jerome Sacks headed the vascular services project. Dr. Sacks also initiated the hospital's cardiac surgery program, while Dr. Reuben Strauss led laboratory research.

Underscoring its determination to provide the best possible cardiac care, the hospital created one of the state's first coronary care units in 1967, under the supervision of Sheila Bruce, R.N. Such decisions came a little easier in those days. When Dr. Arthur Feinfeld first proposed the idea to Sister Flora Mary in 1964, she simply asked whether it would be good for the patients and good for the doctors. When he assured her the move would be, she told him to draw up the plans. He later also supervised the purchase of cardiac monitoring equipment and taught the unit's nurses to read EKGs and use defibrillators.

But it wasn't just the unit's nurses who received specialized training. As medical technology advanced, many doctors found themselves confronted with perplexing new medical developments. To address this need, during the late '60s the hospital, in conjunction with the USC School of Medicine, began a peer-taught continuing medical education program — one of the first community hospital CME programs in Southern California — under the direction of Dr. Richard Anderson. When USC's sponsorship ended, Saint Joseph Hospital's medical staff began sponsoring the program themselves, which they continue to do today.

An expanded campus, new technology and medical education combined to attract still more talent to the hospital. To help oversee the growing staff, the hospital formed the Administrative Advisory Council in 1964, then added its first assistant administrator the following year.

Concurrently, a growing patient census gave rise to the need for volunteers. Under the direction of Mrs. Glen Graham, community members began volunteering during the early '60s, delivering meals, mail and flowers, directing visitors and providing other help as needed. Taking their name from the Joseph in Saint Joseph, a group of 14 to 18-year-olds organized as the Josettes soon after, providing additional after-school and summer help. The volunteers added to the sense of family that continued at the hospital throughout the '60s.

Staff members brought their spouses to dances and children to yearly picnics; all shifts attended the same Christmas party in the auditorium, and employees sent birthday cards to one another via the hospital's tube system. Along with this unity went a feeling of professional pride. Instead of focusing on the limited benefits available at that time, the staff concentrated on each other's accomplishments and patient needs. Several nurses won Southern California's annual Red Rose competition, honoring those who best represented the profession, while Sister Flora Mary told nervous job applicants "You will take the job." And throughout the hospital a positive spirit prevailed.

By 1969 — the year the hospital opened a nine-bed unit for stroke patients under nurse Agnes Kelley and the year Director of Nursing Melba Rardin was promoted to assistant administrator for nursing services — Saint Joseph Hospital had become a flourishing 368-bed medical center. As a point of comparison, in 1943, the hospital had 100 beds, 159 employees, 3,500 inpatients a year and 4,000 emergency visits; in 1969, the hospital had grown five-fold, with 1,000 employees, 18,000 patients, and 20,000 annual emergency visits.
The hospital’s new 108-seat chapel, as it looked during construction in 1962.

Groundbreaking for a new six-story West Wing took place on May 27, 1961.

1960
Tribute to Sister Agnes of the Sacred Heart.

1961
American College of Surgeons approves Cancer Program.
Patient education for expectant parents begins.
Groundbreaking for West Wing:
First Intensive Care Unit in SFV opens.
First Children’s Clinic in SFV opens.
Apheresis serum available for Rh negative mothers.
First laser eye surgery.

1962
Mayor Compton declares July 8 “Saint Joseph Hospital Sunday.”
First pacemaker implant.

1963
Death of Sister Agnes of the Sacred Heart.
West Wing and chapel, begun under Sr. Agnes of the Sacred Heart, completed.
Sr. flora Mary reappointed as administrator.
PKU testing instituted in newborn nursery by Wendell Coffelt, M.D.
Angiocardiography, vectorcardiograms and phonocardiograms introduced.
Remodeling of East Wing begins.
Inhalation Therapy and Pulmonary Function Department opens.

1964
Red Cross inaugurated.
First open heart surgery performed under the direction of Eugene Sisson, M.D., and Jerome Sacks M.D.

1965
Salk vaccine clinic for community.
Medicare system begins.

1967
Hospital opens one of the first Coronary Care Units in California.
Long-time hospital supporter Walt Disney dies.
First heart transplant.

1968
Children’s Dental Clinic opens.

1969
Nuclear Medicine Dept. gets first scintillation camera.
Hospital celebrates Silver Anniversary.
Disco, pet rocks, Star Wars, the Me Generation and polyester. So came the '70s, an era that also saw the women's movement explode, the Vietnam war end, the first peacetime gas shortage, the first presidential resignation and the first appointed president. The decade also witnessed tragedies: the violent deaths at Kent State, the Munich Olympics and Jonestown. Meanwhile, the decade produced a technological revolution beyond compare. Personal computers and video games brought the microchip into homes, while CAT scans and angioplasty increased diagnostic and therapeutic options in medicine. And despite Watergate, the Three-Mile Island disaster, double-digit inflation and the Iranian takeover of the American Embassy in Tehran, many felt optimistic about the future as the decade ended.

Fueling that optimism was the technological revolution that drastically altered business, communications and the practice of medicine across the country. A decade of increased specialization, the '70s witnessed Saint Joseph Hospital’s first hemodialysis service, laminar air flow operating rooms, total hip replacement surgery, ophthalmoscan, CAT scanner and linear accelerator. In addition, the decade brought the expansion of the hospital’s open heart surgery program and specially trained emergency medicine physicians staffing the ER full-time. Many of these advances represented firsts for the entire San Fernando Valley. Representing a breakthrough of a different kind, nurses were allowed to work in pant suits.

As with each preceding decade, the hospital again found itself needing to expand. Preparations for a new six-story South Wing, nearly twice the size of the East and West wings combined, began in 1970. That same year the hospital joined the Hospital Emergency Administrative Radio (HEAR) system, agreeing to relay emergency messages and coordinate police, Red Cross and Civil Defense services in the event of a disaster.

When the Sylmar earthquake struck the following February, the wisdom of this decision became clear. Aware of the damage that Olive View, San Fernando Valley Veterans, Holy Cross and other area hospitals sustained, the hospital went on immediate disaster status, readying 90 beds for patients that other facilities couldn’t accommodate. Both the Hospital Council of Southern California and the Mother House in Montreal sent letters of commendation, praising Saint Joseph Hospital’s staff for outstanding community service.

Several weeks later, groundbreaking for the new 162-bed, $16 million wing began. Advisory Board President Alan Petch introduced the day’s speakers, which included Sister Flora Mary, Bishop John J. Ward; Provincial Superior Sister Barbara Ellen; Dr. Jarvey Gilbert, a medical-dental staff member and mayor of Burbank; and Reverend Robert E. Deegan, director of health and hospitals for the archdiocese. Chief of Staff Dr. Arnold Heyman helped spade the earth.

Soon after, Sister Flora Mary announced that Saint Joseph Hospital had changed its name to Saint Joseph Medical Center to reflect its increased size and services. Proud as she was of the hospital’s continuing success and growth, however, Sister Flora Mary followed through on her plans to leave the hospital in May 1972. A strong leader, beloved by all who knew her, she was nonetheless amazed when hundreds crowded into the auditorium to attend a farewell reception in her honor.

Under Sister Georgette Jean, who returned to the medical center as administrator in May 1972, construction for the new wing continued. During this same period, Sister Georgette Jean formalized the Pastoral Care Department under Father James A. Toal, thereby continuing the Sisters of Providence philosophy of providing spiritual and holistic care to the sick.
1971
Hospital name changed to Saint Joseph Medical Center. Groundbreaking for South Wing.

1972

1973
Dedication of South Wing. Nursing Education program expands. Demolition of original one-story building begins. Full-time Emergency Department staffing by the Burbank Emergency Medical Group.

1974
First linear accelerator in SFV begins operation. Thirtieth anniversary celebration for Melba Rardin.

1975
First EMI scanner in SFV begins operation. Construction of General Services Building begins. Saint Joseph Medical Center Institute founded to raise funds.

1976
General Services Building completed. First hospital-based pacemaker clinic in SFV opens. First ophthalmoscan in SFV begins operation. Designated first paramedic base in SFV.

1977
Dialysis Center opens. Dedication of Esther Pariseau Pavilion for Rehabilitative Care. Medical-Dental Staff renamed Professional Staff.

1979
Significant improvements in service took place throughout the '70s, including the opening of the Alternative Birthing Center in 1979.

To help the medical center raise $7 million for its construction, composer Henry Mancini became honorary fundraising chairman. Archbishop Timothy Manning, Milton Berle, Carol Burnett, John Wayne and Mayor Sam Yorty, among others, pledged their help as well. Nurse Jane Malarkey led the employee fundraising committee, while Dr. William Faeth headed the medical-dental staff’s fundraising efforts.

On April 28, 1973, more than 3,000 community members, volunteers, employees, and Guild and medical-dental staff members attended dedication ceremonies for the new wing. Speakers included Dr. Roger Egeberg, special assistant for health affairs during the Nixon administration; Cardinal Timothy Manning; Superior General Mother Cecile Fournier; Sister Georgette Jean, and Dr. Murray Weiss, chief of staff. Newly elected Advisory Board President Patrick Kelley served as master of ceremonies.

To improve access to the growing facility, NBC donated 51,000 square feet of land, and the medical center paid $45,000 to extend two streets behind the medical center and provide an alternate route from the Ventura Freeway.

On May 26, the new wing opened, with four floors devoted to patient rooms and the remaining two floors dedicated to surgery, CCU, ICU and ancillary...
As the largest and best-equipped acute-care facility in the San Fernando Valley, the medical center received paramedic base station status in 1976.

In 1974, more than 250 people attended a celebration in honor of Assistant Administrator for Nursing Services Melba Rardin. Melba began work in the one-story building soon after it opened and was still leading others by example at the medical center 30 years later. Key to the facility’s growth and success, Melba witnessed many physical expansions, and helped bring about significant improvements in service.

Among those improvements were those that took place throughout the '70s. The medical center began offering natural childbirth and Lamaze classes in 1971 and opened a new cardiac catheterization lab under Dr. Robert Oblath in 1972. Four years later, the medical center launched the first hospital-based pacemaker clinic in the Valley under Dr. Richard Coskey. The following year, the center streamlined pharmaceutical services, added a Tumor Board, and opened the Esther Pariseau Pavilion for Rehabilitative Care under Dr. Alonzo Y. Olsen. In 1978, it instituted a satellite pharmacy system and a risk management program, and, in 1979, opened a noninvasive vascular lab and Alternative Birthing Center. As the largest and best-equipped, acute-care facility in the San Fernando Valley with nurses specially trained in mobile intensive care nursing (MICN), the medical center received paramedic base station status — the first in the eastern San Fernando Valley — during the 1970s as well.

Yet, despite the emphasis on technological and medical advances during the decade, Saint Joseph Medical Center never lost sight of its mission to enhance the value, dignity and quality of life by addressing patients’ spiritual as well as physical needs. By the mid '70s, 11 Sisters, including Sister Georgette Jean as administrator, worked together at the medical center to carry out this task. Sisters of Providence Jeanne Cecile, Pauline Benoit, Madeleine Monica, Cecile Denis and Mary Shearer devoted themselves almost exclusively to the spiritual needs of the sick. Others, such as Sister Flora Mary’s cousin Sister Georgina Macdonald, S.P., who welcomed patients in Admitting, concentrated more on patients’ medical needs. Sister Claire Prud’homme, S.P., worked as an electrographic technician; Sister Laura Lariere, S.P., supervised the information desk; Sister Rose Lulay continued her financial responsibilities, and Sister Emmanuel Ferron, who celebrated her Golden Jubilee with the Order in 1975, served as mailroom supervisor and Guild liaison.

To honor their foundress in the West, Mother Joseph of the Sacred Heart, who established 11 hospitals, seven academies, five Native American schools and two orphanages for the Order during her 46 years of service, the Sisters created a special medal in 1976. This medal was to be awarded to the one individual each year who best represented the Order’s goals of humility, simplicity and charity. Jim Vlcek, retired supervisor of the hospital’s carpentry shop, was its first recipient.

Furthering the Order’s goals in another way, several months after Sister Georgette Jean was elected to the Sisters of Providence General Council in Montreal, James Sauer Jr., became the medical center’s first lay administrator in 1979. Under its new administrator, the 498-bed medical center stood poised to face the many changes in health-care delivery that developed during the next 10 years.

departments. Radiology grew from 4,000 to 20,000 square feet. The Department of Laboratories under Dr. Richard Horowitz doubled in size, while the Emergency Department, supervised by head nurse Margie Patterson, tripled.

Ironically, soon after the new wing opened to patients, demolition began on the original one-story building, completed in 1943. Cited as a firetrap too costly to upgrade, the facility that witnessed more than 16,000 births was gone by 1976. In its place came the General Services Building, which cost $4 million, housed a four-level parking structure, payroll services and plant operations, and took one year to build.
As the '80s began, the country faced double-digit inflation, declining productivity and an ongoing hostage crisis in Iran. Promising to restore the nation's greatness through his supply-side economic plan, Ronald Reagan defeated Jimmy Carter and became president in January 1981. So began what some refer to as the Boom Years. An era of Trivial Pursuit, breakdancing, Yuppies, junk bonds and recycling, the '80s also witnessed Abscam, the Iran-Contra and insider trading scandals, the first female Supreme Court justice, the Challenger space shuttle explosion, a soaring federal deficit, the Exxon-Valdez oil spill, the nuclear accident in Chernobyl, and a dramatic end to the Cold War. A decade of political conservatism and soaring health-care costs, the '80s nonetheless brought about a series of radical medical breakthroughs, including the discovery of the AIDS virus, the genes that cause cystic fibrosis and muscular dystrophy, and the introduction of lithotripsy, streptokinase and hepatitis B vaccine.

Increased governmental regulations, such as Diagnostic Related Groups (DRGs), and rapidly expanding technology combined to change health-care delivery at Saint Joseph Medical Center as well. Staffed by 2,500 employees, 550 physicians and 750 volunteers in 1980, the Valley's largest health-care complex began offering balloon angioplasty, carotid artery surgery, noninvasive studies of the cerebral-vascular system, laparoscopic surgery, lithotripsy, and greatly expanded applications of laser surgery and magnetic resonance imaging (MRI). Expanding its mission, the medical center instituted a formalized Home Health Care program in 1984 under Cindy Walters, R.N. Two years later, it opened an Occupational Health Center that included an industrial medicine clinic, a children's dental clinic, and an adult day health center for the elderly, chronically ill and functionally impaired. Due to the increase in outpatient surgeries, a new Day Surgery Center opened in 1986.

During the '80s, the medical center launched a radiation oncology program under Drs. Christopher Rose and Leslie Botnick. It also started perinatal programs, formalized Maternal Child Health as a department (under Director Linda DeVarney Coale, Dr. Herald Brundage and Dr. Federico Quevedo), established a bioethics program (under Dr. Eugene Berman), expanded its heart program, and added new labor/delivery/recovery suites (LDRs) to accommodate increased births. Deliveries had jumped from 80 a month in 1980 to more than 200 in 1989.

Like the previous four decades, the '80s began with an expansion. Dedication ceremonies for a two-story, 40,418 square-foot Professional Education Building, first proposed by Sister Georgette Jean and Dr. Richard Anderson, took place in January 1980. Besides housing a new health science library, the Professional Staff Office, Medical Records, Continuing Medical Education, Quality Assurance and Social Services, the new facility also provided classroom space for nursing, employee in-service and community education. A comprehensive cardiac rehabilitation program, under the direction of Nurse Manager Sandra Surfus and Medical Director William Gifford, began the same year.

The following year groundbreaking ceremonies took place for a new two-story Emergency and Cardiac Care Complex. As the Valley's population topped 1.6 million, emergency room visits nearly doubled, and the number of CCU patients was increasing at 10 percent a year. To accommodate the growing demand, the medical center began construction of a new, 32,204 square-foot facility, which would provide nearly twice the existing emergency space as well as 16 acute coronary care beds. The institution also remodeled two floors in the East Wing to accommodate 30 post-coronary-care and 30 sub-acute-coronary beds.

As always, such expansion would not have been possible without the community's support. To help the hospital raise the additional $5 million dollars it needed to complete the $14.5 million ER/CCU project, Saint Joseph Medical Center launched a Partnership for the Future fundraising campaign in 1981. Bob and Dolores Hope served as honorary chairpersons, while Burbank Mayor Leland Ayers led the successful appeal. Setting an example for others to follow, the Ladies Guild raised $1 million. Among the many corporations, foundations and community members who
By 1981, Guild member Thelma Powers had accrued more than 35,000 hours of service. Feeding the Japanese koi in the medical center’s garden is just one of the many ways she served the medical center.

In 1985, Assistant Administrator for Patient Relations Melba Rardin retired, leaving behind a 41-year legacy of leadership and dedication.

Sister Mary Shuster, who joined the medical center 40 years ago, today provides pastoral care services at the Esther Pariseau Pavilion for Rehabilitative Care.

1980
Professional and Education Building dedicated.
Cardiac Rehab opens.
Lithotripsy pioneered.

1981
Groundbreaking for Emergency Department and Cardiac Care Complex.
Pavilion and SJMC merge into a single 658-bed healthcare facility.
SJMC Foundation formally established.

1982
Emergency Department and Cardiac Care Complex dedicated.
Non-Invasive Vascular Lab opened under the direction of Drs. Dalawa, Andrews, Harris and Ohlaha Jr.
East Wing remodeled.
Occupational Health Center opens.
Trauma Center opens.
Sue Retter, R.N., named Assistant Administrator for Nursing Services.
FDA approves streptokinase.

1984
Home Health Department opens.
AIDS virus isolated.

1985
Fitness Center opens.
Melba Rardin retires.

1986
Surgery Center opens.
MRI unit begins operation.
Kidney Stone Center opens under Peter Fugelso, M.D.
Labor and Delivery remodeled to offer first LDRs in the SFV.
MRI unit begins operation.
Physician Referral Service begins.

1987
Free-standing Thrift Shop opens.
Six-bed ICNN opens.
Maternal/Fetal Medicine Department opens under the direction of Stephen Goldie, M.D.
Gene that produces dystrophin shown to cause muscular dystrophy.
Genetic marker for colon cancer located.

1988
Occupational Health Building opens.

1989
Trauma center closes.
Mission Spirit Award initiated.
Nursing Department receives plaque from the Doheny Eye Institute for its organ donations.
Genetic marker for cystic fibrosis located.
helped the campaign reach its goal was the Kresge Foundation of Troy, Michigan, which provided a $250,000 challenge grant. Georgia Sobiech, R.N., and Cecil Diaz, department manager for laundry services, led the employee campaign, which raised more than $200,000. Key to the employee campaign’s success was a series of 5K and 15K fundraising races held in Griffith Park under Georgia Sobiech’s leadership.

Others, such as Shirley Wolfe, who had provided more than 10,500 hours of service during her 19 years as a volunteer, and Guild member Thelma Powers, who had accrued more than 35,000 hours, contributed to the medical center’s success during the decade by giving the precious gift of time.

Also providing selfless service to the medical center at this time were Sisters of Providence Madeleine Monica, Jeanne Cecile, Mary Shearer, Rose Lulay, Claire Prud’homme, Rose Byrne, Philomena Byrne, Pauline Benoit, Naomi Hurd and Geogette Jean, who returned to the medical center in 1987. However, by now one much-loved Sister was gone — Sister Emmanuel Ferron, the five-foot dynamo who retired in 1980 after supervising the mail room and serving as Guild liaison for more than 30 years.

The ’80s witnessed the retirement of other long-serving staff members as well, including Sister Georgia MacDonald, nurses Virginia Reilly and Carmen Powers, Director of Radiology Dr. George Campion, and Assistant Administrator for Plant Operations Hugh McDaid. In 1985, Assistant Administrator for Patient Relations Melba Rardin retired, too, leaving behind a 41-year legacy of leadership and dedication. To show their appreciation for her loyalty and support, more than 300 staff members attended a retirement dinner in her honor.

While some Professional Staff members and employees left the medical center during the ’80s, others joined. The staff grew in other ways, too. For example, six nurses became pregnant with twins in one year. And six long-time Professional Staff members — internists David Gelbard and Richard E. Anderson, cardiologists Robert W. Oblath and Arthur Feinfield, general surgeon Edward Greaney and otolaryngologist Warren Line — saw their respective sons David, Richard L.,
Robert Wright, Robert E., Greg and Warren, Jr.,
join the Professional Staff.

Although health-care delivery became increasingly complex during the decade, the growing staff still found time for fun. In 1981, nurse Marie Piekarz started interdepartmental baseball teams. After unit teams, such as “The Storks” from OB, “The Hearththrobs” from CCU and “The Traumatizers” from ER, played each other, the winner then played the administration’s “Tightwads.”

As the decade came to a close, the staff drew upon this team spirit to face the challenges that lay ahead. No longer a 100-bed hospital but a city within a city, the medical center had to operate more and more as a business to survive. But it didn’t lose sight of its mission. As a futurist told Professional Staff, Advisory Board and Administrative members at a retreat during the ‘80s, Saint Joseph Medical Center was the only health-care organization he knew of that opened its meetings with a prayer instead of the bottom line.

Community Commitment

To help maintain the community’s health, the medical center built an 18-station fitness course in Buena Vista Park and donated it to the city of Burbank in 1981. Among the speakers at the well-attended dedication ceremonies — which featured Olympic pole vaulting silver medalist Ron Morris and Providence High School students in action on the course — were Chief of Staff Dr. Leonard Condit and Burbank Mayor Robert Olney.

The ‘80s also witnessed the advent of the Saint Joseph Medical Center Foundation, a highly visible group of community leaders dedicated to the medical center’s fundraising efforts. This group replaced the Saint Joseph Medical Center Institute established in 1975. Incorporated in 1980 with Arthur Collier as its first president and attorney James B. Irfield, Jr., as chairman of the Board of Trustees, the Foundation played a key role in helping Saint Joseph Medical Center maintain its excellence throughout the decade.
From the unification of Germany to the dissolution of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, from the horrors of war in the Persian Gulf and Bosnia to the freeing of Nelson Mandela, the '90s started out with intense international upheaval. An era of global economics and lingering recession, the Lambada, '60s retro fashions and a return to family values, the '90s also have brought Bart Simpson, the Americans with Disabilities Act, and the L.A. riots. In 1992, after 12 years of a Republican administration, the nation elected its first Baby Boomer president, Democrat Bill Clinton. Promising politics of inclusion not division, President Clinton took office determined to reduce racial unrest, homelessness, unemployment and the federal deficit, and to provide affordable health care to all Americans. Faced with 37 million Americans lacking health insurance and health-care costs totaling 14 percent of the nation's gross national product, his task appears daunting indeed.

Like President Clinton, Saint Joseph Medical Center faces many challenges in this decade. Government agencies and private insurance companies have placed increasingly severe financial restrictions on health-care delivery, imposing new constraints through managed care contracts and a resource-based relative value scale (RBRVS) for Medicare payments. Such restrictions have made the medical center's ability to deliver compassionate, high-quality health care over the long term the major focus of Saint Joseph Medical Center administrators and physicians. Meanwhile, cost containment efforts have combined to reduce hospital stays. In the early '90s, 60 percent of all surgeries in the United States were outpatient — up from 22 percent the decade before. Contributing to this trend is this decade's introduction of endoscopy — band-aid surgeries that cut hospitalization and recovery time by up to 80%. And, as always, Saint Joseph Medical Center has stayed on the leading edge of that technology. Among those pioneering laparoscopic surgery at the medical center in this decade have been Drs. Raymond Schaer£, Federico Quevedo, Harold Brundage and Philippe Quilici.

Another constant for the medical center has been its synergistic partnership with the community. Initiated in 1943, this partnership has made it possible for the institution's physical plant and patient services to successfully combine high technology with compassionate care, and to continually adjust to changing demands. In 1990, the medical center instituted an automated information system (TDS). The following year, the Valley Radiation Oncology Center opened to provide radiation therapy and the latest treatment protocols to West Valley cancer patients.

More recently, the medical center opened the five-story, 191,000 square-foot Robertson Tower. The new tower houses two linear accelerators linked to a computerized treatment planning system to treat cancer patients, an expanded pre-admission lab services area and blood donor center, and a critical care complex containing 20 intensive care beds, eight coronary care beds, and a telemetry unit with 34 private patient rooms. Diane and Jack Robertson, past Guild president and Foundation committee member respectively, helped make this state-of-the-art patient-care facility a reality when they pledged $7 million to Campaign Providence during the late '80s in memory of their parents. Dedication ceremonies for the new facility took place on January 28, 1993, with Cardinal Roger Mahony presiding. Speakers included Provincial Superior Sister Kathryn Kurtz; Chief of Staff Luigi Gentile; former administrator James Sauer, who oversaw the building's construction; and Patrick Kelley, who stepped down from his position as Advisory Board president in 1992, after serving nearly 20 years. Also at the event were two of the hospital's original Sisters — Sister Elizabeth Mary Schiller and Sister
The following Sisters of Providence continue the Order's mission at the medical center today: (standing, l to r) Yvonne LeBlanc and Rose Lusky; (seated, l to r) Mary Shearer, Philomena Byrne, Teresa White, Naoma Hard, M. Catherine McGann, Georgette Jean and Madeleine Monica. Not shown: Sister Gilberte Parent.

Conrad Mary Bomer. Unfortunately, however, Sister Flora Mary, who would have viewed the latest chapter in the medical center's history with pride, was ill and could not attend.

Alongside these new facilities and services came outstanding additions to the medical center's Professional Staff. In 1990, well-known heart surgeon Taro Yokoyama and his cardiac surgery team joined the medical center, establishing a centerpoint for the hospital's expanding cardiac surgery program. Likewise, in 1991, nationally known oncologist Gale Katterhagen became head of the medical center's cancer program. Complementing their contributions, the highly regarded surgery group of Drs. Dulawa, Andros, Harris, Oblath Jr., and Schneider, has continued to pursue groundbreaking vascular surgery and research work.

Equally important to the medical center's success in this pivotal decade have been its long-serving personnel and supporters:
- Ninety-six employees have provided patient care at the medical center for more than 20 years.
- Tireless Guild members like Winnie Petch, who worked with the Tumor Board in its early days, continue to serve the medical center in many ways.
- Dedicated volunteers have collectively given nearly one million hours of service since the program first began in 1961.
- Committed Medical Staff members continue to enhance the medical center's technology and services.
- Advisory Board and Foundation members provide ongoing guidance and community support.

These individuals and others have adapted as healthcare delivery has changed. Working together, they have helped carry out the Sisters' mission, always putting patient welfare above their own. Building upon this tradition, they will continue to focus on solutions instead of problems and help the medical center endure despite the many difficult choices ahead.

As new challenges emerge, those with vision — both new and long-serving — will draw inspiration from the medical center's past accomplishments and traditions to build its future. In doing so, they will carry forward a vital history of loyal employees, steadfast community support and unwavering dedication to the Sisters' mission. Thanks to this rich legacy, the medical center will continue to successfully provide superior, compassionate care in the next half century to come.

Community Commitment

Determined to help the medical center retain its position as the Valley's leading medical resource, members of the Foundation, Guild, Professional Staff and Advisory Board, and employees, launched Campaign Providence in 1987. Chairman of the Foundation Board Richard Horowitz, M.D., led the campaign, which raised $16 million to complete the medical center's recently opened Robertson Tower. This success was largely due to the following committee members:
- T.J. Bapte
- Michael A. Caggiano
- Linda DeVarney Coale, R.N.
- William Faeth, M.D.
- Anthony Grisanti, M.D.
- Howard Hill
- James Insfeld Jr.
- Patrick Kelley
- Sr. Therese Kohles
- Edward Leigh
- Dorrance Leiker
- Jack McCombick
- Wally McGovern
- Charles Von Der Ahe

Key donors for the campaign, which concluded at the end of 1992, included Dr. and Mrs. Dean Howard, the Fritz B. Burns Foundation, the Walt Disney Company Foundation, Lockheed Corporation, the Ralph M. Parsons Foundation, Warner Bros. and, most significantly, Diane and Jack Robertson, for whom the tower is named. In addition, employees contributed nearly a quarter of a million dollars.
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Our Mission

Saint Joseph Medical Center is a comprehensive Catholic health-care organization, owned and operated by the Sisters of Providence. The mission of the medical center is rooted in the healing ministry of Christ and in the philosophy, spiritual values and fundamental beliefs of the Sisters of Providence. The medical center is committed to enhancing the value, dignity and quality of life by assembling the necessary resources for the provision of health services to the community it serves with special emphasis on the needs of the poor and the elderly.

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Mary Gleason, S.P.
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Yvonne LeBlanc, S.P.
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