Through a new affiliation between the Marian Home and Mercy Hospital, a new title of Mercy Medical Center was announced today by Sister Mary Callista, Mercy administrator.

This new concept was recommended by members of the hospital advisory board and medical staff, and received approval from Provincial Mother Mary Regina and members of her governing council of the Milwaukee Province, Sisters of Sorrowsful Mother.

Simultaneously, Mother Regina announced the appointment of Sister Mary Pio as administrator of Marian Home, which will expand its role from that of a home for the aged to include extended care to patients. Sister Pio comes to the Marian Home from St. Joseph Hospital in Marshfield.

Mother Regina is a former administrator of Mercy Hospital, under whose administration the plans and fund drive for the hospital expansion program were begun. She left Mercy in the fall of 1965, after having served as administrator since September, 1961.

"Since 1934, St. Mary’s Hospital, which was renamed Marian Home on April 28, 1961, operated exclusively as a home for the aged until July 1, 1966, when it became a combination nursing-resident care facility," said Sister Callista. "This change was brought about to meet the needs of the patients as well as implementation of the federal Medicare program."  

"An extended care facility is an establishment with an organized medical staff and a continuous professional nursing service that is created to provide comprehensive inpatient care, which is usually past acute hospital care," Sister Callista continued. 

"Most convalescences in an extended care facility are of relatively short duration, and care is provided convalescent patients who are not in an acute episode of illness or have not achieved a stable stage of illness, and who have a variety of medical conditions." 

"Since the community of Oshkosh and surrounding area will now be served by facilities offering 500 beds to provide for a vast array of patient health needs, it was a natural for the concept of Mercy Medical Center to evolve," stated James P. Fitzgerald, Mercy associate administrator. 

"The point is further substantiated when we consider all the facilities and services to be found within the complex—an acute, short-term general hospital, an extended care facility, a school of nursing, a rehabilitation center, and three other paramedical schools, namely, a school of anesthesiology for nurses, a school of medical technology, and a school of radiologic technology." 

"Greater efficiencies and economies should derive to both Marian Home and Mercy Hospital," stated Sister Pio, "through the sharing of medical and professional staff members, as well as services they provide such as diagnostic laboratory tests, X-rays and occupational, physical and speech therapy, and the centralization of many other services." 

Services that lend themselves to centralization include, but are not necessarily limited to, a c o o n t i n g , administration, central linen, dietary, employee health, housekeeping, laundry, maintenance, medical records, nursing service, personnel, pharmacy, public relations and purchasing.

"As demonstrated by the current multi-million dollar expansion program, it is the primary concern of the Sisters of Sorrowsful Mother, the hospital board and medical staff, and all other personnel of the newly created Mercy Medical Center to promote and provide a modern, well-equipped medical facility that will meet the comprehensive health care needs of the people of Winnebago and Concluded Sister Callista."