

# Coalition Seeks Public Defender Study

By BARBARA MOYNEHAN

A coalition of 18 community groups is asking the Monroe County Legislature to conduct an evaluation of the public defender's office.

Acting as a spokesman for the coalition at a press conference last Thursday in front of the County Office building, Carolyn Micklem of the Rochester Bail Fund, said, "We are asking for the review that has been pro-

posed to the County Legislature been approved by its Ways and Means Committee and received the support of the Monroe County Bar Association."

Nicholas Varlan, head of the Office of Public Defenders, has indicated he is not opposed to such an evaluation, Mrs. Micklem reported.

The review in question would be conducted by the National Legal Aid and Defenders Association of Chicago.

The objection of the coalition of organizations that work with defendants involved in court cases, is lack of staff.

"There are not enough staff," Mrs. Micklem continued, "the case load is beyond capacity. We want expansion of current reorganization efforts to meet the increasing demand for public defenders."

There is money available for reorganization and additional staff, she maintains.

"Millions of dollars have been made available through the Safe Streets Act. The public defender's office has received \$22,650 a year from that federal program for screening at the city court level, but this is just a drop in the bucket for what they need. They need more money for more staff."

Mildred Johnson of the Virginia Wilson Interracial Center added that location and services of the public defender's offices are inadequate for really serving the inner city people and the women agreed that the quality of public defenders is "uneven."

"Our primary concern is money to reorganize, and raising public awareness that more than we realize our lives depend on the quality of the public defenders. We think the study is crucial to the justice of this city," Mrs. Micklem said.

The coalition includes the Office of Human Development, League of Women Voters, Roch-

ester Interfaith Jail Ministry, Sisters of Mercy South Ave. Community, Metro-act and American Civil Liberties Union.

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## BEATIFICATION

and CANONIZATION of a NUN who helped educate black and Indian children since 1891, write for free literature: Mother Katharine Drexel Guild, 1663 Bristol Pike, Cornwells Heights, Pa. 19020.

## St. Joseph's Plans Special Events

Elmira — St. Joseph's Hospital is honoring its employees, volunteers and students in a week-long observance lasting until Oct. 21.

They will be cited for "their dedication so characteristic of the personnel of the hospital, the extraordinary spirit of generosity and self-sacrifice demonstrated during the pre- and post-flood periods," according to a resolution passed by the board of directors.

Films of the evacuation of the hospital during the flood will be shown, a composite picture of many who worked in a variety of service areas will be unveiled.

There also will be a post-humous award given to the wife of a dedicated hospital male volunteer, "Redcoat" Malcolm

MacFeiggan. "Mac" served as a volunteer in many sections of the hospital and was seen daily manning the receptionist desk in the Emergency Service Lobby. He worked tirelessly in pre-flood removal of equipment and evacuation of patients during the flood through Saturday evening. He died as a result of a coronary on Sunday, June 26. His wife, Rose, will receive a plaque as a token of esteem for her late husband.

Another feature will be the dedication Thursday of McGhan Hall, a men's dormitory adjacent to the School of Nursing of St. Joseph's Hospital, in memory of the late Monsignor Philip E. McGhan, longtime chaplain of St. Joseph's Hospital and friend of the students of the schools of the hospitals.

## Dansville Lists Year's Teachers

Dansville — Christian Education teachers this year have been announced at St. Mary's. They include: Mrs. Braxton Middleton, Jr., and Mrs. James Whitford, first grade; Sister Margaret, grade two; Mrs. Robert Molyneux, grade three; Mrs. Joseph Niezgod, grade four; Mrs. Dominic Martello, grade five; James Vennett, grade six; Mrs. Robert Fuhrman and Father Eugene Emo, grade seven; Mrs. Charles Dilgard and Mrs. James Kramer, grade eight.

Others include Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Wamp, Richard Wirth and Al Wilson, grades nine - twelve; Sunday classes; Mrs. Bert Crawford, Sister Margaret May and Father Richard O'Con-

nell, grades nine - twelve, Monday classes.

Substitute teachers include Mrs. George Bacon, Mrs. Michael Depew, Mrs. Louis Pela and Mrs. David Redding.

## Hornell Area Notes

Dansville — St. Mary's Ladies Guild will hold a tureen supper Wednesday, Oct. 18 at 6:30 p.m. in the school hall. Following the dinner there will be a meeting at which Father Richard O'Connell, pastor of the parish, will speak.

Dansville — St. Mary's School Board will have a public meeting Oct. 25 in the School Hall.

Hammondsport, Prattsburg — A parish mission renewal program will be conducted at St. Gabriel's Church, Nov. 5-8 and at St. Patrick's Church, Nov. 9-12. It will be conducted by the Passionist Fathers.

Hornell — The St. Ann's Mother's Club Card Party will be held Wednesday, Oct. 25 at 8 p.m. in the school hall.

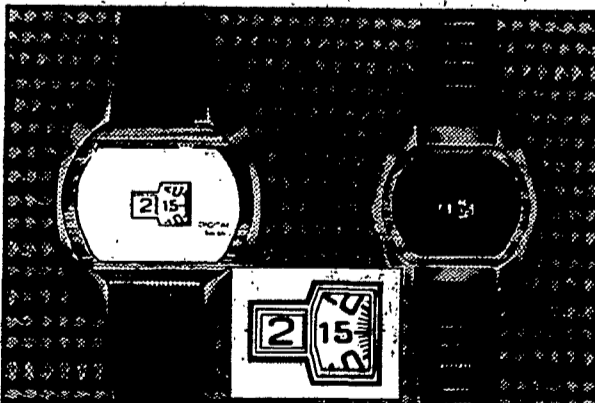
Courier-Journal

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