

# Jail Project Lessens Women's 'Punishments'

By PAT PETRASKE

If you're a woman in jail, punishment can sometimes kick you more than once. You're punished by incarceration if you're poor and can't afford bail. You're punished with overcrowdedness because there are too many of you and facilities are inadequate. You're also punished with "dead time" on your hands because there are too few of you to legitimize separate recreational and developmental programs.

Women are also "punished" outside the jail especially in the church, believes the only woman deacon in the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester, the Reverend Merrill Bittner. Her fight for the recognition of women's rights is being waged not only within her church, the Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd in Webster, but within the Monroe County Jail.

"You can't talk to a hungry person about God until you give him a piece of bread," began Deacon Bittner, whose role as an advocate for women means dealing with their practical needs before talking "about their spiritual or psychological needs."

A petite woman with reams of blonde, wavy hair, Deacon Bittner is vehement towards what she sees as "dehumanizing" conditions affecting women in the jails, conditions which she claims are different from the ones experienced by the men inmates. Approval was obtained from Bishop Robert Spears of the Episcopal diocese for her to establish a special ministry, labeled the Women's Jail Project, which has come under the Judicial Process Commission of the Genesee Ecumenical Ministries.

The project operates on two levels: 1) direct assistance to inmates and 2) promotion of legislative and attitudinal changes. The first level involves "becoming an arm and a leg for someone inside the jail." The second level involves working to change the attitude that "Women are not to be taken seriously."

A popular statement often attributed to jail officials is "I'd rather have ten men than one woman."

"People in correctional facilities think women are harder to handle than men. In fact, they are," Deacon Bittner admitted. She believes the reason is closely linked with the conditions inside the county jails and the State Prison for Women in Bedford Hills, N.Y., the only state correctional facility for women.

The 27-year-old deacon painted a bleak picture of her observations. "A cramped corner of the jail with a capacity of 26 inmates houses anywhere from 25 to 50 women. Ten hours of their day are spent in a tiny day room with a television set and a frayed deck of cards for distraction."

"The programs they have are nothing but time fillers. They do art for an hour a week but that's not long enough to get into anything," she said. Men inmates are involved in the Singer-Graflex Monroe County Pilot Probation/Jail Project which

evaluates and helps develop their skills. "They say you can't mix the men and women in the programs but they also say there aren't enough women to warrant a separate program."

Boredom at the jail is tremendous and requests are being made for the following items: yarn, crochet hooks and knitting needles, craft sets such as paint-by-numbers and bead work, adult games, and cookies, especially at Christmas. Women inmates can receive typing instruction although they are in need of typewriters in working order.

Deacon Bittner feels there is a tremendous sense of "frustration" among the women inmates. "Many of them withdraw into themselves and then are labeled apathetic or dull. Others act out and then spend their time locked up."

The Women's Jail Project is attempting to alleviate some of these frustrations through the use of pen pals to establish a supportive relationship for inmates with someone outside the jail. Members of the project also appear in court, consult with families and community contacts, provide transportation to enable the inmates' family to visit, work with parole officers, assist inmates in finding jobs and places to live.

The project is extended to include women who had been in the Monroe County Jail, but now are at Bedford Hills. Deacon Bittner is having one inmate who will be out on furlough stay at her house during Christmas since there is not enough room for the inmate to stay at her own house.

Response to the project isn't evoked "unless it hits you personally." One response, from jail officials themselves, has been a request for alternatives to incarceration, such as half-way houses for pre-trial and release, as well as for material on other new approaches to the overall problem. The Women's Jail Project has developed a task force with representatives from parole, probation, legislature, community groups and the head matron from the Monroe County Jail, who will meet with Robert Stanwick, superintendent of the jail. "Right now we're concerned that the only alternative is going to be to build a new jail," said Deacon Bittner who added that Stanwick has agreed not to take any action until the task force has submitted its proposals.

## OLPH of the Highway Has Christmas Mass

Bishop Dennis W. Hickey celebrated a Christmas Mass this morning for the parish of OLPH of the Highway, a congregation of apartment dwellers at Hudson-Ridge Towers.

The Towers Catholic community of 60 to 70 elderly residents is served regularly by the priests of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church, hence its name. Msgr. Richard M. Quinn, pastor of the Joseph Avenue parish, and his associate, Father Eugene M. Lower, have been offering adult religious education classes in addition to Wednesday morning Masses in the apartment house auditorium.

# COURIER WANT ADS pay off



### HELP WANTED

**SALESMAN** or women - Newspaper display advertising, draw against Liberal Commission. Protected account list. Company Benefits. 454-7050.

**HOUSE** Parents for adolescent Halfway House. Mr. Williams, 288-1830.

**SALES** women over 21. Rochester and surrounding areas. \$8 per hour or more. 381-6592, 271-0917, 1-315-589-8915.

**TRUCK** Driver: New York State Operator License. Local city deliveries. 8 to 5. Call 454-7200, Ext. 401. Equal Opportunity Employer.

### BUSINESS SERVICES

**TILE**: From complete bathroom remodeling to small repairs. Reasonable. 338-1550.

**FLOOR** sanding, refinishing. Dependable service since 1921. Reasonable. Cy Callamey, 845-1353, 458-5665.

**PAINTING** and paper hanging, free estimates, quality work. Dan Burgmaster, 463-0827.

**ODD** Jobs: Storm windows removed, washing walls, floor waxing, cleaning gutters etc. 436-4421.

**END** Painting Forever: We apply aluminum trim, cornices, Gables, windows, doors. Insured. Expert applicator. 328-2627.

**ROOFING**, siding. New repairs, insurance cases. Expert applicator. Insured. Free estimates. 328-2627.

**CHIMNEYS**: New rebuilt, repaired. Expert work. Free estimates. Insured. 328-2627.

**HAULING**, debris removal, attics, and cellars cleaned, light wrecking, landscaping. 254-4937.

**POCKET** billiard tables recovered and refurbished. Complete line of supplies. 647-3300.

**VACUUM** cleaning. All makes. New and rebuilt, fully guaranteed. Expert repairs. Empire Vacuum, 254-7100.

**WE SPECIALIZE** in large remodeling jobs in this area. References upon request. Give us a call today. Charles Melis, 566-8440.

**GLASS** Screen Repair - one day, stock sizes. Fairport Home Center, 1276 Fairport Road, 377-2974.

**CHIMNEYS**: Rebuilt, pointed, patched, cement coated. 27 years experience. Check our reputation. DiNapoli Brothers, 643-8527 after 5 and weekends.

**ROOFING** re-roofing, patch work, chimneys. 27 years experience. Free estimates. DiNapoli Brothers, 643-8527. After 5 and weekends. 458-3566.

**CARPENTRY**: Kitchens, Garages, Additions, Bathrooms. Check our Reputation. DiNapoli Brothers, 643-8527. After 5 and weekends. 458-3566.

**MASON** Work - Patios, chimneys, brick steps, garage floors, sidewalks, planters. 27 years experience. Free estimates. DiNapoli Brothers, 643-8527. After 5 and weekends. 458-3566.

**FURNITURE** repaired in your home, dents, scratches, gouges, qualified service. Distinctive Repair & Refinish, 458-0053.

**CARPET** & Upholstery steam cleaning in hour home. Free estimates. Hartson Cleaners, Phone 254-8302.

**CALL** 254-6420. Additions, remodeling, garages. Free estimates. Experienced.

**PAPER** hanging & painting. Good service. Edelson 271-4788 or 472-7925.

**SHORT** and long distance hauling and moving. Call 338-2899.

**CARPET** installation and repair. Free estimates, reasonable. Expert work. men hip. 244-9451.

**HOUSE** repairs: beams installed, foundation repairs, floors leveled, jack posts installed, carpenter work. Mr. Roy, 546-5993.

**ROOF** leaks repaired, shingles replaced, chimney work. Mr. Roy, 546-5993.

**CATERING**: Cocktail parties, weddings, dinners. Start planning now for Christmas parties. 458-1643.

**PAINTING**, Interior: Free estimates. Excellent workmanship. Reasonable. Ray Wehr, 242-9066.

**PIANO** Lessons given. Evenings. Children and Adults. Call Joe Zenkar at (716) 647-9240 between 7-9 p.m.

**PERMANENTS** - Given at home by experienced hairdresser. Call 458-4585.

**SEWING** Machine Repairs. 30 years experience. All Makes and Models. Free Estimates. All work guaranteed for full year. Call Mr. Needle, 288-2100.

**BABYSITTER** - My home. Weekdays. Reliable. 467-9075.

**ATTENTION!** Add \$50 or more to your wardrobe, free. Have a fashion show in your home. See the new, exciting looks from Fashion Flocks Inc. 381-6592, 271-0917, 1-315-589-8915.

**PIANO** Tuning. Experienced tuner, reasonable. Jerry Gallagher, 482-4061.

**CARPENTER** work: Porch steps, small jobs, remodeling, paneling, wind damage repairs. Free estimates. ROBERT BULLUCK, 865-2448.

### ENTERTAINMENT

**JAN** Curcio Orchestra - dance music, weddings, parties, banquets, 654-8914.

**FREDDY** Beck Orchestra, finest music, weddings, parties. 458-8719.

**JOE** Cimino Orchestra for music that pleases. Call 865-1246.

### FORRENT

**UNFURNISHED** apartment: Upper 3 rooms. Heated. Mature adults. Appliances included. Laundry facilities. 342-0339.

**FAMILY** Care. Private Home. Good meals, laundry, privileges. Semi private bath and family room. T.V. Lady on bus line. Q.L.P.H. Parish.

**3 ROOMS**, unfurnished. Couple preferred. All utilities. \$135.00 a month. Emerson St. 544-9508.

**2 ROOM**, unfurnished. Bedroom, Kitchen. On busline. 464-8826.

**CLASSROOM** building, relocatable type, set up on your site. Portable Schools Inc. 1194 Wall Road, Webster, N.Y.

### FOR SALE

**POLAROID** Land Camera. Super color Pac 4. Excellent condition. 271-9010 after 6 p.m.

**GREECE** - 2 acres, 6 rooms, 3 bedrooms, large living room, beautiful shaded trees. Gravel tractor for cutting large lawn, Troy built roto-tiller for gardening. Small sharping business will pay taxes. Opportunity for right party. 225-3247.

**TRAINS**: Lionel, H.O., Engines, cars, track accessories. Piece, set lars. 889-2921.

**OLD-Fashioned** school desks: Antiques red-wood. Great X-mas gifts. 328-3750.

**NECCI** Sewing Center. Special Closeout. 1973 brand-new Zig-Zag sewing machine. Makes button-holes, blind hems, sews stretch materials. Fully guaranteed. Full price: \$48 or 3 payments of \$16 monthly. Call Necci-Etne Sewing Center, 244-0828.

**1971 CONSOLE** stereo. Damaged in Shipment. AM-FM Radio. 4 speed turntable. 443-5416.

**Built-in 8 Track**. Will sell for \$139 or terms arranged. Call Mr. Needle, 288-2100.

**X-MAS** Wreaths For Sale. \$2.25 each. To Place Order Call, 436-9975.

**1973 GOLDEN** Stitch & Sew sewing machine. Brand new, never been used. Full size, heavy duty. Makes button-holes, darts, monograms, automatic bobbin winder. 25 year guarantee. 1 year free sewing instructions. Full price, \$31 or 3 monthly payments of \$13. Call Mr. Needle, 288-2100.

**RED** Door Antiques: 1294 Ridge Road E. (across from Valle's) 342-2430. 10-4 Wed. Sat., Thurs-Fri., 7-9. Give Any Old Thing For Christmas. Give Old Chairs Or A Doll That Stares. Give Tick Tock Clocks Or A Box That Locks. Give Old Silver Or Brass. For There's No Christmas Like A Christmas Past.

**1973 HOOVER** Vacuum. Brand New with attachments. Will sell for \$29 or terms arranged. Call Mr. Needle, 288-2100.

**TAPPAN** Gas Range, copper color. Whirlpool washer & dryer, deluxe model. 4 years old. Excellent condition. Moving 235-5928.

**BILLIARD** Tables. Custom built to your specifications. Call or stop in. 500 Lyell Ave. 458-5220.

**POODLE**: Apricot, AKC. 2 months, shots. \$100. 334-8161.

**72 DODGE** Power Wagon: Power steering, automatic, 7878 miles. Make offer. Hydrotram. 288-6931. 1 Owner.

**USED** relocatable classroom building, 20'x40'. Make good office or cottage building. Portable Schools Inc. 1194 Wall Road, Webster, N.Y.

**CARS**: New Vega, Pinto, others. Discount Prices. CONSUMER AUTOBUYING SERVICE. 467-9145.

**2 GIRLS** Bikes: 26" & 24". \$15.00 each. 140 Arfordale Avenue.

**BEAUTIFUL** Persian Coat, size 10-12. White mink collar, \$175.00. Also Black fur-trimmed coat, like new. \$30. 244-9113 evenings only.

**WHITE** Provincial Sofa: Kitchen Set, four chairs. Excellent Condition. Best offer. 482-7522.

### SPECIAL MISCELLANEOUS

**AFGHAN** Crochet. Many patterns. Labor \$18.00. 889-9184.

### INSTRUCTIONS

**TUTORING** all subjects. Qualified teachers. PROFESSIONAL TUTORING SERVICE. 244-9155, 271-7207.

### WANTED TO BUY

**ANTIQUES**, entire or partial contents of old homes, attic accumulations. Marie Wallner, 643-5573-643-0288.

**POOL** Tables. Slate only. 4'x8' or larger. 647-3300.

**APPLIANCES**, furniture: High cash. Good used items. 325-9212.

**PRIVATE** collector wants coins of any kind. Call 464-8846.

**WANTED**: Patchwork Quilts. Quilt Tops. Quilt Blocks. 342-3515.

**FURNITURE**, Lamps. Anything old. What have you? Ruth, 643-5471 or 328-7760.

**WANTED**: Statuary by John Rogers. Top Prices. 889-2465.

**SILVER**: Buying U.S. and Canadian Silver Coins. Paying 85 per cent premium on U.S. 467-5476.

**PLEASE** Give Me your Old Greeting Cards and Cancelled Stamps for Missions. Phone 443-5416.

**FREE!** KODAK COLOR PRINT FRAME OF VALUE JUST BRING IN THIS AD!

**WHY GAMBLE? GET KODAK** COLOR PROCESSING AND SAVE 10% DISCOUNT on your Holiday Pictures!

**MAIN CAMERA CENTER** OF FRANKLIN FREE PARKING AT REAR

**VALUABLE COUPON**

**\$1 for a 10 Word Want Ad**

**Only with this coupon**

**PAYMENT MUST ACCOMPANY ORDER**

**10¢ Each Additional Word - Deadline Friday Noon**

Print One Word in Each Box


Enclosed Find \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Please Run My \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 Want Ad For \_\_\_\_\_ Week(s) City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

**MAIL TO: COURIER JOURNAL WANT AD DEPT.**  
 67 Chestnut St., Rochester, New York 14604  
**MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO COURIER JOURNAL**

**Subscriber Special**