

'Cost Containment' Seen Factor in Health Care

Elmira — There has been a "great deal of publicity about Social Services and health expenses across the state, all concerning the "magic words" cost containment," according to William Liddle, Chemung County Commissioner of Social Services. New York State is "very serious about cost containment," he told the general meeting of the Department of Social Work of St. Joseph's Hospital at an open meeting Nov. 24 at the hospital.

Noting the recent court decision against the moratorium on New York City bonds debts, Liddle said that the state Commissioner of Social Services told him that the state needs to cut \$120 million from the budget, and that Medicaid is one of the items being examined. Three systems for cutting the Medicaid cost have been proposed, the first being changing eligibility standards, a move Liddle said would be blocked in the legislature. Another is the closing of facilities with the theory that it will decrease cost. "I don't really understand how that could work," Liddle commented. The only remaining option is to cut payments to health facilities. "The best that can be

anticipated," Liddle said, is "no more money" than previously, and hopefully not less.

Liddle also commented on the increasing role his department is taking, even while people call for less government. He noted that recently the Social Security office has referred 100 persons to him on the basis of financial mismanagement. Under state law the Social Services Department has to provide "protective services" for the elderly, and as a result, Liddle said, he has had to set up joint checking accounts with all 100 of those persons. He noted that this responsibility is "eating up staff time" and he wished Legal Services would take the responsibility.

Liddle also commented on the shortage of proprietary care beds in the county, noting that the county operated nursing facility has "72 on the waiting list today." He said that the day will come when every bed in Chemung County will be filled.

"What the long term outlook will be remains to be seen," Liddle said, and he added that he expects the situation to be worse in 1977 than it was in 1976.

Hunger Studied Over Meal of Soup and Bread

Elmira — A dinner "strictly for hunger" drew more than 200 to the Elmira College Campus Center Monday, Nov. 22. The event, designed to emphasize the world hunger crisis, was sponsored by the Interfaith Social Action Coalition. The dinner consisted of a bowl of soup and two slices of bread.

The dinner was followed by a movie, "Beyond the Next Harvest," which examined world hunger, noting such factors as increasing population, bad crop years, and poor distribution of available food stocks.

Questionnaires designed to show those attending how much they knew, or didn't know, about the world food crisis also were distributed. One such question asked what rank the U.S. was among the 16 wealthiest nations in the world in providing development aid for poorer nations. The answer given was 14.

Proceeds from the dinner will be used to support local efforts to feed the hungry, the Elmira Rescue Mission and the Salvation Army, as well as Bread for the World, an organization working to ease food shortages, and Church World Service which provides aid to hungry persons around the world.

Foundation Doubles Gifts

Corning — Area schools, hospitals, museums and libraries have benefitted from a Corning Glass Works Foundation program in conjunction with employees of Corning Glass. The foundation's Matching Gifts program enables employees and retirees to make their gifts to qualifying institutions count twice; the foundation matches the donation.

Richard Bessey, foundation director, called the program "low key" and noted that the applications are distributed on individual request. The forms are presented with the donation to the institution, which validates it and sends it to the foundation. The foundation forwards the matching funds.

During 1975, the program distributed more than \$94,000, according to the foundation to qualifying non-profit institutions. Father Francis Davis, pastor of Our Lady of Lourdes in Elmira, reports that the program yielded nearly \$6,000 for Our Lady of Lourdes regional school, as part of the Chemung County Catholic School System, during the past two years.

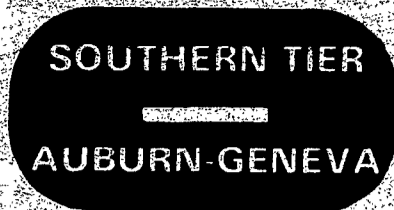
Patronal Feast Celebration Set

Homell — St. Ann's Parish has set a "Catholic celebration of the Bicentennial" for today, the feast of the Immaculate Conception, the patroness of the United States. At 7:30 p.m. there will be a special liturgy emphasizing the ethnic heritage of Catholics in the United States. Some parishioners will dress in ethnic costume and flags of the various countries will be in the procession. Following the liturgy a selection of ethnic desserts will be available, illustrating the diversity of backgrounds found in the United States.

July 4 was the nation's celebration of the Bicentennial, Father Lewis Brown, associate pastor of St. Ann's, explained, and Dec. 8, as the feast of the patroness of the United States, is an appropriate time for Catholics to celebrate their part in United States history.

POSTER AWARDS GIVEN

Owego — The prizes from the Tompkins-Tioga poster contest which the region conducted as part of Operation Rice Bowl were awarded Nov. 13 at St. Patrick's Church. The contest was open to all fourth, fifth and sixth graders in the region; nearly a hundred posters were entered. Winners were Scott Page of Nathan T. Hall School in Newark Valley for the fourth grade; Victoria Garrick of Immaculate Conception School, Ithaca, for the fifth grade, and Emily Evans of St. Patrick's, Owego, won the sixth grade award. Each of the winners received a \$25 savings bond.



C-S Region HDC Meets

Elmira — The November meeting of the Chemung-Schuylers Human Development Committee involved discussion of activities already under way.

Robert Comin, director of Senior Health Services, explained the program, and its aims to assist the elderly. He noted that parish human development committees can assist the program by providing transportation to the health screening clinics it provides for the elderly.

Due to economic conditions, food collections will be more important this winter, Reta Tanner of the Economic Opportunity Program told the group. Mrs. Tanner also suggested that a furniture bank be established.

Eileen Slagis conducted a discussion on the implications of the closing of the Westinghouse Tube Division in Horseheads, causing the layoff of 1,200 employees. Points raised included the change in mental attitude of unemployed persons, and a lack of knowledge of such things as food stamps, Medicaid and borrowing on life insurance that may become necessary. Helping the unemployed with resumes and job opportunity information was also suggested.

Parish human development committees also reported on their activities, including the referral of needy families for the Courier-Journal Christmas Fund drive.

Eucharistic Celebration

Horseheads — During the final week of the liturgical year, St. Mary Our Mother celebrated the importance of the Eucharist with its Forty Hours Devotion. In a sense the three days were, for St. Mary Our Mother School, a culminating point for witnessing the fact that as a Christian community, we celebrate the sacramental presence of the Lord Jesus in our midst.

On Friday, Nov. 5, the students and staff gathered for their traditional Children's Liturgy at 9 a.m. Mrs. Joanne Flynn and the third grade had prepared the Liturgy — one of praise and thanks. Children acted as lectors and gift bearers; they focused attention on the gifts we have been abundantly blessed with in God's creation not only in the readings but in song — "All Good Gifts" and "Let All Things Now Living." Colorful banners proclaimed thanks.

On Friday, Nov. 19, the teaching staff worked on its School Self-Evaluation. Again the day began at Eucharist, and a committee of four teachers chose appropriate readings and songs to develop the theme "You Are the Light of the World."

MISSIONARY TO SPEAK

Ithaca — Father Howard Bieber, Maryknoll missionary, will speak on his experiences as a missionary in the Philippines Thursday, Dec. 2 at 8 p.m. in the St. Catherine of Siena Parish Center. Father Bieber was active in the missions there for 18 years, including a period under martial law. He also has had a great deal of experience with lay missionary activity.

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Note Burning

Father Francis R. Davis, pastor of Our Lady of Lourdes, Elmira, (left) and Msgr. Leo G. Schwalb, founding pastor, burn the parish's debt note. The event occurred at a party Nov. 19 which marked the parish's 35th anniversary.

Students Prepare Thanksgiving Dinner

Bath — St. Mary's Academy, nearly closed at the end of the 1975-76 school year, had its own Thanksgiving dinner a week before the official one, on Thursday, Nov. 18. The school's 63 students, kindergarten through grade four prepared the meal and decorations for the day, and invited their parents to attend.

The results would surprise an outside observer, but apparently not the parents of St. Mary's students. More than 100 adults attended the dinner, and Sister Mary Agnes Zimmer, school

principal, reported that so many mothers called to offer their help preparing the meal that she had to turn several down. Also invited to the meal were the students and teachers from the Bath Association for Retarded Children, which operates in St. Mary's. Total attendance for the noon time meal exceeded 175.

The early preparations for the meal had been done by the students, with the kindergarten and first grade washing potatoes, and the other students preparing the dressing, making the apple sauce, and baking cookies. The students also prepared colorful placemats and wall decorations.

Jim Palmer To Speak at St. Patrick's

Seneca Falls — Jim Palmer, three times winner of the Cy Young award and The Sporting News American League pitcher of the year, will be the main speaker at the St. Patrick's 12th annual sports banquet, Dec. 12 in the school auditorium.

All proceeds will go into the St. Patrick's Athletic Fund — helping to defray expenses for the coming season for boys and girls.

Al Suffredini will be honored guest for his contribution in helping the St. Patrick's sports program get off the ground some 12 years ago. After many years of semi-pro basketball and baseball in Seneca Falls, Suffredini turned to coaching the St. Patrick's basketball team before illness forced him to retire.

Another highlight will be the presentation of the Father John P. O'Brien and Miss Nancy Wood award to a high school senior who has graduated from St. Patrick's. This award is based on athletic ability, sportsmanship and scholastics. Many sports figures will attend.

Angelo Suffredini and John Pannucci are co-chairmen and John Durso will be master of ceremonies.

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