

# Entry to Care

By MICHAEL GRODEN

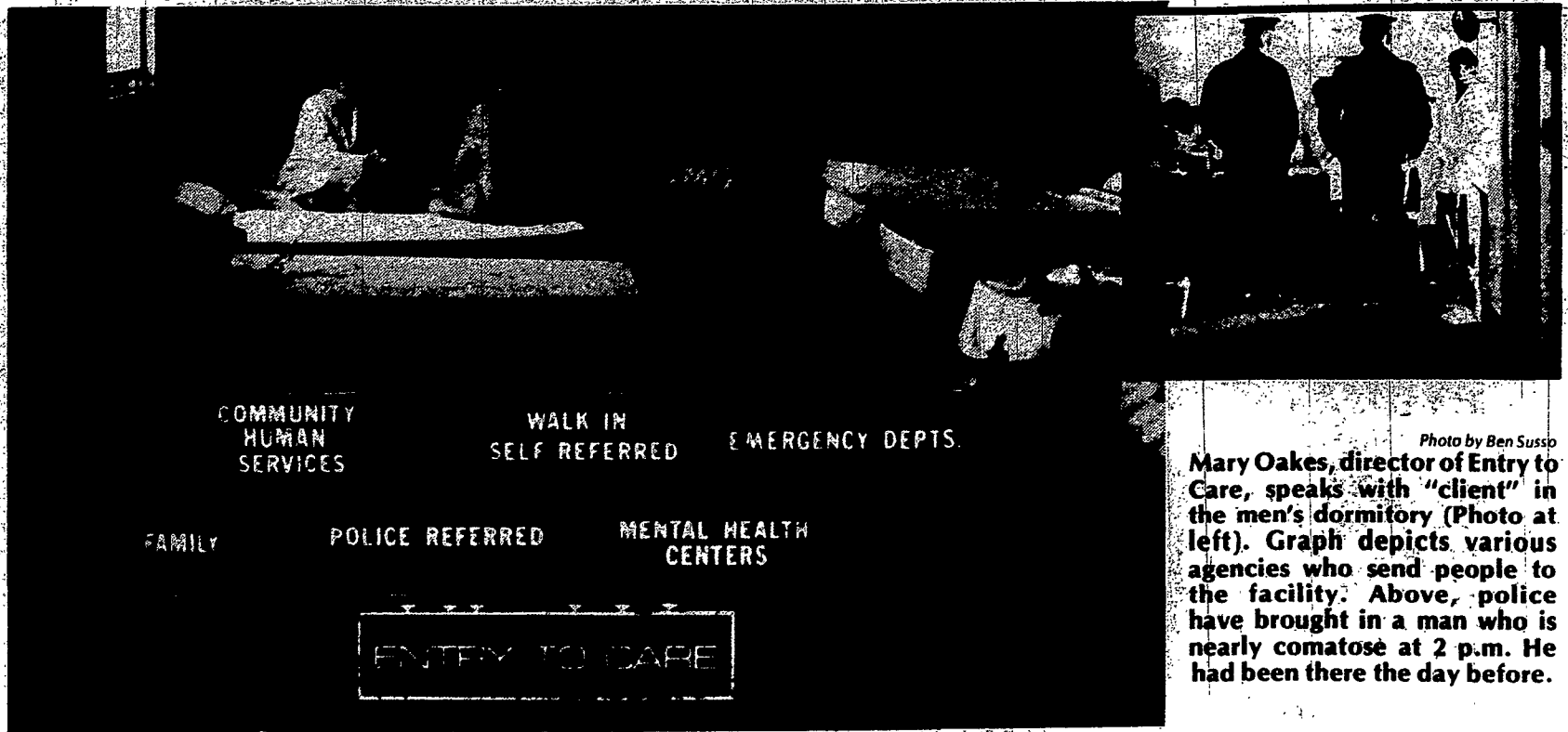
Two p.m., a middle-aged man is brought into the waiting room of "Entry to Care," the sobering up station for Monroe County at 745 West Ave. He is badly intoxicated. He can't walk without help and his speech is barely intelligible.

Entry to Care's staff methodically goes through a routine they have repeated many times. His blood pressure is taken, along with an intoximeter test which shows the alcohol content in the blood stream.

He is then cleaned up, given clean pajamas and a bed. He is safe from himself and from others.

In a statement of philosophy and objectives "Entry" looks at alcoholism as "an illness of many degrees and with many facets. We (Entry to Care) believe that each individual has a right to care at whatever level his needs can best be met. The Entry to Care program will endeavor to meet the primary and immediate needs of the debilitated alcoholic."

Entry to Care, established Dec.



COMMUNITY HUMAN SERVICES      WALK IN SELF REFERRED      EMERGENCY DEPTS.  
FAMILY      POLICE REFERRED      MENTAL HEALTH CENTERS  
ENTRY TO CARE

Photo by Ben Susso  
Mary Oakes, director of Entry to Care, speaks with "client" in the men's dormitory (Photo at left). Graph depicts various agencies who send people to the facility. Above, police have brought in a man who is nearly comatose at 2 p.m. He had been there the day before.

15, 1975, is a state funded component of the Genesee Mental Health Center. It is a 20-bed unit (15 beds for men and a separate five bed dorm for women) "equipped with bathing, lavatory and lounge facilities and equipment for providing simple food service." It is the first step in what hopefully will be the rehabilitation of the alcohol abuser.

According to Mary Oakes, RN, director of the program, the first objective in caring for the alcohol abuser is to make sure "he stays alive." While the "client" as patients are called, is sleeping it off, vital signs are taken regularly for evidence of withdrawal or other

physical problems. Many people do not know it, explained Ms. Oakes, but you can die from the effects of alcohol withdrawal.

There is no actual medical treatment, except for minor cuts and bruises, but the Entry staff is medically trained to know when a client needs medical or psychiatric help. If so, they are transferred to a hospital for attention.

The staff includes Ms. Oakes, a registered nurse; two Emergency Medical Technician grade EMT I's; 7 EMT grade II's and four with advanced first aid training.

Since Entry opened they have

treated more than 800 people. Ms. Oakes said that most of the clients are skid row types. There are others, however, including college professors, students and husbands or wives who are afraid to go home until they sober up.

Besides bringing clients back to sobriety, Entry offers the alcohol abuser a rehabilitation program. A history of each client is taken and they are offered help from such agencies as Alcoholics Anonymous.

The percentage of clients who agree to seek help for themselves is low but it doesn't seem to discourage Entry To Care's staff. Eleven per cent of the clients are

known to have begun "rehab" programs.

Statistics for the first year's operation are sketchy. More conclusive figures will be available at the year's end. Entry does estimate that 46 per cent of the clients leave the center sober.

The only complaint Ms. Oakes has is that the Entry to Care Center is not used enough. The police have donated a police radio and a van is used from 4:30 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. every evening to pick up people who are intoxicated. The center is open around the clock.



Msgr. Cirrincione Receives Award

Msgr. Joseph A. Cirrincione, who has broadcasted the Family Rosary for Peace for more than 25 years, recently received a citation for his service to the community. The award, from the Make America Better Committee of the Real Estate Board of Rochester, is presented to Msgr. Cirrincione by Regis Mooney, chairperson.

Photo by Ben Susso

## RTL Gives Warning on Solicitation

An "urgent memorandum" cautioning against participation in ventures proposed by a man posing as an "authorized" pro-life agent of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops, was recently issued by the New York State Right to Life Committee. The memorandum, authored by Helen Greene, chairman of the state group, reads as follows:

"We received notice from Monsignor (James T.) McHugh, director of the Committee for Population and Pro-Life Activities of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops in Washington regarding unauthorized soliciting of funds. Msgr. McHugh stated that Dr. Thomas Donovan, alias, James Anton, has been calling dioceses and parishes to enlist support, and contributions, for a pro-life newsletter that he intends to publish.

"We have made inquiries

regarding Dr. Donovan and find that this individual is not registered to solicit funds in the State of New York under any of the titles, or alias names, that we have thus far received. (Among the names that Dr. Donovan goes by are: James Anton,

Dr. Issaca, Voice of Theofolis and Interfaith Pro-Life Crusade.) Therefore we are advising you not to cooperate with this solicitation of funds. Please advise your local Catholic pastors of the above information immediately."

## Pope Upgrades Laity Council

Vatican City - Pope Paul has upgraded the Vatican Council of the Laity to the status of a pontifical commission. He also has given the nine-year-old agency a broader and more juridical function in the lay apostolate and in the application of church law to lay activities.

Yet, with the upgrading, some Vatican observers expressed their belief that the Vatican has endeavored to tighten control of the laity by giving them what is, in effect, their own "congregation." The task of a congregation, by and large, is a disciplinary one.

Among its duties the new commission will encourage

the laity to a more dynamic participation in church life, promote apostolic initiatives, encourage a more effective lay presence in liturgical, catechetical, sacramental and educational activity, and ensure "correct observance" of church laws concerning the laity.

According to the pontiff's apostolic letter (motu proprio), the commission will oversee "correct observance of the ecclesiastical laws" and provide administrative assistance in resolving conflicts concerning the laity. It also will supervise the "collaboration of lay people in pastoral councils," the letter said.

The letter pointed out that the extent of the laity's commission's sphere of action will bring it into frequent contact with other Vatican departments and that the commission will have to harmonize its activities "in an exchange that must become ever more close and intense."

Heading the new commission are Cardinal Opilio Rossi, an Italian prelate born in New York City. He will be assisted by Cardinals Ugo Poletti, Eduardo Pironio and Joseph Schroffer.

It is not known whether the two top laymen in the

old council—Dr. Mieczyslaw de Habicht and Rosemary Goldie—will serve on the commission.

### EPIPHANY

A Twelfth Night service, commemorating the Epiphany, will begin at 7:30 p.m. tomorrow in Christ Church, East Avenue at Broadway. The traditional candlelight celebration centers on the story of the Magi—their journey to the crib of the Holy Infant. The Sisters of St. Joseph Chorale will sing, under the direction of Sister Virginia Hogan.

Afterward, there will be a silent procession to the parish house for the burning of the Yule log and the greens.

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