



Child Abuse It's Big Concern In This Area

First of Two Articles
By MARTIN TOOMBS
Southern Tier Editor

It has been estimated that 2,000 children die each year as the result of abuse or neglect. During 1976, at least 11 children in the Rochester diocese died as the result of abuse or neglect, and several counties in the diocese were among the state's leaders in child abuse reports.

The severity of the state's problem was left to estimates until 1973, when the Child Protective Services Act set up the toll-free reporting system, mandated reporting of suspected child abuse or neglect from professionals, including doctors, nurses, teachers and social workers, and required each county to set up a child protection unit.

During 1976, the toll-free "hotline" registered 103,097 child abuse reports. As of Jan. 1, 44,872 of those were found to be child abuse or neglect; 14,607 were under investigation, and 43,618 were judged unfounded.

Child abuse and neglect should be a special concern to diocesans. The state's 1976 annual report on Child Protective Services noted that all but three of the 10 counties with the highest

reporting rates border on each other and lie roughly between Syracuse and Hornell." Included among the 10 counties with the highest reporting rate are Chemung, Tompkins, Seneca, Steuben and Cayuga. Chemung County leads the state in both reports and indicated cases of abuse or neglect.

As the severity of the child abuse and neglect problem has become better known, efforts to aid the abused child and the abusing adult have increased. One such effort has been the founding of the Family Life Development Center at Cornell University through state and federal grants, to work with the county child protection units.

Frank Barry of the center described the center's goals as being the organization of task forces to deal with child abuse and neglect in each county, to train child protection personnel, and to serve as a resource for information concerning child development, abuse and treatment.

The task forces are an important tool in child abuse treatment, Barry said. The task forces include

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LABOR DAY 1977

USCC Terms Unemployment Top National Problem

Washington, D.C. (RNS) — Calling massive unemployment in this country "the most serious threat to human dignity and the most serious violation of social justice" in American economic life, the U.S. Catholic Conference's 1977 Labor Day statement urged a national commitment to employment as a basic human right.

It also chided President Carter for failing to "follow through" on his campaign pledges to call for a "national commitment to full employment" and to push for passage of a comprehensive full employment and balanced growth act. The statement said the President has sponsored a "modest program" of economic and employment initiatives but it "falls far short of genuine full employment."

"The suffering of millions of our fellow citizens, the teaching of the Church, and the ideals of our nation require prompt, effective and compassionate action to put all our people to

work," the statement declared.

Authored by Msgr. George G. Higgins, USCC secretary for research and labor relations specialist, and John Carr, USCC coordinator for urban issues, the statement pointed to the week of Sept. 4 to 10, National Full Employment Week, as a "focus for community action on full employment." It said the week "offers us an opportunity to recommit ourselves to the achievement of the basic human right to employment for all those able and willing to work."

The statement, entitled "Full Employment," warned that high unemployment has become a "normal feature" of the nation's economy. "This poses fundamental moral, social and economic questions for our people and our leaders. We need to face these questions now before we become accustomed to the human and material waste represented by massive joblessness."

Observing that there are already signs of a "growing acceptance" of intolerable unemployment rates, the USCC statement said "to combat this spirit of apathy and indifference, a cross section of religious, labor, business, civil rights and other leaders are calling our nation to consider seriously the costs of joblessness and the need for full employment."

It added that these leaders know that "the time has come for intensified activities . . . to examine the terrible dimensions of this crisis and the necessity of effective action to achieve full employment." Thus, Sept. 4 to 10 was designated National Full Employment Week, an opportunity for community rallies, conferences and meetings to "remind all Americans of the cost of joblessness and the need for new policies to put Americans back to work."

During this week, the religious community will be asked to pray for the unemployed and to

"examine the ethical and moral dimensions of unemployment in homilies and other forums."

The USCC and other Catholic agencies, the statement said, will seek to echo in their Full Employment Week participation the continuing concern of the Church that "unemployment represents a vast and tragic waste of human and material resources."

The statement pointed out that more than 20 million individual Americans were unemployed last year, and almost one third of the American people "touched by joblessness." This Summer, nearly seven million were without jobs. "Although the official unemployment rate has slipped below 7 per cent, more comprehensive measures of joblessness indicate that nearly 10 per cent of the work force is unemployed."

The statement also noted that President Carter had

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National CHD Grants \$120,900 In Awards to Area Agencies

BY MICHAEL GRODEN

The National Campaign for Human Development awarded a total of \$120,900 to two area self-help agencies last Tuesday at the diocesan Pastoral Office

The two recipients were the Legal Advocacy Project, who received \$96,700, and Group 14621, allotted \$24,200

Announcing the grants Bishop Joseph L. Hogan said that since its inception in 1969 the Campaign for Human Development has been the "finest hour for the Church in America."

It gives "tangible proof" that the Church is working to break the "hellish circle of poverty in America," he said.

In accepting the check from Bishop Hogan, Connie Valk, representing Group 14621, said, "I gratefully accept this check on behalf of 14621 and I thank Bishop Hogan and the Campaign for selecting us as a recipient."

Group 14621 is a community-sponsored program composed of individuals, families, neighborhood groups and local churches dedicated to improving the neighborhoods located in the 14621 zip code section of Rochester.



Bishop Hogan presents checks totaling \$120,900 to Group 14621 representative Connie Valk, left, and Legal Advocacy Project head Susan Schub, right.

Ms Valk pledged that the money given by CHD will be used to improve existing programs and hire additional staff for future ones.

Legal Advocacy Project spokesperson Susan Schub expressed her "deepest gratitude" to the diocese and CHD for funding the migrant-farmer protection agency for another year.

Bishop Hogan noted that it was very unusual for the National Campaign to grant an agency funds two years in a row. Legal Advocacy received \$98,000 last year.

The agency

rights of migrant farmers in areas such as wages and social services. According to Carole Lloyd, diocesan director for the campaign, the Diocese of Rochester receives the largest number of migrant farmers in the state, mainly in Wayne County.

National CHD grants are awarded to agencies who have proven themselves effective in attacking "the root causes of poverty by working toward institutional change." Both Group 14621 and the Legal Advocacy Project give solid evidence that they meet those criteria, a National CHD news release said.

The diocese has donated some \$536,600 to the national campaign since it began seven years ago. It has been granted \$525,100 in funding.

Lloyd attributes the high return to "excellent proposals generated in our diocese," and "expertise of the local CHD task force people who evaluate and recommend the proposals."

Bishop Hogan said that the CHD grants received thus far were "only the beginning," and that he sees the day coming when even more programs in the diocese will be given aid.