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Volunteers, Donations Set Up Storefront

By MARTIN TOOMBS
Southern Tier Editor

Elmira—A dozen volunteers, a donated storefront, and a large supply of used clothing have come together to form a storefront operation sponsored by the Chemung-Schuyler Region Human Development Committee.

The volunteers, coordinated by Sister Carmella of Notre Dame High School, represent several Elmira parishes, and sister hopes to soon involve persons from every parish.

The storefront is being used for six months rent-free, Sister Carmella explained, for which the group is grateful to George Zurenda, head of the Clemens Performing Arts Center board. The store is in the Clemens Center building, at 116 E. Grey St.

The supply of clothes, which fills several rooms, were used to help needy families last summer, sister said, but are in unheated space in the former St. Patrick's Convent, and previously couldn't be taken out in

the winter. The store is being stocked from the supply in the convent, she said, and from donations.

The organizing group, which includes Father Neil Miller, Sister Carmella and Mrs. Francis Harper, sought the space at no cost so that the usefulness of the store could be tested, sister said. Arrangements were made in late March, she said, and the store opened Wednesday, April 5, and has been successful from the start.

Current hours are 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Wednesday and Friday, and 10 a.m. to noon on Saturday. Sister commented that when more volunteers come forward, hours probably will be extended.

The effort also has received assistance from Thomas Delaney of Rosenbaums, and from Harold's Army and Navy, sister noted, who provided clothes racks. Hangers also were donated.

Sister Carmella also reported the assistance of Notre Dame students, including some members

of the track team who ran from school to the store to wash windows, and then ran back. Among the students involved in setting up the store and in staffing it on Saturdays are Joe Santoro, Anna Jeneski, Kevin McCann and Kathy Healey, sister said.

Items in the store are not priced, sister explained, the staff tries to set prices to fit a person's ability to pay. This is not always easy, she noted, adding that the store is not looking for some types of business. She reported that one customer wanted several towels for a camping trailer, and suddenly found a worker who was unwilling to lower a quoted price.

Income from the store is placed in a special account, sister said, and used to help families in crisis situations. To date, assistance with fuel bills that have staggered family budgets has been an important need, she reported. The money also has been used to purchase food for families.

To explain the founding of the store, Sister



At work in the storefront operated by volunteers under the auspices of the Chemung-Schuyler Region Human Development Committee are, from left; Edith Caroscio, Genevieve Semesky, Joe Santoro and Sister Carmella.

Carmella described the effort she was involved in last summer. Brother Michael, an elderly Elmira who had been aiding families at Christmas, turned a list of 228 families over to the region, as he said he was no longer able to take care of them. Mary Ann Caroscio, Connie Dunn and herself visited the families last summer, sister noted, and provided some clothing aid. During the fall, the list was

divided among the city's parishes, which took responsibility for Christmas baskets.

The program has become an ongoing one, sister said, several of the families involved have continued contact with the family they aided at Christmas. Several families received Easter baskets, she noted.

The need the program demonstrated provided

the impetus for the storefront, sister said, as a regular source of low-cost clothing, and as a source for other assistance to low-income families.

Sister Carmella noted that others donating time to the effort include Kathy Dubel, Edith Caroscio, Genevieve Semesky, Adelin Mezur, Genevieve Mezur, Virginia Harper, Olga Barnowski, Helen Sullivan, Mrs. Harvey and Mrs. Montanarella.

Ground Broken For New Church

Horseheads—The parishioners of St. Mary Our Mother Parish are accepting a "special vocation" to build a church. Father Bartholomew O'Brien, pastor, said at the groundbreaking ceremonies May 14.

"This special vocation comes from God in two directions," he stated, from the bishop and from the people of the parish.

With the groundbreaking ceremony, he said, "we symbolize our formal acceptance" of the vocation to build a church which will be used to serve Church people for many years. The church will remain "a testament to faith" even after every member of the parish has "gone to his reward," he said.

More than 200 parishioners attended the ceremonial groundbreaking, which took place in the parish chapel because of inclement weather. Father O'Brien, Father John Firpo, assistant pastor, parish trustees, and other parishioners participated in the symbolic groundbreaking, utilizing a pan of earth removed from the location of the new church's altar.

Benediction followed the ceremony.

Others participating in the ceremony were: Roger Joy, William A. Crowley, Aloysius F. Stanton, Cecilia Widman, John D. Kremer, Robert L. Ivers, James Hinton, John T. Gough,



Father O'Brien (center) joins with parishioners at the rite.

James T. Kildea Sr. and Eileen Gilbert.

The groundbreaking fell on Mother's Day and Pentecost; Father O'Brien noted the parish's dedication to St. Mary Our Mother, and the special annual ob-

servance of Pentecost as making the day especially appropriate for the ceremony.

Dedication ceremonies for the new church are tentatively scheduled for fall, 1979.

Auburn CDA Plans Outing

Auburn—Members of Court Auburn 263, Catholic Daughters of America, will assemble at St. Aloysius Church Sunday morning, June 4, for the 8:30 Mass celebrated by Father Edward Shamon. Afterward, they will go to Springside Inn on Owasco Lake for brunch. The Knights of Columbus Auxiliary will join them. Mrs. Vernon Pinckney heads the committee.

Regular meetings of the Catholic Daughters include a 6:30 p.m. Mass celebrated by

Father Clarence Gardner and a catered dinner, in the K. of C. Home. The court provided gifts this year to the School of the Holy Childhood, in Rochester; the Maryknoll Sisters, Johnstown Flood-Relief, National Charities and the Marie Curry Seminary Fund. Locally, donations were made to the Mercy Health and Rehabilitation Center, Meals-on-Wheels, Auburn Correctional Facility and church emergency food supplies.

St. Cecelia's Bazaar June 3

Elmira—St. Cecelia's Annual Bazaar will be Saturday, June 3 from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. and Sunday, June 4, from 1 p.m. to 10 p.m. on the church grounds at 950 Lake St. There will be a chicken barbecue Sunday afternoon. Visitors are invited to enjoy home-made pizza-fritte, perogies, tacos, Italian sausage and clams. "Eddie" Rhode will entertain on Sunday afternoon. There will be no admission charge.

Career Parents Sought

Elmira—Paid career parents are needed for homeless teenagers, ages 13-17. Limited requirements are necessary to become eligible; applicants may be single parents, families, single males or females, or grandparents. The teenagers need supervision, guidance and someone who cares. For further information, contact the Elmira office of the state Division for Youth, 733-6656.

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Parish Festival June 3, 4 in Ithaca

Ithaca—Plans for the immaculate Conception Parish's Fifth Annual Parish Festival are progressing well, according to Father Bernard L. Carges, pastor. This year the festival will be Saturday and Sunday, June 3 and 4, at the school grounds at the corner of Plain and Court streets. It is a major parish fund raising activity.

Parishioners have been busy for months crocheting, knitting and sewing for the event. Crafts and baked

goods of all kinds will be displayed and sold in the "Country Store," which also will feature used items of furniture, appliances, and other odds and ends. A chicken barbecue will be served both days, as will hot sausage and pepper sandwiches, hot dogs, clams, tacos, and an Italian specialty, pizza-fritte. There will be cotton candy, snocones and popcorn for the kids. The festival is open to the public, and live entertainment will be provided.

St. Patrick's Sets Anointing

Elmira—St. Patrick's Parish will sponsor a Mass of Communal Anointing Sunday, June 4 at 2:30 p.m. Bishop Joseph L. Hogan will be the principal celebrant, homilist and will participate in the anointing.

A parish steering committee is planning the service. Provision will be made for wheelchairs and for other problems; medical personnel also are scheduled to be in attendance. Those unable to leave the pew will receive the sacrament in their place.

Anyone who suffers from a serious illness is able to be anointed, with no age limit. Shut-ins and the elderly infirm who are unable to attend Mass regularly are especially invited.

A social hour in the school hall will follow the service. Further information can be obtained by contacting St. Patrick's rectory, 733-6661.

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