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# COURIER-JOURNAL

## Southern Tier-Auburn Geneva

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### Volunteers Assisting Battered Wives

By MARTIN TOOMBS  
Southern Tier Editor

Ithaca—A group of 10 volunteers are providing counseling services to battered wives in Tompkins County, and have been doing so without significant financial support.

The group has aided more than 100 women this year, despite limited resources that sometimes result in volunteers paying clients' expenses. The emergency housing they have available is provided by volunteer families, who take women and their children for up to three days.

That is the situation described by Julie Duchin-Baniowski, who heads the Tompkins County Task Force on Battered Women.

The group feels frustrated, she explained, as they realize the size of the wife-beating problem, but are unable to increase services.

"We're all working on our anger" that women are subject to violence, Ms. Duchin-Baniowski said.

"Nobody deserves to be beaten. Nobody. No matter what. And that's my anger," she stated emphatically.

But anger may not be enough, she said, "if we don't see something coming back from the community."

An attempt to get funding for a shelter and staff from the state Department of Social Services failed. The group

was notified last month that their application was rejected because of a lack of funds on the state level.

The situation is such, Ms. Duchin-Baniowski said, that recently she "fed a woman and two kids for two weeks" with her own money. The woman's husband had left, and taken the food stamps, she recounted, leaving the mother and children with no food and no way to get any. Under the circumstances, she commented, "we have to put in our own money" out of compassion.

Funding also would make it possible for contacts to be made outside the city of Ithaca, she noted, where she said she is sure there is a severe wife-beating problem. "We

need at least one full-time person" to do such work, she noted.

The group receives requests for assistance through the Suicide Prevention Center's hotline, 272-1616. Counselors there deal with any immediate crisis, she explained, such as ambulance calls, or calls to police. The counselor from the battered women's project will meet the woman at the hospital or somewhere else, she noted. Workers don't go to the homes, she said, because of the danger to themselves.

The prospect of violence from husbands whose wives they are counseling also is a burden the volunteers carry, she pointed out.

"We don't try to break up the family," when counseling the women, she noted, but "give them all the compassion we can." We "do everything in our power to help them" do what they want to do, she said.

A major part of the task, she pointed out, is building up the woman's self-esteem. She noted that they often have low concepts of self-worth, and commonly feel that they deserved the beating.

Child abuse also is often involved, she noted, commenting that recently they worked with a woman whose husband also was abusing their four-month-old child.

She also pointed out that the commonly held idea that abuse is only found in

low-income families is a misconception. She noted that they have assisted wives of professionals.

When women with violent husbands return to their homes, the counselor lets them go, she said, pointing out that "they have to be ready to leave (their husbands), we cannot and will not tell them to leave."

"If they need us, we'll be there" again, she said, noting that many women do seek the group's help again.

Referrals are made whenever they help, she noted. "We take them to the proper services," she said, and "use every resource we possibly can" to help the women and their children.

### 100 Women Attend Corning Retreat

Corning—A program designed to help women find their identities as daughters of God and sisters of Jesus Christ was conducted by Rosalie Muschal-Reinhardt at the women's retreat at St. Patrick's Oct. 10.

More than 100 local churchwomen attended the day-long retreat. Ms. Muschal-Reinhardt led the day's activities, assisted by Diane Dentinger Blum.

The retreat was planned by a group of St. Patrick's women who had attended such an event and wanted to make the experience available

to more women in the Corning area.

Ms. Muschal-Reinhardt opened the program with scriptural readings on the Creation. She then directed the participants to separate into groups of three persons not already acquainted. She then asked a series of questions designed to help the women discuss their feelings.

Mrs. Eleanor Nasser introduced the speaker and presented the soloist, Mrs. Theresa Pierotti. The day's program also included a luncheon and a closing prayer service.

### Elmira 'House' Not Stopped

Elmira—There "wasn't very much money available" in a new state program to fund "safe houses" to shelter victims of family violence, primarily abused wives and their children, explained Raymond Fortier, Chemung County Social Services Commissioner.

Services caseworkers when needed.

The service will be paid for through provisions for emergency family assistance, he explained, with 50 percent federal, 25 percent state, and 25 percent local responsibility for costs.

As a result, the proposal from the Salvation Army for a "safe house" for Elmira was rejected, he said.

But the need for the service is such, Fortier said, that the county is negotiating with the Salvation Army for "purchase of service." Under the agreement, the Salvation Army will provide services to the abuse victims, he noted, with support from Social

### Bazaar Nov. 3

Corning—St. Patrick's Parish will be sponsoring a bazaar Friday, Nov. 3, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the parish center. A variety of hand-drafted other sale items, and games will be available.

### Radiology Technicians Graduated

Elmira—The Class of 1978 of St. Joseph's Hospital School of Radiologic Technology had commencement exercises Friday, Oct. 13, in the Little Flower Chapel in the Dunn Memorial.

Among the graduates honored were Bonnie Hamilton, recipient of the Mallinckrodt Award for general performance, and Linda Pelot, recipient of the Radiologists and Squibb and Son Award for scholastic achievement.

Diplomas were presented by Dr. Fred Barton, radiology director, assisted by Mrs. Firmina Wilkins, RT, School of Radiologic Technology director, and Mrs. Joann Treat, R.T., clinical instructor. The commencement ad-



A theme of the family for First Friday at St. Mary Our Mother, Horseheads, led to the making of "class trees," with each member's name on it. Above, from left, Tony Yushinsky, John Burke, Mike Dimon and Jamie Brenzo take a look at the seventh grade's tree, set up in the chapel for the Mass.

dress was delivered by Mark Dischinger, Eastman Kodak representative.

Father Cyril Guise, OCD, offered the benediction. Gerald Pickering, husband of a graduate, provided vocal selections, accompanied by Sister Mary Elizabeth Brewer.

### Youth Group Sets Football Trip

Corning—St. Mary's Parish Youth Committee is sponsoring a trip to a Buffalo Bills football game, open to the people of the parish.

The game will be Sunday, Nov. 12, and will be against the Miami Dolphins. The bus

will leave St. Mary's parking lot at 8:30 a.m., and return there. The cost for game ticket and transportation is \$12 per person.

There was a reception following the ceremony. The graduates are Bonnie Hamilton, Elmira; Linda Pelot, Horseheads; Donna Pickering, Elmira; Karen Raczkowski, Elmira; Karen Smith, Endicott; and Pamela Turner, Horseheads.

More information and registration can be obtained by contacting St. Mary's Rectory-962-0422.

### Catechist Role Topic of Talk

Seneca Falls— "What are we about in our roles as catechists in today's world?"

This question was posed by Sister Jody Screes, a Dominican sister from Detroit who spoke at St. Patrick's here recently as part of a week for catechists sponsored by the Seneca Cayuga Regional Education Committee.

"We are asked to be ministers to our children in an age of change and confusion. We are coming from a time when the priority in children's lives was to be able to articulate questions and answers" she said. "What is really happening is a return to basics, but not the basics of 1963. Rather, those basics which were lived in the first century."

Sister Jody pointed out that the pain of baptized Catholics, especially those between 28 and 38 is often enormous. Church is rejected often because "what you taught me doesn't have much meaning." On the other side of the coin there are those who cry, "Why all the changes, that was my security."

What we have to know, she said, is that in the first century there were no catechists. One learned Christianity by living within the community which was held together by the idea of Jesus who was present and among them.

"Realizing God was speaking to them within this community, there had to be a conscious, daily turning toward Jesus in this daily life," she stressed.

Catechists are in a position to help children and their parents understand why things are the way they are today, she said. Bishops

defended and refined the faith in the Council of Trent. Definitions came about and eventually the method of transmitting the faith changed from conversion to instruction, she said.

The Baltimore Catechism was written after a conference of bishops in Baltimore in the late 19th century as a handbook for the clergy and teachers, she said. Though truths do not change over the centuries, the question and format didn't necessarily say everything, she said.

Sister Jody explained that Vatican I tried to change our idea of God as the one who also speaks to us through scripture and liturgy. The world wars and the depression came and it wasn't until the peace of the 1950s that attention was again focused on these religious education issues by Vatican II, she said.

"The role of the catechist is to understand what the reincarnation is about. When you believe that Jesus is in you you want to share this whole idea with others. We are concerned with letting children know God's saving action for them is in their life today. Our job as catechists is to bring the child closer to the Father by believing in this ourselves," Sister Jody concluded.

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