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# COURIER-JOURNAL

## Southern Tier-Auburn Geneva

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### Tioga Project in 2nd Year

By Martin Toombs  
 Southern Tier Editor

Owego — The two Sisters of Mercy who pioneered the Tioga County Rural Ministry Project are leaving the program, but the cooperative venture will continue.

Last August, Sisters Kathleen Flaherty and Carol Wulfort began the rural ministry effort, which is supported by the county's parishes and their order.

Taking over their jobs will be Sister Mary Kruckow, who for the last six years has been working as an Office of Human Development staff member, primarily in Steuben County, and Sister Sheila Geraghty, who has been a teacher at Corning Catholic School North.

The project's \$15,000 budget is funded in equal shares by the Sisters of Mercy and the four parish corporations of Tioga County: St. Patrick's, Owego, St. James, Waverly, St. Margaret Mary, Apalachin, and St. John the Evangelist, Newark Valley-St. Francis, Catatonk.

Sister Kathleen's and Sister Carol's final report lists 462 visits, the distribution of 137 food baskets, aiding 57 families with clothing, helping with transportation on 45 occasions, and providing Christmas gifts to 100 children.

A Mass took place June 20 to thank the two sisters. Father Albert Cason, a co-pastor at St. Patrick's, and who, as regional coordinator, headed up the project, noted in his homily that those present "gather together to thank God for blessings He's bestowed on Tioga County Rural Ministry."

A reception followed the Mass, which was concelebrated by Father Cason; Father Thomas Watts, St. Patrick's co-pastor, and Father Terence O'Rourke of the House of Prayer.

The two sisters reported satisfaction with what they accomplished, and noted their wish that much of what they have done be continued. But they also had some recommendations.

More needs to be done to educate parishioners, the sisters said. While they did work with the human development committees, they didn't have opportunities to educate others, they reported.

Sister Carol noted that it is important in the rural area to "accept people where they are," and also necessary to accept that there are "things that you can't do and can't change."

One such problem was transportation. Confronted with varied requests for rides, the sisters found that asking volunteers to provide them rarely worked. Those who volunteer to drive someone often think in terms of taking a neighbor to church, they noted. Little could be done for some of the cases they confronted.

One blind girl needed to go to Binghamton three times a week — round trip and wait that would last several hours. Another woman needed a ride nearly across the county to visit her children who were in foster care. Many others needed transportation for shopping and to doctor's appointments, they said, many of them in Binghamton.

While the aging are served by a van, others have no public transportation, they noted. While they provided transportation in some cases, they had to limit that, as it would quickly have made it impossible for them to accomplish anything else.

Their work should make it easier for those who follow, they said. "We were accepted and it'll be easier for people to accept them," Sister Carol commented.

Sister Kathleen added that they are now "experts on Tioga County," after a year of trying to find their way around its back roads.

Sister Carol reported that they had no difficulties in their contact with non-Catholics, which comprised a significant part of their work, as the county population is only 7.3 percent Catholic, and 64 percent unchurched. Those figures are the extremes for the diocese's 12 counties.



Sister Carol (left) and Sister Kathleen at the reception given for them at St. Patrick's, Owego, June 20.

Working for five parishes was not a problem, they reported, but Sister Carol commented that "you really don't become a part of any one parish" while serving five. Reports were given to parish councils throughout the year, they noted.

The parishes are "showing a genuine concern for the poor" by their support of the program, Sister Carol said.

Their decision to leave came after a consideration of where the ministry should proceed. When they began they were committed to outreach, they said, but now, Sister Kathleen stated, the project needs the "next step."

Outreach, Sister Carol said, has been "beautiful, but not enough." Organization and education efforts need to be begun, they said.

Next year, Sister Carol will be teaching at St. Joseph's, Penfield, School, where she and Sister Kathleen taught before moving to Tioga County. This time she will be the principal.

Sister Kathleen will be teaching the fourth grade at Good Shepherd School in Henrietta.

### Reception July 22 For Bishop Clark

Elmira — Parishioners from the five Southern Tier counties will have an opportunity to meet Bishop Matthew H. Clark at a reception at the Clemens Performing Arts Center in Elmira Sunday, July 22, at 2:30 p.m.

Bishop Clark will participate in the reception during a four-day tour of the Southern Tier, during which time he will meet with area clergy.

Final details of the reception have yet to be completed, but Father Kevin Murphy, Chemung-Schuyler regional coordinator, noted that plans are under way to provide persons from each of the approximately 40 parishes in the five counties an opportunity to participate in the festivities.

Tickets for the Clemens

### Staff Burn-Out Discussion Set

Elmira — J. Frank Stark, ACSW, program coordinator for the Southern Tier Alcoholism Service (STARS) will speak on "Staff Burn-Out" at an alcoholism seminar in the Doctors Meeting Room of St. Joseph's Hospital Thursday, July 19 at 12:15 p.m.

Further information can be obtained by contacting STARS at 733-5519.



BISHOP CLARK

Center's 1,634 seats will be distributed to the parishes, Father Murphy said.

### Kopp Center Awarded \$100,000

Auburn — The Barbara Kopp Geriatric Research Center was awarded a \$100,000 grant here recently. The funds will be used by Dr. Chao Y Kuo for research on why malignant tumor cells escape the body's natural defenses.

The Research Center, located in the Mother Marianne Center (formerly the Mercy Hospital building) is operated by the Third Order of the Sisters of St. Francis.

Dr. Kuo joined the Barbara

### Holt Families Sets Picnic

Candor — Adoptive families with international children have been invited to attend a picnic sponsored by Holt Families Unlimited, a non-profit organization for such families. The picnic will be Saturday, July 21, at the VanScoy farm in Candor.

Holt Families is a group of adoptive families with international children who are interested in providing a meeting place for families.

The picnic is scheduled to begin at 1 p.m. Those wishing further information concerning the picnic, directions, and a map may contact Hope VanScoy, 27 Spencer Ave., Candor (607)659-7540 or Joann Draper, RD 2, Campbell, (607)527-8232.

Kopp staff in 1977. His investigative efforts have resulted in several papers presented to the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology and the American Association of Immunologists.

Working at the Center with Dr. Kuo are Dr. Thomas Mahar, director of research and D.G. Patel, Ph.D., member of the research staff investigating diabetes.

### Victims of Crime to Be Focus of New Program

By Martin Toombs  
 Southern Tier Editor

Elmira — "What about the victims of crime?" is a question often asked agencies that help persons charged with crimes.

Chemung County's Coalition for Criminal Justice, which has sponsored the Offender Aid and Restoration (OAR) program in the county jail, recognized the need to address the injustice committed on crime victims, and began work two years ago to get funding for a victim assistance program. Working on getting the funding were board members and Sister Margaret Mary Flynn, OAR's executive director.

Their efforts paid off, as the Neighborhood Justice Project was funded by the federal Law Enforcement Assistance Administration as part of a demonstration project which also involves two other cities.

The project's staff, Joyce Kowalewski, victim services; Robert Darling, neighborhood mediation coordinator, and Barbara Stanton, administrative assistant, began work June 11, and expect to begin aiding victims later this month.

A range of courts to crime victims and a court-diversion mediation process are the central elements of the county program.

The project's telephone will be open 24 hours a day, to

provide immediate assistance to-crime victims. That could include helping them apply to the state's Victim Compensation Program; helping victims re-secure their homes; referral to other agencies; transportation related to the crime, and providing information on the criminal justice system.

Mrs. Kowalewski explained that they expect to get referrals from police agencies, Neighborhood Legal Services, social agencies, and walk-ins.

Mrs. Kowalewski noted that Chemung Dist. Atty. D. Bruce Crew "has given his verbal support to the entire project," and the support of the sheriff and city police chief also have been received.

Plans call for training 40 volunteers who will provide many of the services. Volunteers are being sought for a training session tentatively scheduled for September, Mrs. Kowalewski said.

Mediation also will be available as a diversion from the criminal process. Mediation will not take place when violence is involved, Mrs. Kowalewski said, and requires that both parties agree to participate. The best cases for mediation, she commented, are those in which both parties meet each other, and the arrest grew from a continuing conflict.

Mediation will involve face-to-face meetings between the victim and the criminal.

Darling said, with a volunteer acting as the mediator.

The court system "doesn't do anything for the victim," Darling noted, "but the mediation process can," as it often involves restitution, or may decrease the chances of a re-occurrence. "For mediation to work," he added, "they have to come in good faith."

A future activity will be town meetings, at which issues such as securing homes, watching neighbors' homes during their absence, and other crime prevention measures will be discussed.

Darling comes to the program after having been public affairs director for an Elmira radio station for three years. He also is active in the local Quaker organization.

Mrs. Kowalewski has a masters degree in counseling and a doctorate in English. She formerly was placement specialist for Capabilities in Elmira, and has 10 years experience teaching at the college level.

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