

Family Support Program

Counseling Used by Court to Reduce Crime

By Martin Toombs
Southern Tier Editor

Elmira — City Recorder, Court Judge John D. Frawley has spent more than 22 years on the bench, and as the years have passed he has become increasingly familiar with those brought before him.

Some time ago, when looking at those awaiting hearings, he asked his court officer to check the records of the families of the 10 persons there. The officer found 245 cases that had come before Frawley from the 10 families.

Frawley, who also is chairman of the Chemung-Schuyler Region's Family Enrichment Committee, is a strong believer in the family and the need for strengthening it. Those two facts provided the basis for the formation of the Family Support Program which operates from his court.

Funded by the federal Law Enforcement Assistance Administration (LEAA) the program provides counseling to the families of those brought before the court. Frawley is director of the program; Sister Dorothy Becker is associate director, and heads the day-to-day operations. Also on the staff are Mary Murphy, a social worker, Lauren Schweizer, doing community outreach, and a secretary, Elizabeth Clayton.

Frawley emphasized that the program is needed because others available to the court don't deal "with the family as a unit," but rather with the individual. In order to improve the home life, the entire family must receive counseling, he pointed out.

Frawley compared the program to court-forced alcoholic treatment. With the people he refers for family counseling, he noted, they're dealing with people "who don't recognize they have problems," just as alcoholics don't recognize their problem.

Since the program's beginnings in the fall of 1977, the staff has worked with 200 families, sister reported, and currently the program has a caseload of 100 families.

Counseling is done in individual, family and group sessions. Volunteers also aid the program, providing tutoring, babysitting and working as big brothers. More volunteers are always needed, Sister Dorothy said.

Family breakdown caused by emphasis on the individual is the cause of many of the problems, Frawley said. And, while the deterioration of the family gets worse, "everybody is just going along on a business-as-usual basis," he said.

Frawley explained that he does most of the screening of clients for the program. While examining the probation report on a person brought before him, he considers the value of the support program to that person's family. If he feels the program will help, he adjourns the case in contemplation of dismissal for six months, under the condition that the family participates in the Family Support Program. If no problems develop, the charges are dropped at the end of six months.

Sister Dorothy noted that while some clients aren't too happy that they must attend

the sessions, the fear of having to go back to court usually assures their cooperation. And it is common for that initial reluctance to break down, and for the family to continue participation after the charges have been dismissed.

Frawley emphasized his feeling that "forced referrals work."

Frawley and Sister Dorothy agreed that the program is dealing with "monumental problems" of family breakdown, and won't cause miracles. But they have seen improvements, and, Sister Dorothy pointed out, local police have told her of four

families which had been the source of many disturbance calls but which have stopped being a problem since their participation in the program began.

Asked if the program amounted to a "soft" treatment of offenders by dismissing the charges, Frawley pointed out that you "have to look at what is effective" in preventing more court appearances. He also noted the benefit the program could have for younger children in a family whose chances of getting in trouble with the law in future years would be greater without the program.

Recorder's Court deals with offenders from the age of 16, and Sister Dorothy noted that many cases she works with involve teenagers. Another common thread among the troubled families is alcohol abuse, she noted, pointing out that a youth group that meets under the program's sponsorship includes many teenagers who have problems with drugs or alcohol.

Another common feature of the families, she noted, is the lack of any supports from outside the family. The teenagers tend to be school dropouts, and often the families don't attend any church. The Family Support

Program often becomes the support such families need, she pointed out.

The families often also must deal with the additional stresses caused by divorce and remarriage, she said.

The Family Support Program began with a grant from Urban Renewal, and has continued with the LEAA grant. The program is funded through Sept. 30, and then will be eligible for the third and final year of the grant. Beyond that the program's future is uncertain, sister said; other arrangements for funding or sponsorship are possible, she noted.

Campaign Nets 522 Letters

St. Pius Tenth Parish in Chili has gathered more than 520 letters in the campaign sponsored by the diocesan Justice and Peace Commission Task Force on Cambodia.

According to Father Gerald

Connor, pastor, form letters were duplicated and distributed throughout the church, and mention was made of the campaign from the pulpit.

The campaign is aimed at

getting better distribution of food inside Cambodia. The letters ask, on humanitarian grounds, that conditions be changed so that the major, and as yet, unsolved, problem of food and medicine distribution, within Cambodian borders, be eradicated.

Couples Weekend Scheduled

A weekend for couples on the theme of communication will be held Feb. 8-10 at the Cenacle Renewal Center.

The weekend will be led by John and Elizabeth Barnowski of the Catholic Family Center, and Sisters Margaret Mary Mattle and Barbara Heaune.

The program will include presentations on the dynamics of marriage communication, opportunities for group discussions and personal prayer and liturgy.

Registration opens at 7:30 p.m. on Friday; and the weekend concludes at 4 p.m. on Sunday.

Reservations are made through the Cenacle, 693 East Ave., Rochester, N.Y. 14607. The Cenacle phone number is (716) 271-8755.

'Upstairs' Players Set 'City Streets'

City Streets, an original musical dealing with the life of Rochester teenagers, will be performed four times at Xerox Square Theatre by the "Upstairs" Youth Ministry of St. Augustine's and St. Monica's Churches. Curtain time will be 8 p.m. on Feb. 1 and 2; 2 p.m. Feb. 3. There will be a Valentine Day performance at 8 p.m. Feb. 14.

The show was written by Susan Latson and Eric Falla from a story by Dawn Fullerton and Kathy Ward, Rochesterians all. Anthony Falzano, a youth minister with "Upstairs" wrote and orchestrated the music. Cheryl Schaefer is choral director; Linda Goebel, choreographer; Sister Sheila Walsh, director, and Barbara Neu, producer. Ticket chairman is Beverly Deutsch, 621-6549. Thirty young people from 12 high schools and colleges make up the cast.

Corpus Christi Tackles Project

Corpus Christi people, who have seen their downtown Rochester parish through many a financial crisis, have taken on a \$50,000 job — the rehabilitation of a vandalized, vacant building that is "demoralizing," the pastor said, to the neighbors.

The building stands at Parsells and Webster avenues, "a strategic corner," Father James Callan said. It was given to the parish by an unidentified donor. Corpus Christi plans to have an "outreach" office there, and hopes to attract a

clinic, a law office and a restaurant, the pastor continued. "This is a stabilizing kind of thing."

The wiring, plumbing and general repairs will be done by parishioners, under the supervision of Kevin Busch and Michael McBride. The initial clean-up began on a recent Sunday as a parish project. The estimated expense of \$50,000 will be met by "private donations," Father Callan expects.

"We've just mentioned it," he said, and already we have been given \$9,000. If God is behind us, the money will come. We always operate that way."

Antique Sale Scheduled

The Alumnae Association of Our Lady of Mercy High School has scheduled its annual Antique Show and Sale from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., Saturday, Jan. 26, and from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Sunday, Jan. 27, at the school gymnasium, Blossom Road and Clover Street.

Antique expert Margot Gram will be on hand from 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., both days, to appraise articles for sale-goers. In addition to lunches and light snacks, baked goods will be offered for sale.

Workshop On Metrics

A metric workshop for families associated with St. John's-Blessed Sacrament consolidated schools will be held at Blessed Sacrament at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 30. Mrs. Sue Seidenburg of the junior high mathematics department will discuss metric measurements and perform some practical experiments.



FATHER POWELL

TV Series, 'Families' Opens Feb. 3

Father John Powell, SJ, talks about relationships in the family in the first program of a three-part television series, at 7 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 3, on WXXI. He speaks of roots and wings, the roots being the sense of personal worth the family must give; the wings, the challenge of responsibility to take charge of one's life.

The series will continue Feb. 10 and 17 at 7 p.m.

A program guide provides outlines of the talks and group discussion material. This may be obtained from the Office of Religious Education, 328-3210.

THOUGHTS TO CONSIDER



EDWIN SULEWSKI FUNERAL DIRECTOR

We are often asked about the proper way to show concern toward the family of the deceased. There are many expressions of sympathy that are acceptable — and your preference may depend upon what is traditional to the people who have suffered the loss of the loved one.

The most universal remembrance is flowers — provided as an individual or as a group. In some instances, the family may designate an area of interest for memorial gifts (the giving of money), or money gifts may be given for the family's particular needs, or for a memorial to be selected by the family at a later date.

For those who are not directly involved with the family, an appropriate card with a short personal note will express concern. Regardless of the method of condolence, the fact that you have expressed it is the important thing — and will be cherished by the bereaved in their time of need.

We would be happy to answer any questions you might have, please call.

Use our lending library on death, bereavement, and related subjects.

SCHAUMAN FUNERAL HOME
2100 St. Paul St. 342-3480



Calendar

ST. CHARLES DIVORCED CATHOLICS— Meeting at 7:30 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 27, in school library, 3003 Dewey, Greece. Robert Solan will speak on how and why Church grants annulments.

WALDORF EDUCATION— Talk by Frances Wools, former teacher, from England, 8 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 29, in vestry of St. Paul's Church, East Avenue and Vick Park B.

EDUCATION COALITIONS CAN WORK— Lecture subtitled How People Like You and Me Made It Happen in St. Louis. Speaker, Lois Bliss, executive director, Conference on Education, St. Louis. At Unitarian Church, 220 S. Winton, 8 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 24; sponsored by Urbanarium.

IRISH NATIONAL CAUCUS— Rochester Chapter, open meeting at 8 p.m. Friday, Jan. 25, Hibernian Club, 48 Alexander.

NATIONAL MARRIAGE

ENCOUNTER— Weekend at Divine Word Seminary, Conesus Lake, Feb. 22-24. Details: 716-334-9658 or 315-946-4951. Reservations: 716-468-2335. All denominations welcome.

EASTMAN SCHOOL CONCERTS— At Kilbourn Hall: Musica Nova Ensemble, 8 p.m. Friday, Jan. 25; Double Reed Ensemble, 8 p.m. Monday, Jan. 28. Free.

MEMORIAL ART GALLERY— Eastman students perform chamber music, 3 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 27. Three films at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 29, dealing with Mexico and painter Rufino Tamayo, Watts Towers, and Eskimo artist Kenoiuak. Free.

GEVA THEATRE— Michael Moriarty's unpublished two-act play opens Jan. 25. Performances Tuesday-Saturday, 8 p.m.; Sunday, 2 and 7:30 p.m.; Wednesday, Feb. 13, 2 p.m.; at 168 S. Clinton. Box office, 232-1363.

CLASSIC FILM SERIES— A Doll's House, Tuesday, Jan. 29, 2 and 8 p.m., at Rochester Museum and Science Center, museum auditorium.

DOWNTOWN FRIDAY— Arts Council series at Christ Church, East Avenue at Broadway, Jan. 25, 8 p.m., Rochester Grass and Electric.

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