

# OHD Reorganization Discussed in Regions

By Martin Toombs  
Southern Tier Editor

Elmira — The three Southern Tier regions had opportunities for further comment on the proposed Southern Tier Office of Social Ministry at meetings May 5 in Elmira, May 6 in Bath and May 7 in Newark Valley.

The office, scheduled to begin operation July 1, would change the current Office of Human Development (OHD), which is one component of the Division of Social Ministry, into an office representing each of the division's departments.

Father Neil Miller, who will be director of the new office, explained at the Elmira

hearing there will be an increase of two staff members over the OHD staffing now available.

An additional person already has begun work. Sister Judith Reger, SSJ, is being sponsored by her order until the July 1 office start up.

Father Miller and Giovina Caroscio, the other current OHD staff member, explained the refinements to their proposal following hearings conducted in January.

One item not changed is the office's territory, set to be Chemung, Schuyler, Steuben, Tompkins, and Tioga counties. Ms. Caroscio explained that the OHD currently has commitments in

all five counties and beginning the Social Ministry office in just one county would be "taking a step backwards."

Other responses to the hearings involved more clearly defining the office's relationships with regions and parishes, which, they explained, will not differ significantly from the current relationships with the OHD office.

Father Miller also explained the financing for the office's first year. The diocese is continuing its current funding, he said, of \$38,000, but his projections indicate that \$66,100 will be needed.

Several sources have been found for the needed \$28,100,

he noted. Catholic Family Services Board of Elmira has donated \$6,500. The Chemung-Schuyler Campaign for Human Development (CHD) has pledged \$5,000; provisions for a CETA secretary will save \$9,400; and other donations should amount to \$1,000. The final \$6,200, he said, will be sought from private foundations, and with requests for \$1,000 from the CHD task forces for the Steuben and Tompkins-Tioga regions.

For future years, Father Miller explained, it is expected the diocese will continue its current level of funding, and that the person hired to develop funding for counseling programs would raise funds to pay the additional salaries.

Also discussed were food stamps and public assistance grants.

Father Miller said the food stamp situation is grave. The impending cut off of food stamps if Congress does not act will bring hardship on many, he noted. He showed figures which indicate that 29,800 people in the 39th Congressional District receive food stamps each month totaling \$900,000.

He urged those attending to write Rep. Thomas Foley, head of the House Agriculture Committee, asking him to act swiftly on the needed legislation.

Ms. Caroscio described the effort of several religious and community groups in the state, including the state Catholic Conference and Bishop Clark, to get public assistance grants increased. She distributed information on the grants, which have not been increased since 1974. The inadequacy of the grants will be a continuing issue for the office, she noted, and support in parishes will be asked at a diocesan "We Care" Sunday on June 1, when pastors will be asked to address their homilies to the need for an increase.

Ms. Caroscio noted that the campaign is especially important in the Elmira area as

one of the key people opposing the increase is our own Senator (William T. Smith).

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## Fellowship Day Observed

Horseheads — Those members of Church Women United attending their May Fellowship Day at St. Mary Our Mother Church May 2 heard how they can provide support for a person undergoing a crisis.

Speaking to more than 150 women, Sister Barbara Gulino, St. Joseph's Hospital chaplain, described instances she has seen when the support of others has made it possible for persons to get through difficult times.

She has heard people say they couldn't survive a certain crisis, she noted, but they can, "through the love and care of other people" and the support of God.

She challenged those attending to be willing to provide the support those around them may need in a time of crisis.

Sister Barbara's talk followed a luncheon meeting of the ecumenical group, made up of "circles" of women organized in the individual parishes.

The Fellowship of the Least Coin is one practice carried on at the circles throughout the year that comes to fruition at the May Fellowship Day. The fellowship, an international observance, involves monthly donations by women around the world of whatever is the least valuable coin in that country. Joan Geldmacher explained the practice as being an opportunity for women to participate equally in the sponsorship of missionary and relief work, despite the comparative wealth or poverty of their nation or themselves.

It is at the May Fellowship that the pennies are presented by the circles.

## Nursing Home Week Celebration Under Way

Elmira — National Nursing Home Week, May 11-17, is being observed at the Chemung County Nursing Facility with the theme "Love Is Ageless."

Several events started the week, which continues today, May 14, with a favorite of many patients. From 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., troubadours will visit each floor to entertain. Many talented staff members will participate by singing or playing a musical instrument. Among the entertainers will be violinist Paul Brisbane, a long time favorite at the facility.

An ecumenical service will be conducted by Father

Joseph Egan and Rev. Kurt Traugott Thursday, May 15, at 2 p.m. in the assembly room. Catholic residents will be anointed with the Sacrament of the Sick by Father Egan. Protestants will receive the "laying on of hands" by Rev. Traugott.

On Friday, May 16, there will be a shopping service for patients, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The service is a selection of clothing items displayed in the assembly room for the patients.

And on Saturday, May 17, the "Gate of Heaven" gymnastics team from Dallas, Pa., will perform at 2 p.m.

## Scholarships Awarded

Elmira — Notre Dame High School has announced the winners of 10 scholarships to the school. The 10 chosen from 60 eighth-grade applicants, were selected based on their performance on a two-phase exam including objective and essay questions.

Each recipient will receive a \$200 scholarship for the next two years.

The scholarship winners are:

Joseph DeLeone Jr., son of Mrs. Joseph DeLeone; Karen Dingleberry, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Dingleberry; Linda O'Bryan, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Terrence O'Bryan; Edward Prunier, son of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Prunier; Mary Anna Silverstein, daughter of Mrs. and Mrs. Ronald Silverstein; Kanchalee Svetvilas, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Chavalit Svetvilas, and John Tarby, son of Mr. and Mrs. Michael Tarby, all of Elmira.

And, Siobhan Kathleen Kelly, daughter of Dr. and

## Holy Hour

Father Robert Ritz, CSB, will lead a Holy Hour sponsored by the Holy Trinity Chapter of the Peoples Eucharistic League at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, May 29, at Holy Trinity Church in Webster.

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