By Martin Toombs Southern Tier Editor

Elmira — "As conservative an estimate as possible" is that 85 percent of the Chemung County Jail inmates have difficulty with alcohol or

That has been one of the findings of the Standards Implementation Program, operated by the county Mental Health Department, which began in the jail last August. Two social workers, Thomas Wallace and Smith Paulison, each work half-time on the project, which, inaddition to working with inmates, has compiled information on the problems the inmates face if they are to: become productive members of society upon their release.

The statistics don't conform with the concept many have of jail inmates.

Not all inmates have been found guilty; in Chemung County, since August, 55 percent of the jail population has been prisioners awaiting trial. Of those in the jail, 92 were unemployed percent before their incarceration; 45 percent have difficulty with 25 percent with alcohol, and drugs. alcohol ? and 15 percent with another drugs. Wallace emphasized that the figures are conservative, an attempt to include only those who have difficulty with the substances,

## **Polish** Summer **Festival**

Polish foods and Polish music will highlight next weekend's annual summer festival at St. Stanislaus Church on the corner of Hudson and Norton.

The festival which will run Friday through Sunday, August 8 through 10, will feature the music of the Ray Serafin Orchestra. In addition there will be dance performances by a junior Polish group during the weekend.

Sit-down dinners featuring such polish foods as Golemki, Pierogi and Polish Sausage and Sauerkraut will be served from 6 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, and from 1 p.m. on Sunday.

### Sheed

## Continued from page 1

National Lay Celebration is all about," said Father Alvin Illig, CSP, executive director of the U.S. Bishops Committee on Evangelization and a guiding force behind the congress.

"For over 50 years, Mr. Sheed has been a street preacher, apologist, author, lecturer, publisher and a dedicated witness to Christ," Father Illig said. "As a Catholic lavoerson he was involved in sharing his faith long before most of the Catholic community began to rediscover the essential role of the laity in evangelizing the unchurched and the inactive Catholics.

The address by Sheed will be one of six major presentations by lay people. The core of the convention will be 32 workshops on grassroots evangelization programs in various parts of the country. More than 3,500 are expected to attend.

and not simply those who use them.

addition to the In educational handicaps many inmates exhibit, 40 percent of them have had psychiatric treatment.

And the median age of the prisioners is 19 years, which means that half are younger than 19, half older.

Paulison explained that the Standards Implementation Program grew from the need for mental health services in the jail, and received some prodding from a lawsuit, still pending, which was filed against county officials, including county Mental Health. Commissioner Henry Shurr. The suit, in part, contended that state requirements for mental health services were not being met.

In addition to the social workers, the program also is staffed by Dr. Peter Manus, a psychiatrist, who works: quarter-time in the program.

Wallace and Paulison, interviewed separately, noted that when an inmate first enters the jail, they receive a physical and are screened to

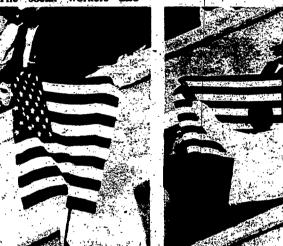
see if mental, emotional or substance abuse problems need to be addressed.

Both Wallace and Paulison reported they receive good cooperation from the inmates. with few refusing to participate in the screening. Paulison noted that their resistance breaks down when the inmates realize that they are there to help, and that they are not law enforcement

Individual and group counseling are available to the inmates. The group sessions, Wallace related, are usually frank discussion of the inmates' problems. The groups also attempt, he added, to help prepare inmates for their release.

They also have made arrangements with the county Economic Opportunity Program (EOP) to meet with inmates two weeks before their release. EOP tries to make sure the inmates will have some place to live, andinvestigates placement in a job or job training program.

The social workers also



Flag Displayed As a crowd of 103,000 in the Moscow stadium applauds, Dan Patterson, 21, of Howard, Ohio, displays

Olympic Games on July 19. Mr. Patterson said later, 'I wanted to show that we are proud of being Americans and that we are sorry the athletes couldn't

an American flag at the opening ceremonies of the 1980

## Pastoral Change

Father Douglas Hoffman, from director of Pastoral Ministry, to study at Catholic University, Washington,

Father John O'Connor, from associate pastor of Holy Trinity, Webster, to pastor of Our Lady of Lourdes, Brighton.

Father Anthony Valente, from administrator of St. Aloysius, Auburn, to pastor of Blessed Sacrament, Rochester.



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coordinate the volunteer programs in the jail, which include the educational efforts Offendar Aid and Restoration, Project for Bail, and the Mennonites who provide the commissary program and do supportive counseling.

They also have arranged for several members of Alcoholics Anonymous to visit the jail-Saturday afternoons to conduct AA meetings for any inmates who wish to participate.

Wallace noted that the program is designed to provide acute care" for the inmates while imprisoned, and then connect them with services when they get out, which can include counseling and drug and alchol treatment programs

The program is funded for 18 months by the federal Law Enforcement Assistance Administration. Paulison noted that to continue, the program will need local funding.

Wallace observed that



considering the cost of incarceration in the county jail, the project will pay for itself if five inmates receive assistance which makes it possible for them to avoid future criminal

violations.

Paulison commented that we will have no problem justifying expenditures of showing "benefit to the county" from the program

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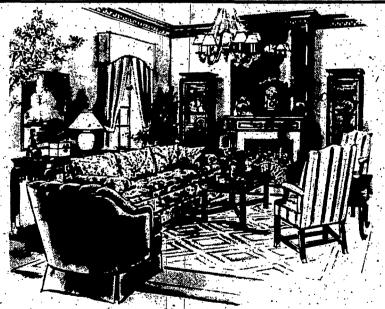
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