

Mercy Sisters Elect Council

Four Sisters of Mercy have been elected to the Executive Council of the Rochester congregation by direct vote of the 293-member order.

They are Sisters Marie Joseph Crowley, Mary Noreen Graney, Janet Korn and Nancy Whitley.

The first two have just completed a four-year term on the Executive Council. Sister Janet recently returned from a 16-year stint as a missionary in Santiago, Chile. Sister Nancy is head of the Guidance Department at Our Lady of Mercy High School, where she has been a guidance counselor for 13 years.

The members of the council share the superior general's responsibility for governing the congregation and for providing a spiritual and visionary dimension to its direction. In addition the Executive Council members are part of the congregation's



Members of the Sisters of Mercy Executive Council are (left to right): Sister Nancy Whitley, Sister Janet Korn, Sister Jean Marie Kearse, superior general; Sister Mary Noreen Graney and Sister Marie Joseph Crowley.

17-member Central Administration. They also serve in a consultant's role for

individual sisters and local communities. Bishop Matthew H. Clark

will preside over installation ceremonies on June 7 at the Motherhouse on Blossom Road.

New Chaplain

Father Robert J. Miller, rector of Sacred Heart Cathedral, has been named chaplain of the diocesan Nocturnal Adoration Society. The society, founded here in 1929, encourages men and

women to spend an hour each month in adoration of the Blessed Sacrament to atone for indifference to the Eucharist and to pray for God's blessing on diocese and community.

Federal Budget Cuts Scored 'Unfair'

By Martin Toombs
Southern Tier Editor

Elmira — While "we do understand the need for some cuts" in the federal budget, those proposed by the Reagan administration raise a "question of equity," Father Neil Miller told those attending a meeting on the local impact of the proposed cuts.

The budget proposals represent "a substantial redistribution of income and wealth from the poor to the more wealthy," he said at the meeting April 8 in the Steele Memorial Library. The meeting was sponsored by the Southern Tier Office of Social Ministry, which he directs.

Without discussing the chances for the cuts to successfully cause economic revitalization, Father Miller said, he has to ask "is it fair?"

He concluded that the plan is not fair. The hardest hit will be those least able to absorb the impact, he said: low income families are getting the most cuts, and they will not benefit from the tax reductions.

The poor "have a relative lack of political power," he said, and make "easy targets." He also pointed out that the envisioned economic activity caused by higher defense

spending will not significantly benefit the Northeast.

He urged his 40 listeners to write their federal legislators, asking them to examine the impact of the cuts. If plans for reduced funding through block grants are approved, he said, people need to lobby state legislators to make sure the grants are "wisely spent for the benefit of the people."

Father Miller's talk introduced a panel discussion by six speakers from various Elmira agencies.

Fran Kalish of the Chemung County Department of Social Services noted that while Reagan has spoken of eliminating fraud in the Food Stamp program, his proposals deal only with limiting benefits and eligibility. She listed many proposed changes in the certification procedure, all of which will reduce benefits. A proposal to examine a person's income of the past three months, rather than current income, could mean that a wife abandoned by her husband would have to wait three months for benefits, she said.

The cuts would reduce Food Stamp benefits in the state by \$144 million, she stated.

Sam David of the local Office for Aging noted that the Social Security system affects more people than any other, now paying benefits to 35 million persons. The proposed elimination of the minimum benefit, now \$122, would reduce benefits for 220,000 in New York, he said.

Severe cutbacks which could force the closing of school lunch programs in some school districts were described by Charles LeSuer, director of the Elmira City School District program. The end of the 24-cent subsidy for each paid lunch would cost the Elmira system \$140,000, he said, and could cause lunch prices to increase from the current 70 cents to about one dollar.

LeSuer pointed out that while the total federal budget is to be cut seven percent, nutrition programs are being cut 40 percent.

Margaret Masters of the CETA program reported that the local agency will lose about \$2 million under the proposal, more than half its budget. The future for the remaining program is uncertain, she said.

Since 1976, 1,203 homes in Schuyler and Chemung counties have been insulated

through the weatherization program, Mel Siglin of EOP reported. But due to problems getting and keeping employees, the state has failed to spend its allotment, causing reductions in the program. Impending further cuts could end the program completely.

Siglin emphasized the value of the insulation program provides, as it establishes a long-term savings for the homeowner, and contributes to the country's effort to reduce oil imports.

The elimination of many separate funding categories, to be replaced by a block grant with perhaps 30 percent less total money available, would endanger many educational programs, stated George Welch, principal of Beecher School. Referring to past cutting attempts which were beaten back, he called upon those who know of the various programs' value to fight for them.

Giovina Caroscio, chairing the session, urged those attending to write letters immediately to their federal legislators expressing their concerns. She also invited those interested to attend the first meeting of a coalition to organize opposition to the program, which took place April 14.

NATIONAL MEETING

Twenty-nine Rochester Sisters of St. Joseph attended a meeting of their congregation's national federation in Brentwood, N.Y., last weekend. More than 1000 sisters attended the event from across the country. The theme of the meeting was "Our Response to the Gospel Call to Justice as a Form of Our Sisters of St. Joseph Apostolate of Unity and Reconciliation."

COVER ART

The photograph shows a hanging of a crucified Christ which covers a depiction of the risen Christ in St. Francis DeSales Church, Geneva. The drape was designed by Father Thomas Celso and was executed by members of the parish liturgy committee.

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