



Budget Protesters

About 50 marchers starting out on a protest of the Reagan-proposed federal budget cuts in Elmira May 9. Sponsored by the Coalition for Equity in the Federal Budget, the march started at Ss. Peter and Paul School and went to Clemens Square, where they heard Father Neil Miller, Southern Tier Office of Social Ministry director.

Holy Childhood School Seeks New Memberships

The School of the Holy Childhood, the unique, non-denominational school for children and adults who are mentally retarded, has been redoubling its efforts to gain new members in recent weeks.

According to Jon Scott, director of community support for the school, mailings have been made, local businesses have been contacted, billboards and bus cards have been distributed, and Sister Seraphine Herbst, director, has appeared on local television, to generate community interest in and support of the school's programs.

Scott said that while the school may be gaining new visibility in the community lately, campaigns have been conducted almost continuously over the past 15 years.

The school, first opened in 1946 with two classrooms, has now grown to serve 94 children and 40 adults in the first floor of the old St. Andrew's Seminary building on Buffalo Road.

Holy Childhood provides three separate programs. The children's program serves those five to 21. The adult program accepts persons 18 years old, "with no upper age limit," Scott said.

In addition, the school has a Clinic Treatment Program for evaluation, diagnosis and treatment.

A priority is placed on counseling family members as well.

Leukemia Grants Available

The Leukemia Society of America is accepting applications for 1982 grants to support research in the fields of leukemia and related diseases.

The grants are intended to encourage studies at both the basic science and clinical levels, according to Earl M. Trumbower Jr., president, Finger Lakes Chapter.

Five-year scholarships for a total of \$125,000 are available for researchers who have demonstrated the ability to conduct original investigations. Two-year special fellowships and fellowships for \$37,000 and \$30,000, respectively, are offered for those in the in-

termediate and entry states of career development. In all categories, candidates must hold a doctoral degree but may not have attained the tenured status of associate professor. Deadline is Sept. 1. For further information, contact the Leukemia Society, Finger Lakes Chapter, 1835 St. Paul St., Rochester, N.Y. 14621; telephone 342-4200.

Speaking for Sister Seraphine, Scott said that the school has a great concern to be self-sufficient and that the individual memberships play a major part in that self-sufficiency.

The school receives no funding from United Way or from the Diocese of Rochester. Throughout the area, shoppers will note collection cans imprinted with School of the Holy Childhood, by the cash registers of small businesses.

In addition, Sister Seraphine noted in a recent letter, "You can reach out to our special children today in a number of ways: by renewing your membership or becoming a new member of the Holy Childhood community. You may prefer to help by providing the school with vocational or audio-visual equipment; by making a bequest or other planned giving arrangement; by using our Memorial Cards, or even organizing a fund-raising activity to benefit the school."

Located at 1150 Buffalo Road, Rochester, N.Y. 14624, The School of the Holy Childhood is hoping to

"double its membership support over the next two years," Scott said.

He noted that not only the staff, but the children and students at the school, "are very aware of the immense contributions made by the volunteers and the donors. And they pray for them."

DOC AND KATY

George (Doc) and Kathryn (Katy) Abraham, the Naples-based horticultural experts, have received the 1981 Lilac Festival Award for their contributions to horticulture and to the Monroe County Parks Department's programs.

State Mental Health Chief Calls Budget Cuts 'Ill Wind'

By John Dash

The budget cuts in human services proposed by President Reagan are "alarming" in view of their consequences for the mentally handicapped, I. Joseph Harris said last week.

Speaking to the annual meeting of the Mental Health Chapter of the Rochester Health Association, Harris, commissioner for the New York State Commission on Quality of Care for the Mentally Disabled, said if the budget cuts go through Congress, "Mental Health Associations are going to have to pick up the slack" to maintain the level of care now offered.

He said that New York State stands to lose between \$250 and \$300 million in federal revenues for mental health programs and services.

The potential loss to this county, he said, is in the neighborhood of \$18 million.

In the long run, Harris said, "Local and state taxpayers must bear the burden to maintain those services."

Specifically, he said, services for 600 of the "most severely handicapped children will be eliminated



HARRIS

altogether" under the proposed budget. "And what will happen to mainstreaming if this happens?" he asked his audience.

But, he said, "it is not too late to petition represen-

tatives" in budgetary matters.

He termed the mood of the country as "a new spirit that is actually an ill wind."

He told his audience that "there is no job more important than to let our elected representatives know in no uncertain terms our feelings," in the matter.

"The most productive course of action," he said, "in this state is for everyone to speak with one voice about the budget cuts."

He expressed the fear, however, that "the general public has acquiesced in this matter."

Even should the budget cuts go through, he said, "We must resist the temptation to go back to large institutions."



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