

Access Sabbath/Sunday to Aid Congregations Focus on Disabled

Materials will shortly be circulated throughout the area alerting clergy, religious and laity to the opportunity to observe Access Sabbath/Sunday, a project of several agencies including the New York State Office of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities and the New York State Catholic Conference.

The purpose of such observance is to help the religious community "to lead the way in enabling full participation of persons with disabilities in the lives of congregations and communities," promotional literature states.

Dedication Sept. 27 For Health Center

The Genesee Valley Group Health Association will officially dedicate its second full-service health facility, the Folsom Health Center, at 3 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 27, at 1850 Brighton-Henrietta Townline Road.

Named in honor of the late Marion B. Folsom, a former director of the Eastman Kodak Company and former Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare, the new facility joins the Joseph C. Wilson Health Center at 800 Carter St. on the northeast side of Rochester which opened in 1973 and currently serves more than 35,000 members.

Genesee Valley Group Health Association's health plan members can now receive care at their center, according to Raymond A. Savage, association president.

The Folsom Center will offer a full range of health

In the Rochester area, work on the observance is being carried out by the chaplain's office at Monroe Developmental Center, headed, pro tem, by Rev. Elizabeth Stroop, an American Baptist Minister who is taking the place of Rev. William Gaventa who is on study leave for a year.

The question posed by Access Sabbath/Sunday "is not just whether persons with disabilities can physically enter a building to participate, but are they welcomed and valued as unique persons who belong and contribute to the life of any community?" observance literature states.

care services including family practice, internal medicine, pediatrics, obstetrics/gynecology, eye services, orthopedics and general surgery as well as laboratory and x-ray services.

The Folsom Center, like the Wilson Center, is available for fee-for-service patients as well as Group Health members.

Under the Group Health plan, Savage explains, one monthly premium covers most of the services offered to members, making the cost of health care both predictable and affordable.

Group membership is available to employees through participating employers — while individuals and families may join on a direct bill basis by completing a health application which is approved by Group Health.



Gov. Hugh Carey will issue a proclamation designating Nov. 13-15 as Access Sabbath/Sunday; however, all materials now being devised are undated so that religious groups and congregations may observe the program at the time most convenient for them.

"The biblical heritage of both the Jewish and Christian faiths affirms that each person is created in the image of God. Each person is whole in God's eyes. Each has gifts, faults, and is vulnerable. Each person is more like others than they are different. Each is worthy of the respect and dignity that comes from this shared humanity. We are called to love one another and to value one another.

"Just as each person is created in God's image, so must the people of God be inclusive of all. Over and over again the Bible reminds us that persons with disabilities are to be included in the life of the community. Not out of pity and charity, but out of a shared conviction that everyone has the right to belong and gifts to contribute. The issue is not how the 'whole' community includes

the 'disabled,' but rather that the community of the people of God is not whole unless all are included.

"If 'everyone is welcome,' as the signs so often say, congregations must take the lead in being architecturally and attitudinally accessible. If its worship life is open, its fellowship inclusive, and its advocacy and service informed, the religious community should both work with and guide the secular world in understanding and seeking wholeness and community for all," the material states.

The Diocese of Rochester has not yet determined when it will observe Access Sabbath/Sunday, but it has agreed to follow through on the program.

According to Sister Clare Roland of the diocesan institutional ministries office, the November dates fall directly within the time of the Bishop's Thanks Giving Appeal, and as such are unacceptable for such a major program.

She opined last week that the diocese would probably slate Access Sabbath/Sunday sometime after Christmas.

Family Feast Set at Parish

A family dinner sponsored by St. Mark's Women's Club will be served at 6 p.m. Sept. 22, at 54 Kuhn Road. Tickets are \$2.50 per person

and are available from any member of the club or by calling 392-8195, 392-9142 or 227-3978.

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Mothers Of Twins To Meet

The Greater Rochester Mothers of Twins Club has scheduled a meeting for 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 17, at the Laurelton United Presbyterian Church, 335 Helendale Road.

A general discussion on twins and the joys and (sometimes) problems of raising them will follow the monthly clothing exchange and social hour.

Any mothers or legal guardians of twins or multiple births are invited. Anyone else interested in attending or desiring additional information should call Mrs. Betty Herjowski, 359-1269.

Stella Maris Sets Auction

Camp Stella Maris has slated an auction for 10 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 19, to raise funds for new camp equipment.

According to Ray Tette, director of the facility at 3052 E. Lake Road south of Livonia, Tom Coyne of G.J.S. Coyne Auctioneers has donated his services for the event.

Up for bids are stereo, ski, and riding equipment; electrical appliances, records, furniture, dishes and other items.

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