

Teen Pregnancy Group Sets Hearings on Program

A series of forums designed to elicit public attitudes toward teen pregnancies in Monroe County will begin at 7:30 p.m. today, Wednesday, at the Church of the Annunciation, 1754 Norton St.

The forums are sponsored by members of the Coalition on Teenage Pregnancy, a 24-agency consortium which includes Catholic Charities, the Catholic Family Center, the Office of Family Life, Action for a Better Community, the Baden St. Settlement, the Community Ministries Committee of the United Methodist Church, the Association of Hispanic Ministers and the Monroe County Health Department.

According to a coalition statement, "Earlier this year, another coalition of service providing agencies known as

the Adolescent Pregnancy Action Group (APAG) succeeded in interesting a philanthropic organization in the possibility of funding a program dealing with teenage pregnancy. Our coalition, The Coalition on Teenage Pregnancy, believes that before any programs are developed for such a complex and multi-faceted issue, it is imperative that we listen to what the people affected by this issue have to say. The entire community must become involved in determining what kind of programs, if any, are needed, and what kind of services should be available."

The APAG proposal included establishing a health resource room in a city high school where youngsters who wish could be counseled on sexual matters. The room

would be staffed by Planned Parenthood. However, it was earlier reported that the purview of such a center would include medical assessment for work permits or certification for athletic activities. Father Charles Mulligan said last week this is not so. Father Mulligan is diocesan director of the Division of Social Ministries and has been a major force in the establishment of the new coalition.

The coalition hopes the forums will explore three questions: "Do we as a community, or families within our community, have problems related to teen sexuality, pregnancy, and/or parenthood? If so, what are the causes and the implications?"

"We have many resources

in our community including community agencies, schools, government and religious organizations. How do you think these resources should be helping teens and families with problems related to teenage sexuality, pregnancy and parenthood?"

"What should be the role of the family in guiding teenage children, and what role, if any, should be played by community resources in providing support to the family?"

The coalition statement said, "The coalition hopes to receive meaningful advice from members of the community on how they personally perceive the problem, and what they feel needs to be done."

The group has encouraged teenagers, parents, community organizations and others to voice opinions at the meetings.

Persons wishing to speak have been asked to register in advance by calling the host agency for the meeting. Speakers will be heard in the order of registration and those who do not pre-register will be heard at the end of the schedule. Written material, both in place of and in support

of oral testimony, will be accepted. 7:30 p.m.

All of the meetings, except for one on Dec. 13, begin at

Following is the schedule of dates, places and contact persons:

Dec. 9 — Church of the Annunciation, 1754 Norton St.; Maurice J. Tierney, 546-4894.

Dec. 10 — Baden St. Settlement, 13 Vienna St.; James Rhodes, 325-4910.

Dec. 10 — St. Ambrose Church, 25 Empire Blvd.; Maurice J. Tierney, 546-4894.

Dec. 13 — 2 p.m., Assembly of Christian Church, 927 Joseph Ave.; Ivette Salgado, 546-4950.

Dec. 14 — St. Helen's Church, 310 Hinchey Road; James Maloney, 546-7220.

Dec. 14 — St. Agnes High School, 300 E. River Road; Frank Staropoli, 546-4894.

Dec. 15 — Montgomery Neighborhood Center, 10 Cady St.; James McCuller, 325-5116.

Dec. 15 — St. Charles Borromeo, 3003 Dewey Ave.; James Maloney, 546-7220.

Dec. 16 — Monroe County Health Department, 111 Westfall Road; Barry Gruber, 442-4000, ext. 2879.

Dec. 16 — Trinity United Methodist Church, 537 Post Ave.; Rev. Frank Anderson, 328-6432.

Dec. 17 — Covenant United Methodist Church, 1124 Culver Road; Rev. Frank Anderson, 473-6141.

Dec. 17 — Charles Settlement House, 445 Jay St.; Maurice J. Tierney, 546-4894.

The Neediest Cases in Diocese

Continued from Page 1

Mrs. N hopes to find a job so that she can be self-supportive.

53 The P family arrived in Rochester in August from a refugee camp in Thailand. Although P's English is very limited, he became employed three weeks after he arrived here. He is only earning minimum wage but is proud to be at least partially self-supporting. The P family will have a new member before Christmas. The baby will join three other children, 2, 4 and 5.

54 L trained as a nursing assistant in his native Cambodia and helped medical staff care for seriously ill children in a refugee camp in Thailand. He is able to speak English and is eager to work and to support his wife and four children. While waiting to find a job, he goes to English classes to improve his ability to communicate in his new homeland.

55 The Ds, a diabetic mother and partially disabled father, want to welcome three daughters, ages 14, 13 and 11, home for Christmas. Their children have been in foster care.

56 The Ss, a poor Hispanic family with seven children, is trying to maintain its dignity in the face of oppressive expenses for health needs of one child who must go to New York for critical eye surgery.

57 F abandoned his family of seven. His wife and their six children urgently need housing, clothing and furniture, especially beds.

58 M is threatened with eviction because of more than \$1,700 is due for back taxes. Her three daughters, ages 15, 14 and 10, look to their mother for a solution to their problems. There is no one else to help them and mother does not earn enough in her job to keep going.

59 N, an elderly diabetic, and his wife who uses wheelchair, will share their holiday with a great-grandmother and a 10 year-old grandson.

60 E is pregnant, 18 years old, in a temporary shelter, and will need an apartment, furniture and clothing to start new life with baby due after the New

Year. She has no family to care for her.

61 L is a single, divorced parent with a 5-year-old daughter. She is struggling to make ends meet on a public assistance budget. She and her daughter live in a studio apartment, all they can afford with high rents in the area. She is eager to work and hopeful of finding employment but so far has had no luck.

62 Mr. and Mrs. J are a couple in their 60s, both with severe medical problems. They care for two grandchildren under five because of the immaturity and irresponsibility of their mother. They receive only Social Security for one of them and a small ADC grant for the children.

63 Ms. L is a woman in her 40s with six children. She works full time at a menial, low-paying job to support her family, but she finds it difficult to make ends meet. She won't be able to stretch her budget to celebrate Christmas this year.

64 Ms. S is a young mother in her late 20s, with seven children, one of whom is retarded. She also cares for a grown retarded brother. This family has experienced many tragedies, but mother continues to do the best she can to provide the necessities for her family.

65 Mrs. P recently celebrated her 90th birthday. She is remarkably spry and independent, attending a nutrition center daily. Her grown children all reside in California, and while solicitous of their mother, cannot come here.

66 The Ds, a family of five adults and one child, scratches out a living by farming in a rural area. They do have dairy cows that give milk but the dairy trucks will not go out that far to pick up the milk. The mother is ill and needs quite a bit of medication that is expensive. Two of the older children would like to learn to drive so they could get a job and earn some money. The family does kill its livestock for food, but find it very hard to make ends meet.

67 The Es, a family of two adults, two children and one on the way,

live in the country. The father lost his job and has not been able to find another. They need clothes and food.

68 The Bs are a family of three adults and two children from Romania who speak only Hungarian. The men work on a farm part time. Their home has no inside plumbing, and their heat comes from a wood stove. They live in a rural area and must depend on others for transportation. The family has few possessions and little warm clothing.

69 The Fs are an elderly couple who live alone. F is sickly and needs constant care. His wife just got out of the hospital after a serious operation and is not able to care for her husband. The family is not supportive of the mother and it all falls on her, and she cannot do anymore. She had to depend on outside help to get home from the hospital.

70 The Ms are a family of four. M has been laid off. Food stamps need to be processed and unemployment check had not been received, yet the bills keep coming in for payment.

71 M, age 65, is mentally retarded and lives alone. She manages her daily tasks very well. She was raised in an orphanage and has no family.

72 D has been recently widowed. She has a 10-year-old child. Although she seems to be managing her grief well, this will be her first Christmas without her husband.

73 Mr. and Mrs. N, a couple in their 50s, are both seriously ill. Mrs. N has a chronic, progressive disorder, and her husband is recovering from an emergency operation. They hope he will be home for Christmas.

74 G is 17 and does well and is looking forward to college. However, she has no family and has resided in several foster homes. She desperately needs to be assured of her self-worth.

75 M recently lost his job. He is depressed over being unable to provide for his wife and three small children. He is eagerly seeking ployment, but he doesn't have much hope for a job until after the first of the year.

Vatican Defines Role of Priests In Lay Groups

Vatican City (RNS) — The Vatican has moved to clarify the role of priests who serve as "ecclesiastical assistants" in apostolic or spiritual associations of Catholic lay people.

According to a 52-page document from the Pontifical Council for the Laity, the ecclesiastical assistant is a clergyman who serves as "spiritual adviser" in a local, national or international Catholic association.

Formerly, priests working with lay groups — often known as Catholic Action — carried the title of director or moderator to convey that they held authority over the members.

The title "ecclesiastical assistant" has become popular in Europe and the Third World, although it has rarely been used in the United States, where the term

"moderator" is more often used. "Ecclesiastical assistant" was chosen to sweep away the authoritarian image of the priest being in charge of lay groups and to emphasize his role as an official representative of the hierarchy.

The text repeats certain themes found in Pope John Paul II's explanation of why priests should not be active in party politics: the cleric's role is essentially different from that of the laity. He is not among peers.

The document quotes from the pope's 1979 address to ecclesiastical assistants: "In the organizations and associations which you serve — make no mistake about it — the church wishes you to be priests, and the lay people that you meet in them wish you to be priests and nothing but priests. Confusion of charisms impoverishes the church. It does not enrich it."

A. W. BEILBY & SON
Funeral Home
James Rotsell
Darrell O'Brian
139 Walnut St.
Dial 936-9121
Corning, N.Y.

Gerould's Pharmacies
S. Main St. and
Church & Hoffman
Elmira
Delivery Service
733-6696

PUBLIC INVITED ADVENT EVENING PRAYER
SUNDAYS AT 4 P.M.
CATHEDRAL OF THE SACRED HEART
496 Flower City Park
Rochester, N.Y.
(Sunday Eucharist will follow at 5 p.m.)

REAL TO REEL A CATHOLIC TV MAGAZINE

... About the People and the presence of today's Catholic Church in the Rochester Diocese

TUNE IN Rochester: Sunday at 8:30 p.m. Channel 31
Elmira: Sunday 5:30 p.m. Channel 36

December 13th Features:
Coming Home From Prison and Getting Christians Involved in Politics

Brought to you by
HAH DIOCESE OF ROCHESTER media-communications