Charities Units Get Grants For Rural, Hispanic Unwed

The Finger Lakes Office of Social Ministry and the Catholic Family Center of Rochester have received awards from the Maternity and Early Childhood Foundation to help pregnant teenagers, teen mothers and their infants. The grants total $40,340. The two Catholic Charities agencies were among 13 groups receiving grants throughout the state.

A 1982 state study said teenage pregnancy is the greatest single cause of welfare dependency.

Giovina Caroscio, director of FLOSM, cited 124 births to teen mothers in Ontario County in 1980 and noted that volunteers at the Geneva Ecumenical Community Lunch Program this Summer observed increased tensions between unwed mothers under stress and their preschool children. Child abuse in Ontario County in higher than the state-wide average.

The FLOSM program received $20,340 to conduct public forums on the problems of the unwed parent, training from Church personnel on concomitant problems of early pregnancies, recruiting and training volunteers for group counseling work and establishing support groups for up to 35 unwed pregnant women.

Catholic Family Center, which developed its proposal with Ibero-American Action League of Rochester, will organize services to reach an increased number of Hispanic teenagers in the Rochester area. Catherine Wobus, casework director of the CFC, noted that Hispanics face many serious difficulties, including a 57 percent school drop-out rate.

In addition, 60 percent of Hispanic families live below the poverty level causing increased stress for young Hispanics.

Ms. Wobus estimated that there are approximately 850 births to Hispanic women between 10 and 21 annually. The CFC project will employ a bilingual Hispanic social worker to reach out to teens and their families through churches, neighborhood centers and schools to obtain health, education and counseling services. CFC was awarded $20,000 for the project.

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Spiritual Renewal At St. Helen's

Father Joseph Sedley of Pittsburgh will lead a week of spiritual renewal, Nov. 26-Dec. 2 at St. Helen's Parish, Gates.

Father Sedley will speak at all Masses on the weekend. Each evening, beginning Monday, Nov. 28, there will be a prayer service at 7:30 p.m., followed by Father Sedley's talk on developing a personal relationship with the Lord.

For those unable to attend the evening sessions, Father Sedley will speak at the 9:30 a.m. Mass each weekday.

The public is invited to share this week of renewal. Anyone needing further information should call Sister Barbara Guarino, school principal, at 235-2391.

FATHER SEDLEY

Diocesan Educational Seminar Scheduled

Waterloo - The Office of Religious Education of the Diocese of Rochester is sponsoring a workshop presented by Thomas Downs, "The Parish and Adult Learning: Connections", from 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 19, at St. Mary's School, 35 Center St., Waterloo. Light refreshments will be served.

Dr. Downs is the author of the "The Parish as Learning Community" and he has published many articles on religious education and served as faculty member at St. John's University, in New York City; Barry College, Miami; and the Catechetical and Pastoral Institute of the South in New Orleans. According to a press release he will examine the connections between the community of the parish and the education of adults. He will address questions: How can a parish effectively promote adult learning? How can a parish promote the growth of adults to maturity of faith? And what are the characteristics and dimensions of a vital parish adult religious education program?

Fee for the session is $6. Call the Office of Religious Education, 716-328-3210, to pre-register.

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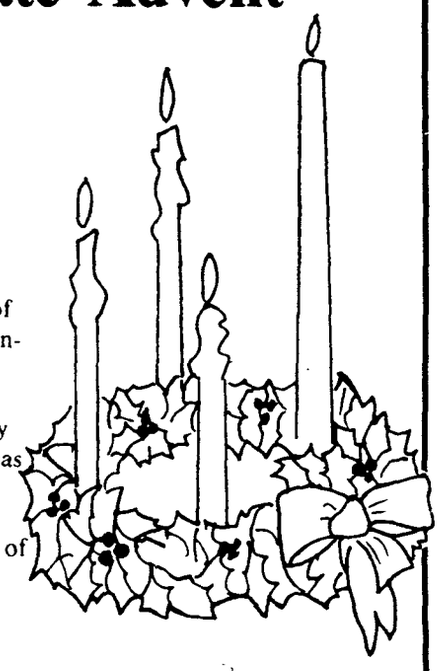

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Cdl. Mozzoni Dies at 79

Vatican City (NC) -- Cardinal Umberto Mozzoni, a retired career papal diplomat specializing in South American affairs, died Nov. 7. He was 79.

On Nov. 8 Pope John Paul II praised Cardinal Mozzoni's "edifying priestly life" and his "long service to the Holy See, especially as pontifical representative to Bolivia, Argentina and Brazil."

The pope planned to celebrate a funeral Mass Nov. 10 in St. Peter's Basilica for the cardinal.

Cardinal Mozzoni was born in Buenos Aires, Argentina, in 1904, ordained to the priesthood in 1927 and ordained a bishop in 1954. He was named to the College of Cardinals in 1973 by Pope Paul VI.

Needs of Aging To be Discussed

The Rochester Health Network (RHN) is sponsoring a program entitled "Understanding the Needs of an Aging Parent," at 7:30 p.m., tonight (Wednesday, Nov. 16) at RHN headquarters, 500 East Avenue.

Agnes Cronk, R.N., of ACCESS, will conduct the program which includes discussion of agencies and services available to elderly and their families, as well as possible alternatives to nursing home placement.

The program is free and open to the public. Those interested should call RHN at 442-0100 to register.

Cdl. Bernardin To Head Bishops Pro-Life Unit

Washington (NC) -- Cardinal Joseph Bernardin of Chicago has been named chairman of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee for Pro-Life Activities.

He succeeds Cardinal Terence Cooke of New York, who died Oct. 6.

Cardinal Bernardin was asked to head the committee by Archbishop John R. Roach of St. Paul-Minneapolis, NCCB president, who expressed "gratification that Cardinal Bernardin will lend his outstanding leadership skills to the conference's efforts to promote the sanctity of human life at every stage and in every circumstance."

Cardinal Bernardin was chairman of the committee responsible for drafting the bishops' pastoral on war and peace, "The Challenge of Peace: God's Promise and Our Response." The pastoral was approved in May.

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