

**Division of Social Ministries
1983-84**

Elmira and Geneva — two centers of vibrant activity in social ministry — house the diocesan headquarters of the Southern Tier Office and Finger Lakes Office of Social Ministry, respectively. Each center serves five counties; each region has an average Catholic population of 68,000 persons. Both offices, begun within the past four years, boast a dedicated professional staff and volunteers who provide direct services to individuals, families and parishes. These ministries serve 83 percent of the territory which constitute the Diocese of Rochester.

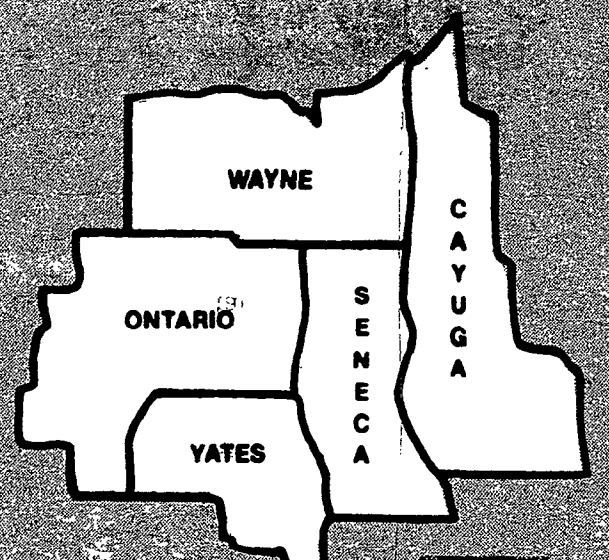
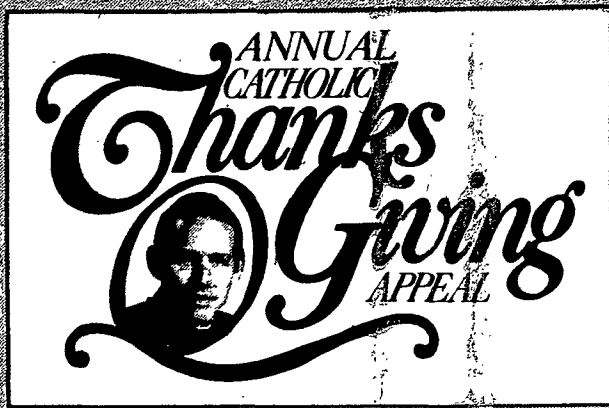
The Southern Tier Office, directed by Father Michael Bausch, has evidenced rapid growth since its founding by Father Neil Miller in 1980. The office has a focus of working for social justice and providing services to meet the social and economic needs of persons in the Southern Tier area.

The Finger Lakes Office, modeled on the structure of the Southern Tier Office, was established by Bishop Matthew H. Clark in 1982. As a burgeoning office under the direction of Ms. Giovina Carosio, it is piloting a new program for Christian service and shared community living: the Diocesan Community Service Corps. Addressing social justice issues, parish education and human care services remain the goal of the office's development.

Both regions have Emergency Assistance programs: interviewing clients to ascertain food, clothing, rent utility and medical needs. In Elmira, last year 26,000 persons received food and 9,500 free clothing assistance. Nearly \$17,000 was distributed for household and medical support. The Southern Tier's Watkins Glen Office provides the same type of emergency assistance in Schuyler County. As the designated distributor of USDA Food Commodities for Chemung and Schuyler counties, the Southern Tier Office has distributed \$198,000 worth of foodstuffs since December 1983. While the Finger Lakes Office is not a primary source for emergency assistance in Geneva, it assisted some 360 families last year — three times the projected number. The Finger Lakes Office is also a strong supporter of the Geneva Ecumenical Community Lunch Program. Since July 1983, over 8,000 persons have been able to enjoy a daily hot meal.

Individual and Family Counseling as well as programs fostering human growth and development are provided by both offices. Each has a full-time counselor available to the entire region. Part-time counselors work in Steuben, Tioga, Tompkins, Wayne and Cayuga counties.

The Community Residence Program, based in five sites in the Elmira area, assists chronically mentally ill persons in developing independent living skills. The Southern Tier Office is supported in this service by a grant of \$250,000 from the State Department of Mental Health.



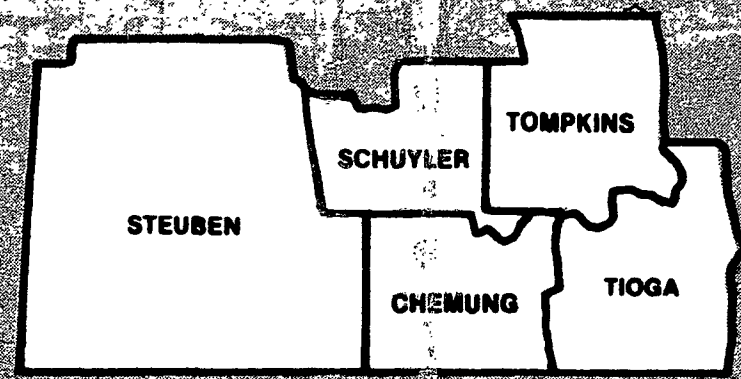
A Maternity and Early Childhood Program, supported by a \$20,000 grant from the New York State Foundation, is being implemented in Ontario County by the Finger Lakes Office to serve the needs of unwed pregnant women and mothers over 20 years old.

Justice and Peace Programs are found in each regional office in which clear priorities include issue awareness, education, and advocacy work for social ministry and social justice. Parish education and training is linked with a variety of diocesan programs as International Justice and Peace, Bishops' Peace Pastoral, Central America concerns, Operation Breadbox, Human Life Commission, Campaign for Human Development, and the Bishop Sheen Ecumenical Housing Foundation.

To be a presence of Jesus to the suffering and oppressed, and to work for justice — the Church is addressing these contemporary needs through two regional offices of social ministry in our diocese.



Ms. Giovina Carosio



Fr. Michael Bausch

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