

Where to Get Help

Congress has passed a resolution designating October 1984 as National Down's Syndrome Month.

In addition, the state has passed a bill which calls upon Governor Mario Cuomo to proclaim October as Down's Syndrome Awareness Month.

Following is a list of organizations and groups that offer support and assistance to families affected by Down's Syndrome:

According to the Down's Syndrome Congress, a national organization of parents and professionals, there are approximately a quarter million families in the United States affected by the syndrome.

To help the condition receive the attention it deserves, the congress provides factual information through available materials such as basic information on the syndrome (available in Spanish and English), a regularly published newsletter, referral/resource listings, and educational guidelines, offering specific information on selecting the right primary or preschool for Down's Syndrome children.

Further information can be obtained from the Down's Syndrome Congress, 1640 W. Roosevelt Road, Chicago, Ill., 60608. Phone: 312/226-0416.

The Down's Syndrome Regional Coalition, formed in November 1983, includes 10 groups across New York, New Jersey and Connecticut that offer coordination and communication of current information about the syndrome among agencies, parent groups, individual parents and professionals.

The coalition also assists members and member agencies in the promotion and implementation of appropriate legislation for the betterment of citizens with Down's Syndrome and their families.

Coalition contact person in the diocese is Theresa Stanley of the Ithaca Parent Group. Her address is 746 S. Aurora St., Ithaca, N.Y., 14850.

The Early Childhood Direction Centers, coordinated by the state education department, are resources for parents of preschool-age children with handicapping conditions. They provide information about special education programs and help parents obtain services for their children.

Further information can be obtained from the Regional Early Childhood Direction Center, 264 Village Landing, Fairport, N.Y. 14450; or the University of Rochester, Strong Memorial Hospital, 601 Elmwood Ave., Rochester, N.Y. 14642. Phone: 1-800-462-4344 or 716/223-6220.

The Office for Education of Children with Handicapping Conditions administers and supports a network of 51 training centers across the state. These centers, Special Education Training and Resource Centers (SETRC), are located in BOCES, in large city school districts, and at one university throughout the state.

They are local contact points for information about training and services available to parents and personnel involved in the education of the handicapped. The following offices are contact points in the diocese:

Cayuga County BOCES SETRC
234 South Street Road
Auburn, N.Y. 13021
315/253-0361 (ex. 52)

City of Rochester SETRC
Central Administrative Offices
131 Broad Street West
Rochester, N.Y. 14608
716/325-4560 (ex. 2710)

Schuyler-Chemung-Tioga BOCES SETRC
431 Philo Road
Elmira, N.Y. 14903
607/739-3581 (ex. 223)

Steuben-Allegany BOCES SETRC
6666 Babcock Hollow Road
Bath, N.Y. 14810
607/324-5893

Tompkins-Seneca-Tioga BOCES SETRC
555 South Warren Road
Ithaca, N.Y. 14850
607/257-1551 (ex. 276)

Livingston-Steuben-Wyoming BOCES SETRC
Holcomb School
Geneseo, N.Y. 14454
716/243-5470

Monroe #1 BOCES SETRC
705 Plank Road
Penfield, N.Y. 14526
716/671-8614

Monroe #2 Orleans BOCES SETRC
3599 Big Ridge Road
Spencerport, N.Y. 14559
716/352-2443

Ontario-Seneca-Yates-Cayuga-Wayne BOCES SETRC
Finger Lakes Educational Center
3501 County Route 20
Stanley, N.Y. 14561
716/526-6042



The Clunes outside their Ithaca home -- Elizabeth, father Robert, sister Margie, mother JoAnn, and brother Allan.

Elizabeth

Continued from Page 1.

Elizabeth is also a "video fiend," putting the family Betamax to the test. Her favorites? "She's a real champion of Walt Disney," said her mother. She is also very interested in dance and has a tape which features Mikhail Barishnikov during a recent television performance.

Elizabeth also attends Sunday school classes at St. Catherine's after the 8:30 a.m. Mass.

"Any evenings when Elizabeth is free are usually spent reinforcing the lessons she learned at school," Mrs. Clune said, citing writing and spelling as examples.

Because of Elizabeth's vivaciousness, the Clunes claim that an inconspicuous evening out with the family is a near impossibility.

"We can't go anywhere without Elizabeth stopping to talk with everyone she meets," Mrs. Clune said. "We've had total strangers come up to us and chat about her -- she has more friends than we can account for."

The Clunes also reach out to new mothers of Down's Syndrome children in the Southern Tier area through a group of afflicted families called the Down's Syndrome Family Support Group. According to Mrs. Clune, there are some 30 families as members.

"When I meet with new mothers of syndromé children," Mrs. Clune said, "I take pictures of Elizabeth with her friends just to show them there's nothing to stop children with the syndrome from leading normal lives."



Photos by Terrance J. Brennan

Carol Patton instructs Elizabeth in the Suzuki Theory of piano.

Bulgars Linked to Agca

Rome (NC) -- An Italian investigating judge has indicted three Bulgarians and five Turks, including would-be papal assassin Mehmet Ali Agca, on charges of conspiring to assassinate Pope John Paul II.

The indictment of the three Bulgarians, who at the time of the 1981 murder attempt worked for their government, lends support to the theory that the plot was carried out by the Bulgarian secret service on the orders of the Soviet secret police, the KGB. The indictment, however, did not mention the Bulgarian connection or propose a motive for the plot.

Bulgaria has denied any connection with the shooting. Agca is the Italian government's central witness. He has made changes over time in his description of the role of the Bulgarian secret services in the assassination attempt.

Conspiracy theories began surfacing after Agca was captured in St. Peter's Square, shortly after shooting the pope there. Those theories were fed by a 51-page opinion by the court panel which convicted Agca in July 1981. The opinion said that Agca did not act alone, but added that "the evidence acquired does not permit one at this time to

unveil the identity of the promoters of the conspiracy."

The murder attempt was "the fruit of a complex machination orchestrated by hidden minds interested in creating new destabilizing conditions according to the canons of a strategy which knows no boundaries," the opinion said.

As Italian investigators unearthed evidence, aided by a confession from Agca, that Bulgarian government officials might have been linked to the plot, the "Bulgarian connection" theory gained strength.

The theory is based on the general belief in Western intelligence circles that the Bulgarian secret service is often used by the Soviet Union to carry out international acts of terrorism, and that the Soviets wanted the Polish-born pope eliminated because his support for Solidarity, the independent Polish trade union, was stirring unrest in eastern Europe.

On Oct. 26, Judge Ilario Martella, chief investigator who prepared the indictments, released only the charges and the list of the accused. The full document is more than 1,000 pages long.

The indictment did not list any motives, political or otherwise, for the murder attempt against the pope.

Judge Martella did not give a trial date.

The indictments were issued against these Bulgarians:

-- Sergei Ivanov Antonov, 36, head of the Rome office of the Bulgarian state airline at the time of the assassination attempt, who has been under arrest in Italy since Nov. 25, 1982.

-- Jelio Kolev Vassilev, 42, an attache at the Bulgarian embassy in Rome at the time of the assassination attempt.

-- Todor Stoyanov Ayvazov, 40, a cashier at the Bulgarian embassy in Rome in 1981.

Vassilev and Ayvazov left Italy in 1982 before warrants were issued for their arrest. Martella's indictment lists the two as "in hiding."

The Turks indicted are:

-- Agca, 26, serving a life sentence for attempting to murder the pope on May 13, 1981, in St. Peter's Square during a papal general audience.

-- Omer Bagci, 38, accused of giving Agca an automatic pistol used in the assassination attempt, under arrest in Italy since May 1982.

-- Musar Celebi, 32, currently under arrest in Italy.

-- Bekir Celenk, 49, listed as living in Sofia, Bulgaria, but currently "in hiding."

-- Oral Celik, 25, who witnesses testified had also

fired a shot at the pope in St. Peter's Square during the assassination attempt. He is listed as "in hiding."

Bagci is charged with "criminal conspiracy" in the assassination plot and of giving Agca the "weapon which he used to carry out the attempt against the supreme pontiff."

Antonov, Vassilev, Ayvazov, Celebi, Celenk and Celik are charged with providing assistance and financial support to Agca. Agca is charged with conspiring with Bagci to kill the pope.

Among the supporters of the "Bulgarian connection" theory are Zbigniew Brzezinski and Henry Kissinger, both former national security advisers to U.S. presidents. Both have made public statements of their views.

There is mounting evidence that the KGB "was implicated in the most monumental assassination attempt carried out in this century -- that against the pope," said Brzezinski, former adviser to President Jimmy Carter, in an interview published in La Stampa, the daily newspaper of Turin, Italy.

"There is no doubt that the investigation made by Italian authorities has established the complicity of Bulgaria in the attack against the pope,"

he was quoted as saying. "Those who know the reality of eastern Europe automatically deduce that the Soviet Union was in command of the operation."

Previously, Kissinger had said in an interview with Cable News Network that former CIA Director Richard Helms had told him the assassination attempt "had all the earmarks...of a KGB operation."

Kissinger said he agreed because "if you try to square the known facts, it really leads almost to no other conclusion." Kissinger was

national security adviser and secretary of state under President Richard Nixon.

Bulgaria and the Soviet Union have denied that they were involved in the plot to assassinate the pope.

The U.S. Senate declared Bulgaria a terrorist state last July because of its alleged role in the shooting.

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