

RSMs to Host Booth at Advent Fest

The Sisters of Mercy will host a booth in the 13th annual Advent Festival sponsored by the East Rochester Association of Churches, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 1 at East Rochester High School, 200 Woodbine Ave.

Booth wares will include baked goods, candy, plants and handcrafts. Among the last will be caps, baby items, candles and afghans.

The senior and infirm sisters contribute a large number of the goods.

Ten percent of each booth's profits are used to purchase food for Christmas baskets or given directly to the poor.

Mercy booth coordinator is Sister Ann Cullen. At least 50 groups participate in the ecumenical event.



Sister Mary Celeste Boyle RSM displays a Raggedy Ann wearing a baby bonnet which will be on sale during the Advent Festival.

Scipio Community Church Hosts Ecumenical Program

Scipio Center — A Thanksgiving Ecumenical Service will be held 8 p.m., Wednesday, Nov. 21, at

Scipio Community Church. Parishioners of St. Bernard's Church will join with the Community Church

parishioners for an evening of prayer, thanksgiving and celebration.

Father Paul Cloonan, pastor of St. Bernard's, and Rev. Donald Ashley, pastor of Community, will sing several duets accompanied by Rev. Ashley on guitar.

Miss Ellen Dygert of Fleming, a clown and mime artist, will also perform.

Father Cloonan and Rev. Ashley have asked those attending to bring an item of food for Thanksgiving baskets for the needy.

The public is invited to the service, and young people are particularly encouraged to attend. St. Bernard's Rosary Society will serve refreshments.



Craft Sale Planned

St. Ann's Home resident Collette Joerger displays a lighted ceramic Christmas tree and holiday wreath which will be among homemade items available at the home's annual Christmas Craft Sale from 2-4 p.m.; Friday, Nov. 23.

Sarah Child



All in the Family

Flu Gives Pause For Thought

It is that time of the year. The Sunday New York Times, full of Christmas advertising, weighs in at 10 pounds. I have cooked a practice turkey and it has been pronounced "best ever." And the first virus of the season has swept the household, laying three of us low and turning the others into sadsacks or grinsches depending on one's point of view.

With the wisdom that comes with maturity (the kids prefer to term it senility), I have decided that not all days spent on the family room sofa with flu or its equivalent are necessarily bad.

By refusing to succumb to the lure of daytime television and spending the time in positive thought, battling the bug can not only be beneficial, but uplifting.

For example, one can dwell on the fact that while the kids have given you more than your fair share of headaches, they

are on the whole pretty nice people, adults or almost-adults you would enjoy knowing even if you weren't related.

(One not of warning: It does not help at this point to gaze about the room. The several pairs of shoes and sneakers left where they were removed, the empty pop glasses and dirty ice cream dishes will only demoralize and convince you of your inadequacies as a parent and role model.)

In the same vein, you can give thanks for a husband who not only takes over the kitchen and other domestic chores when you are struck down but doesn't think as a result he is a candidate for canonization.

And while you are at it you may praise the Lord for neighbors who turn a deaf ear when you blow your stack with the windows wide open but who are Johnny-on-the-spot when you really need help.

And, finally, you can ask the Almighty to remind you -- gently -- from time to time when you have returned to your usual and somewhat cynical self just how good you have it.

Helpline Publishes 1st Report

Corning — Helpline, the Steuben County information and telephone referral service, received more than 1,000 calls within a three-month period, a report by Patricia Defendorf, Helpline operator, stated Nov. 5.

The service provides referrals to Steuben County agencies in areas such as food, housing, financial assistance, counseling and support, youth services and consumer problems. It also provides a 24-hour crisis referral service for all county residents.

The operation began July 23.

A program of the Institute for Human Services and funded by private foundations and county agencies, Helpline information and referral services are offered 9 a.m.-5 p.m., weekdays. Crisis intervention is available at any time.

Corning area residents may call 936-4114. Outside the Corning area the number is 1-800-346-2211.

Jackie Horsfall administers the program.

Mrs. Defendorf is also president of the Diocesan Pastoral Council.

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State Catholic Unit 'Explodes Myths' Of Public Assistance

Albany — "We're committed to working full-scale for an increase in support for the needy in the state," said J. Alan Davitt, executive director of the State Catholic Conference, in explaining a mass mailing aimed at exploding several myths about public assistance.

More than 10,000 copies of the newsletter Conference Update was sent to Catholic lay and religious leaders throughout the state.

"People are living on only half of what the state says they need," Davitt said, citing state figures that show the current basic grant for the need in New York equals only 52 percent of the standard set by the state.

"Adding federal food stamps to the state grant brings the total for a family to 82 cents when the state

itself says the need is clearly for a dollar," he said. "What we're doing is the equivalent of providing families with 16 cents when they need 20 cents to buy a stamp so they can pay their bills."

Referring to the "myths" surrounding public assistance, Davitt said they "are serious blocks to people taking positive action on behalf of the poor and helpless."

A news release accompanying the newsletter lists the myths and rebuttals:

1. Not true that people remain on public assistance "forever." Half of all public assistance grants last for less than a year and the average family grant continues for less than three years.

2. Not true that mothers have more children to get more money. Seventy percent of all grant families include

only one or two children. Per person support decreases as the family gets larger.

3. Not true that most of those receiving aid are healthy employable adults. Only 2 percent are healthy, employable adults unable to find work. Seventy percent are children; 28 percent are aged, disabled or must care for children at home.

4. Not true that food stamps are used to buy alcohol, cigarettes and junk food. Food stamps are good for one month only and won't buy alcohol, cigarettes, paper towels, soap, etc. -- just food. Most are spent on bread, meat and milk.

The conference has committed itself to supporting a 25 percent increase in the state public assistance grant in the 1985 legislative session.

Workshop On Alcoholism And Family

"Children of Alcoholics: Kids with Special Needs" will be the topic of a five-week Family Alcoholism Workshop scheduled Wednesday evenings, beginning tonight (Nov. 21) at the Health Association, 973 East Ave.

"This series is primarily designed for children 5 to 15 years old, living in families where one or both parents or guardians are suffering from alcoholism," said Shirley Connell of the Rochester Chapter, National Council on Alcoholism which sponsors the program.

Parents or guardians of the children also may attend. The fee is just \$25 for each family group. Further information and registration forms are available from Shirley Connell at the Health Association, (716) 271-3540.

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