

Emergency funding preserves operation of Elmira food bank

By Michael F. Myers

Elmira — As a result of a successful funding drive, the Southern Tier Food Bank definitely will be able to continue operations through the middle of May and probably through June 30. At a March 1 meeting of food bank member agencies, Anthony Barbaro of the Southern Tier Office of Social Ministry announced that budgetary shortfall for the current fiscal year, which ends for June 30, had been cut to \$10,000.

Speaking to representatives of food pantries and soup kitchens that comprise the food bank, Barbaro said the bank had received donations of \$13,645 by Monday, March 3.

In addition, the Chemung County legislature had allocated an additional \$7,000 to the bank, and a federal emergency management act grant of \$2,500 will be passed through to the food bank. The United Way of Southeastern Steuben County also has contributed \$1,300. Contributions delivered by member agencies on Monday added \$7,029.91, reducing the initial shortfall of \$41,865 to \$10,000.

David Viviano, chairman of the food bank advisory committee, said that with other help promised but not yet delivered, the food bank could continue operations through the rest of the fiscal year. A definite decision will be made by May 1. A decision concerning next year's operations will be made by June 1.

Member agencies strongly protested a plan

for next fiscal year that would include a charge of 10 cents a pound for food given to the various pantries, soup kitchens and other groups which deliver food to the poor. Many agency representatives said the smaller pantries and agencies could not afford the charge.

Brother John Brown of Elmira, an agency representative, suggested a plan to reduce expenses so the food bank would not have to pass on its costs to member agencies. He offered himself as an unpaid director, and suggested that volunteers be used to cut the \$20,000 payroll costs. He said that the rental of the building used to collect, warehouse and distribute the food could be eliminated by using free warehouse space for which he is negotiating. Trucking costs, he said, could be cut by asking truckers to bring back loads on return trips when they would otherwise ride empty.

For the long term, he said, the food bank "should be totally separated from the federal, state and county governments." He suggested regional fund raisers of the type he ran when he was a brother at the Benedictine monastery on Mt. Saviour, near Elmira.

Thomas O'Neill, a spokesman for Brown, declined to name the warehouse in question since revealing the name would "jack up the price."

Barbaro told the representatives that the 10-cents-a-pound method of covering costs is not "cast in concrete," but, he said, it is the plan that will be used unless a better

alternative is proposed.

Viviano said he believed that more help — both volunteer and paid — is needed because of the strict requirements of Second Harvest, the bank's principal source of food. Second Harvest is a network that locates usable food that manufacturers are willing to donate and arranges for food banks to receive it.

Second Harvest requires strict accounting for products received, and Viviano said he believes a paid warehouse manager is needed to comply with such regulations. Bernard Seiser, an advisory committee member, also noted that Second Harvest has strict requirements regarding warehouse space.

The network insists on strict security and safety for food, cooler and freezer space and loading docks so the truckers hauling at reduced prices can have quick turn arounds, and so that forklifts can be used in the warehouse, as most of the loads are palletized.

Seiser said that arrangements for free trucking are already in place. He also said that the reduced number of loads going out from Elmira, under the pressed economic conditions, result in fewer return runs that the food bank can take advantage of. Viviano said that Brown's proposal would definitely be studied by the advisory council.

In response to questions concerning the short time allowed to member agencies for raising the money needed, Viviano pointed out that the parent agency, the Southern Tier Office of Social Ministry of the Diocese of Rochester, recently lost three key management personnel — the director, the grants person, and the manager for the food bank — all within a short period of time. He said the advisory council had very little time to study the situation and to decide on a plan.

A call from the floor for regional representations and regional groupings was also promised for consideration.

Easter Seals Quota Set

The annual Easter Seals drive in Monroe County was launched with a campaign goal of \$300,000. Money raised assists 13 area

agencies in their aiding the handicapped.

About 1,100 volunteers will take part in various events that will include special gifts, Rotary Club fund-raising activities, a Channel 8 telethon on March 8 and 9, a basketball shoot-out, among others.

The figure for the quota is \$25,000 more than was raised a year ago.

R.C. Needs Volunteers

The Red Cross needs family support volunteers to provide friendship, emotional support and special help to families at risk of child abuse and neglect. A free training session for eligible volunteers will be Thursday, March 6 from 5:30 to 9:30 p.m. at the Red Cross, 50 Prince St. A light meal will be provided. For more information or to sign up, call (716)461-9800, ext. 259.

Parenting Helpers Sought

Volunteers are needed for Strong Memorial Hospital's PACE program — Parent and Child Training. PACE volunteers offer childbirth preparation services to pregnant women with special needs, as well as to their family members. Other services include providing support and guidance after the birth.

Each volunteer is assigned one family or parent and is asked to commit between three and five hours per week. For more information, call Ms. Rappaport, (716)275-2400.

Obituaries

Father Joseph Torre, former theology professor

Father Joseph Van Torre, a Belgian Jesuit who was formerly professor of theology at St. Bernard's Seminary, Rochester, died on February 17, 1986, at Cape Coast, Ghana, West Africa.

Hendrik Joseph Van Torre was born on August 23, 1914, at Beete, Province of Antwerp, Belgium. He entered the Society of Jesus on September 23, 1931, and was ordained to the priesthood at Louvain (Leuven), Belgium, on August 24, 1943. He received his theological education, culminating in the doctorate of theology (1947), at the University of Louvain.

Father Van Torre's entire career was devoted to study and teaching. For several years, he served on the Jesuit staff at Louvain. Then, from 1957 to 1965, he was a member of the faculty of Louvain University's daughter institution, Lovanium University, at Leopoldville (now Kinshasa) in the Belgian Congo (now the Republic of Zaire). He was also on the teaching staff, for two academic years, of the Jesuit Heythrop College in England.

In 1966 he came to the United States, for what turned out to be a stay of 14 years. After two years at the University of San Francisco and two at Boston College, Father Van Torre joined the faculty of St. Bernard's Seminary. Here he taught basic courses in systematic theology as well as four electives. During his nine years at the seminary, he achieved tenure as full professor. In 1979, he left to join the staff of LeMoyné College, Syracuse.

A missionary at heart, the Belgian Jesuit accepted an invitation extended in 1980 to join the faculty of St. Peter's Regional Seminary in the archdiocese of Cape Coast, Ghana. Though his health had been uncertain for some time, he signed up once again with St. Peter's in the fall of 1985, for what was to be his final year at the Ghana mission.

Father Van Torre was an able theologian. He kept abreast of theological developments, but always judged them by the touchstone of Catholic doctrine. In debate he showed

himself to be what Julius Caesar would have called a *fortissimus Belgae*. By nature, however, he was a retiring, dedicated scholar and educator.

In class, he never let his students forget that they were discussing sacred matters. "For Father Van Torre," says one of his former colleagues, Carmelite Father John Healy of McQuaid High, "theology was not only a science but a prayer." Father Thomas P. Mull, the diocesan director of liturgy and one of Van Torre's former students, agrees: "He taught us by his own faith."

Another of "Father Joe's" former students, Father Joseph A. Hart of St. Bernard's Institute, praised the dedicated professor's efforts to know his seminarians. "He made a point of socializing with them, but they also turned to him as a skilled spiritual director."

When Father Van Torre went to St. Peter's Seminary in Ghana, he faced a curious situation. St. Bernard's Seminary in Rochester was closed in 1981 because of dwindling enrollment. In Ghana, however, the number of vocations to the priesthood has been increasing each year, so that both the professors at the seminary facilities have been put under a strain. Living in a Third World nation that was on the verge of bankruptcy, the Ghanaian seminarians are usually very poor. Many cannot afford such necessities as the fare to return home for vacations.

The Jesuit professor not only continued his academic and spiritual work, but he also took a personal interest in his African pupils, aiding them with his own slender funds. Thus, Father Van Torre's last years were happy ones. As he wrote to us a couple of years ago, "I thank the Lord that He allows me to help to prepare all these young people for the priesthood: a promise for the universal Church — and its enduring youthfulness."

May he rest in peace!
Written by Father Robert F. McNamara.

Sister Elizabeth Meisch, taught locally 47 years

Sister Elizabeth Helen Meisch, a Sister of Mercy, died Feb. 20 in the Mercy infirmary, Lourdes Hall, 1437 Blossom Rd., Rochester, after a long illness. She was 84.

Before she returned to her baptismal name several years ago, she was known for many years by the name she took when she entered the congregation, Sr. Miriam Teresa.

Sister Elizabeth Helen was born in Rochester in 1901. Both her parents were Rochester natives. She graduated from Nazareth Academy in 1920, entered the congregation of the Sisters of Mercy of the Rochester Diocese on September 8, 1928, and made her profession of final vows on September 3, 1934. She received a bachelor's degree in education from St. Bonaventure University in Olean, and accumulated credits toward a master's degree.

Her name has historical significance in the Rochester archives, since her great-grandfather, Pierre Meisch, was the first superintendent of Holy Sepulchre Cemetery,

which opened in 1871.

Sister Elizabeth Helen was a Sister of Mercy for 57 years, and taught in grades one through six in diocesan elementary schools for 47 years, from 1928 to 1975. Her assignments included Holy Cross School, St. Salome's School, St. Vincent's in Corning, St. John's in Clyde and Holy Family in Auburn. She also taught locally at St. Charles Borromeo, St. Thomas the Apostle and St. Cecilia's.

From 1970 to 1975, she tutored at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, Rochester. In 1975, she retired from the classroom to the Mercy Motherhouse and took on the ministry of the retired sisters, the Spiritual Apostolate of Prayer.

In 1980, Sister Elizabeth Helen was admitted to the Mercy infirmary, because of failing health.

She is survived by her sister-in-law, Mrs. A. Meisch of Largo, Fla., and a niece and nephew in the Rochester area.

"Annie Get Your Gun"

Carl Wager will direct this year's rendition of "Annie Get Your Gun," at the Greece Olympia High School on March 13, 14 and 15 at 8 p.m. in the school auditorium. Choreography is under the direction of Theresa Mayfield, an Olympia alumna and student of dance. The pit orchestra is conducted by band director, Jeff Greene. For reservations or information, call (716)621-1500.

Rediscovery Program Set

Reservations are currently being accepted for the next Retrouvaille (Rediscovery) program, which begins the weekend of April 18-20 at the East Avenue Inn, Rochester. Retrouvaille is a program designed to help heal and renew troubled marriages, beginning with a weekend program focusing on communication, forgiveness and healing, as well as the building of trust. The program continues with six follow-up evenings over the course of three months. Retrouvaille is a Catholic program, however all couples of other denominations are welcome. A \$20 registration fee is required. Call (716)621-2901.

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Legal Notice

STATE OF INDIANA
COUNTY OF ALLEN
SS:

IN THE ALLEN SUPERIOR COURT
FAMILY RELATIONS DIVISION
FORT WAYNE, INDIANA
CAUSE NO. W-84-104

IN THE MATTER OF TERMINATION OF THE PARENT-CHILD RELATIONSHIP OF AISHA JONES, ALEXANDRA JONES, ALONZO JONES, ASHINAFEE JONES, JOSHUA FERGUSON, A CHILD, AND ROOSEVELT FERGUSON, HIS/HER PARENT(S).

SUMMONS FOR SERVICE BY PUBLICATION

Notice is hereby given to the (alleged) (biological) (adjudicated) father of the above-named minor child, whose whereabouts are unknown, that The Department of Welfare of Allen County, Indiana, has filed its petition, on January 17, 1986, which is a proceeding whereby the petitioner is asking that the parent-child relationship, and the parental rights of the person to whom this notice is given, be permanently terminated and that said child be made available for possible adoption which said adoption proceedings may not be contested by the person to whom this notice is given, if such person to whom this notice is given fails to act within the time and in the manner hereinafter set forth.

Notice is further given that the attorney representing The Department of Public Welfare of Allen County, Indiana, is Philip H. Larmore of the law firm of Adair, Perry, Beers, Mallers, & Larmore, whose address is 2200 Fort Wayne National Bank Building, Fort Wayne, Indiana, 46802.

That said person to whom this notice is directed must respond to the petition of The Department of Public Welfare of Allen County, Indiana, by appearing in person or by attorney within ten (10) days after the last publication of this notice, and in case such person fails to do so, judgment by default may be entered against that person for the relief demanded in the petitioner's petition, filed January 17, 1986.

Patricia Conrad
Clerk of Allen County

THOUGHTS TO CONSIDER



EDWIN SULEWSKI
FUNERAL DIRECTOR

Loneliness. A major problem for the widowed!
Many widowed people complain that they no longer feel comfortable with old friends and in old social situations. In addition, they feel that their empty house and evening hours increase the loneliness. Learning how and where to meet people is difficult. The best solution for finding friends is to be active socially and at work. Support can be gained through church groups and special groups for the widowed. Joining in political campaigns, community organizations, golf or tennis clubs are ways some bereaved make friends. New friends will not totally eliminate our loneliness but they can help. Naturally no one should feel pressured to meet new friends until they are ready.

We purchase all forms of insurance to protect our family & assets not because we expect the worst to happen but to be prepared. Doesn't it make sense then to prepare for what will happen. Let our trained counselors assist you with the many options available in planning for a worry free future.

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