

Formidable odds

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Although that meant starting over in another location, Sister Janet remained optimistic. "We really wanted to offer something a little more home-like, not only to serve the children, but the families as well, with family education," she said. "A school is kind of a formal setting."

Ironically, now that the center is ready to open, the school building's upper floors are once again vacant.

In the meantime, Sister Janet turned her attention to what was once the rectory and is now considered the parish ministry center. Her vision was of an open, inviting space, but the first-floor rooms were tiny and dark. So she consulted an architect, who confirmed the feasibility of knocking out several walls.

Yet another delay surfaced with funding. The parish needed diocesan approval to tap into its custodial fund. That approval was tied up in nearly five-years-worth of red tape.

"Sister Janet has been a real example of patience and 'stick-to-it-iveness'" Isaac said. "Many a woman would have given up."

Sister Janet credited her perseverance to the support of volunteers drawn not only

from Ss. Peter and Paul, but also from parishes all over Monroe County.

Many of the volunteers originally came to work at St. Peter's Kitchen, and have pitched in to help with the day care center as well. Most remain active in their own parishes.

"I divide myself between both churches," said Helen Wantke of St. Lawrence, Greece. "I get a lot of joy out of it. There's great satisfaction when you go home dog-tired and say 'Boy, what I've done today.'"

"The needs are different here," explained May Malinchak of St. Rita's, Webster. "We don't need a soup kitchen in Webster."

Since last February, volunteers have helped to renovate the entire ministry center. Several first-floor walls were removed to create one large room on the building's west side. Upstairs, fire walls have been installed to meet city regulations. Of fewer than 200 parishioners, half were either too old or too young to do the heavy physical work required to renovate the ministry center. "The people from Ss. Peter and Paul have provided support through prayer and commitment," Sister Janet said.

Once it opens, the day care center will continue to depend on volunteer assistance. But in the meantime, funding for staff salaries remains a problem. Because the center is not yet operating, it has yet to

generate any income. Even when it does open, Sister Janet said, fees will be based on a family's ability to pay.

She hopes to recruit some staff support from Edison High School and Nazareth College, both of which offer training programs for day care aides.

"But we can't expect volunteers to provide a sustained program," she explained. "We

Retrouvaille offers programs to aid marriages in trouble

Two Retrouvaille programs this fall will offer help for troubled marriages. Weekends are planned for September 19-21 and November 7-9 at the East Avenue Inn, Rochester.

Retrouvaille, or "rediscovery," is a program for couples who believe they have less than a complete marriage and want to put the past behind them. It includes a weekend and several follow-up sessions that emphasize a technique of communication between husband and wife.

One couple who participated in the program called it a "second chance." Another person wrote: "We had drifted apart over the years, almost living like strangers together. Our love was buried under bitterness and anger — we rarely talked and mostly tolerated one another.

need payroll for at least three paid staff."

Based on her experience so far, Sister Janet is confident that help will arrive from some quarter between now and October.

"There is a whole lot of faith in the small group we have — a lot of confidence in the resources, ministry and labor that have made this possible," she said.

We found we could begin again, forget the past mistakes we had both made and go on from here."

Although Retrouvaille is Catholic in nature, it is open to couples of all faiths. Reservations for both fall weekends are now being accepted. Registration is \$20 per couple. For information, call (716) 621-2901.

Women's shelter seeks help; full- and part-time staff needed

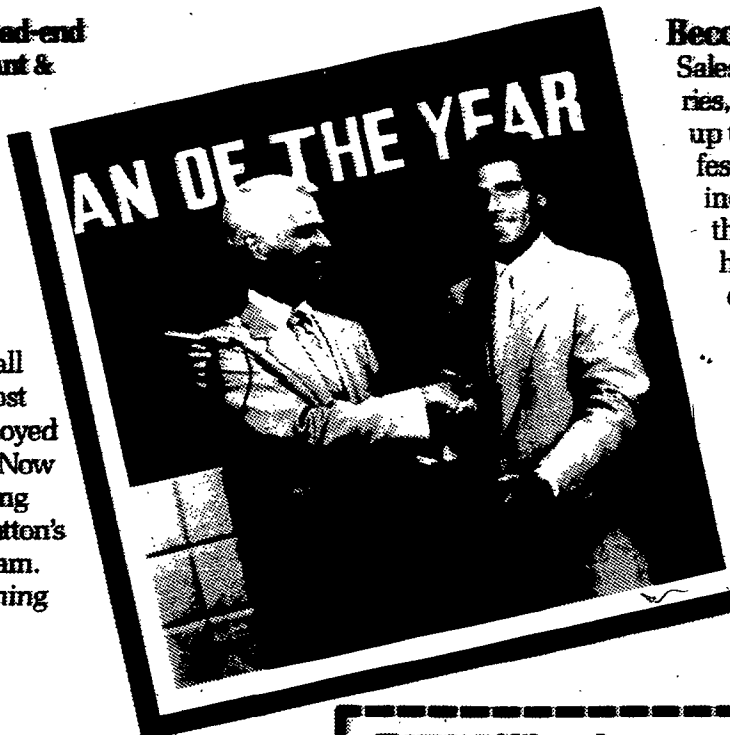
Bethany House needs full- and part-time staff for its temporary shelter for homeless women and children. The Rochester facility provides medical coverage and small stipends to staff members.

For information, call Donna Ecker or Liz Bearisto at (716) 454-4197.

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