

Villa program

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and exit signs, the house appears to be a standard colonial — comfortable and homey. Among the conveniences are a microwave oven, a pleasant laundry room, an enviable video/stereo system, and a recreation room containing tables for pool, ping-pong and foosball.

"The kids love the house," Virgilio observes. "They take pride in it and take part in cleaning." Chores are one way in which progress is gauged in the LIFE Program. As in other villa programs, residents are categorized into freshman, sophomore, junior and senior classes, referring to responsibility levels rather than academic standing or age.

'We don't close on weekends and at night. Outpatient facilities usually run from 9 to 5, and most people's problems run 5 to 9.'

*Stephen C. Hanson, Director
LIFE Program
St. Joseph's Villa*

Residents may also bring school friends home for visits, if they obtain permission from staff members at least 24 hours in advance. According to Virgilio, LIFE's staff will maintain lists of approved and unapproved friends and visitors. As Hanson notes, "There is a concern about involvement with old using friends."

And, in a co-ed dwelling for teenagers, there is also a concern for involvements of a different nature. "Romantic relationships between housemates are highly discouraged," Virgilio emphasizes. "There can't be any dating between clients."

When they arrived in late February and early March, the teens were involved in intensive tutoring sessions which took place within the LIFE residence. The first three students started classes in the Greece district on March 16.

"When we're fully operating, they will have an extensive support group of 15 kids going to two schools (middle and high school). They will hang out with the kids from the house," Hanson comments. "We have 15 kids in the same boat, and a trained staff to deal with a variety of different situations and provide counseling."

Hanson said his efforts are geared "to take kids who have chemical problems and return them to the community. We will be giving them a base of support that they can rely on — sort of a life-long system."

"The point we're trying to encourage here is the education of wellness," Hanson continues. "Normal treatment for chemical dependency focuses on stopping use and on the recovery process. That's the first step. We also recognize that once you're through that first step, there are other issues you need to address."

"Some kids used drugs to escape anxiety. We have to provide alternatives. We are hoping that an awareness of things like diet, being in shape and general health will further motivate kids to not want to get involved with chemicals," he explains. As part of that approach, the LIFE house has no-smoking and no-caffeine policies for both staff and residents. Instead of using cigarettes to reduce tension, staff members participate in the same stress-relief exercises taught to the residents.

Learning to deal constructively with stress is a key point with Hanson. Adolescence, he observes, is a dangerous time in which teens explore various avenues — including athletics, creative expression, rebellion, violence and drugs — to cope with their anxieties. "If they use alcohol to relieve that stress, they miss that whole learning process," he cautions. "If teenaged alcoholics stop drinking at 25, they're still dealing emotionally on a 14-year-old level."

Moreover, the progress of alcoholism is accelerated among adolescents. "For an adult to develop alcoholism it takes 10 to 20 years; for an adolescent, it takes only 1 to 3 years," he remarks. "An adult will start out

with a slow pattern (of drinking), but for kids, a lot of the social activity revolves around it. They don't have the sense to stop at two or three drinks."

Developing the LIFE Program "really reinforced to me the family issues that are involved in chemical dependency," Hanson continues. "It is not a kids' problem solely. The problem also extends to the families in terms of the way they interact and the effects our residents' chemical dependency have on the families." When both parent and child are substance abusers, he remarks, "in most cases it would be the same substance — it would be alcohol."

"Most of the residents will have chemical abuse in their immediate families ... Their use has the effect of enabling, scapegoating, all sorts of things."

Another effect on such troubled families is the impression of age and sophistication of the LIFE residents convey. Although most of the

early arrivals were 14 or 15 years old, one might easily have pegged them at 17 or 18.

"These are kids who are in many cases dealing with adult problems and trying to act like adults ... without ever being allowed to go through their late teens," Hanson explains. "These kids also have had a lot of experience. Many have had to care for siblings, assuming parental roles."

"When we are younger we always want to look older. They're also put in a position where they have to act older, at least in their own eyes."

Virgilio adds another sobering thought. "Most of the girls have been abused, had early sexual involvement, family difficulties (divorce), running away," she notes. "A young person — especially a young woman — isn't going to be at St. Joseph's Villa unless they have some severe problems. And that experience is going to be an aging factor."

Crash videotape available to area secondary students

High school students throughout Monroe County can now see the tragic consequences of drinking and driving by viewing "It's Your Choice," a videotape recently produced by Monroe County, according to County Executive Lucien A. Morin.

Second Medaille House to open

In 1983, the Sisters of St. Joseph established Medaille House — a community of sisters and lay women who share prayerful Christian community and serve the Church through works of faith and justice. Because the experience has been so positive for all those involved and because interest has been so high, plans are now being made to open a second community in the Rochester area this summer.

Members of the Medaille House community commit themselves to prayer, a simple lifestyle based on Gospel values, and action for peace and justice. Women who join this community make a one-year commitment, which may be renewed for a period not usually exceeding two years.

Applications for 1987-88 are now being accepted. Those interested can contact Sister Kathleen Weider, SSJ, 4095 East Ave., Rochester, 14610 or call (716)586-1000.

The videotape, which is now available to Rochester-area high schools and community organizations, documents the popular presentation developed by the Monroe County Medical Examiner's Office.

Funding for the videotape was provided by a \$15,000 grant secured by Assemblyman Gary Proud, 131st District. The grant, which was obtained through the New York State Division of Alcoholism and Alcohol Abuse, financed the cost of production and the duplication of 100 videotapes.

The medical examiner's presentation began in 1981, with a slide show of alcohol-related auto crashes. As schools realized the impact of the presentation, the program's popularity increased until 150 to 200 presentations were being given each year. Following a feature on "PM Magazine," other states began requesting program information, according to Dr. Nicholas Forbes, Monroe County medical examiner.

Request forms have been sent to all high schools within Monroe County. One tape is available, free of charge, to each high school. Videotapes will also be available on a loan basis to Rochester-area colleges, businesses and community organizations.

For information, contact the Office of Public Safety and Judicial Services at (716) 428-5368.

St. Bernard's Institute
1100 South Goodman Street
Rochester, N.Y. 14620

Summer 1987

Course Offerings/Instructor	Time	Place
Session I (six weeks) May 11-June 19		
Introduction to Mysticism (McDowell)	M/W 7-9:45 pm	Horseheads
Session I (five weeks) May 11-June 12		
Passion and Resurrection Narratives (Falcone)	M/T/TH 7-9:45 pm	Rochester
Contemporary Moral Theology (Mich)	T/TH 9am-12:30 pm	Rochester
Classics of Christian Prayer (Schwartz)	M/W/TH 7-9:45 pm	Rochester
The New Christology (Hart)	M/T/TH 7-9:45 pm	Rochester
Session II (four weeks) June 15-July 11		
Thomas Merton: Contemplative and Social Critic (Shannon/Bochen)	M/T/TH 7-9:45 pm	Rochester
American Catholic Social Thought and Activism (Schoelles)	M/T/TH 7-9:45 pm	Rochester
Pastoral Counseling: A Jungian Perspective (Hill)	M/T/TH 7-9:45 pm	Rochester
Christian Conflict Management (Ramerman)	T/W/TH 9 am-12 noon	Rochester
Second Annual Spirituality Institute Sr. Jose Hobday and Kenneth Leech	July 13-17 9:30 am-3 pm	Rochester

CALL: (716) 271-1320 x290 for registration information

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As part of the tour, you'll be treated to an audio visual show that depicts many aspects of Diocesan life.

When you've finished, we hope you'll join with us for some light refreshments and allow us to respond to any questions that may come to mind during your tour.

The Pastoral Center is located in Rochester at 1150 Buffalo Rd. (Between Mt. Read Blvd. and Howard Rd.)