

Rural counselor

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Instead, she was received quickly and warmly in most cases. "I was surprised by how important it is to people out here that I am a sister," she said. "These are people of strong faith, whether Catholic or otherwise. Maybe that helped them to trust me more than another stranger coming into town."

"The first people who came were willing to take a big risk in going to someone unknown," she added. "But then, people refer other people. Once you're known, the word travels quickly in a small town."

Sister Alderman also credits her smooth introduction into Livingston County to Pam Masterson, who served as the area's social ministry coordinator from 1984 until last October. Not only did Masterson help to establish the need for counseling services in Livingston County, but she also shared her local contacts with Sister Alderman.

However, the stigma against seeking professional counseling does persist in many of the towns where Sister Alderman works. Often, people prefer to meet her in a town other than

the one in which they live.

"It's very hard to remain anonymous," she said. "If somebody's seen coming in here — well, everybody knows everybody else — and pretty soon it's all over town."

Whether out of pride or fear, rural people in general also persist in trying to solve their own problems.

"They tend not to come quickly to counseling," Sister Alderman said. "Often, by the time people do come, there's more than one problem, or the problem has become a lot bigger than it needed to be."

Area parishes have helped Sister Alderman overcome one major obstacle to counseling — the cost. In each town where she works, the parish has provided a rent-free space where she can meet with people.

Other costs, such as her salary, are met in part by grants from the United Way of Livingston County and the Newman Community of SUNY Geneseo. The grants and the program are administered through Catholic Family Center. Sister Alderman is thus able to charge clients only what they can afford to pay.

"I try to let people know that the fee they pay enables me to be here, but that they are more important than any fee," she said.

Rooms are still available for pastoral institute on RCIA

Deacon Fred R. Oberst, coordinator of the 1987 Wadhams Hall Pastoral Institute, has announced that rooms are still available for this year's program. The subject of the pastoral institute will be the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA).

Speakers will include a five-member team from the North American Forum on the Catechumenate. The institute will be held from August 16 to August 21.

Room and board during the institute costs \$125, and tuition for the five-day program will also be \$125. Registration must be accompanied by a \$10 non-refundable deposit.

MADD chapter sets meeting for Holiday Inn Airport

The Monroe County chapter of Mothers Against Drunk Driving will host a meeting at the Holiday Inn Airport at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, July 21.

The East Rochester Emergency Medical Team will be on hand to teach people what to

The North American Forum on the Catechumenate is a network of pastoral ministers, liturgists, catechists and theologians in the United States and Canada. Members share common goals and experiences, promote research into issues raised by RCIA and offer services at institutes on RCIA.

The institute is open to both men and women. Lay people and clergy members are welcome to attend.

Registration and additional information may be obtained by writing to Wadhams Hall Pastoral Institute, Riverside Drive, Ogdensburg, 13669.

do when they are confronted with an emergency situation.

The meeting is open to the public. Call Mary Elkins at (716)586-3275 for information.

THOUGHTS TO CONSIDER



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How can I face people since my loved one committed suicide?

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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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