

## et cetera

## Subsidies

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reasons for not providing support.

Even when programs are turned down for funding, Gifford added, contact between the Division of Urban Services and the program continues. "We engage in an ongoing dialogue where we give them input about what they are doing," she said. "We try to offer them as much assistance as we can." This ongoing dialogue can help the program improve its operations, she noted, and its potential to qualify for a subsidy in the future.

Gifford acknowledged that programs such as the House of Mercy that fail to meet the criteria of the urban subsidy program currently have few alternatives for diocesan financing. She added, however, that the diocese is considering options to provide more funds to support services for the poor as called for in Recommendation #4 of the Diocesan Oversight Task Force Report. She also mentioned that an already existing diocesan program, Ventures in Human Services, is being re-evaluated this fall.

Ventures is a collaborative effort involving support and financing from the Division of Urban Services, the Division of Social Ministry, the Catholic Family Center, the Sisters of

Mercy and the Sisters of St. Joseph. The committee, created four years ago, promotes pilot ministries. Several years ago, for example, Ventures provided money for Project M.O.R.E. (More Options Really Exist), a program to assist prostitutes. Project M.O.R.E. has evolved into Women's Parish, which will be opening at St. Augustine's Parish in the spring.

According to William Privett, a member of Venture's steering committee and director of the Catholic Family Center, "The reason we began doing this was to help people who had innovative programs that didn't quite fit under one particular office." He noted that the program has been limited in what it can do because of decreasing funding. Ventures began with a budget of \$16,000, but now must work with \$6,000-7,000. "We're reconsidering the whole initiative this fall, to assess whether we can continue operations under the present financing," he said. With increased financing, he suggested, Ventures could help more programs that fail to meet criteria for subsidies and grants.

Officials of the Diocese of Rochester recognize that more money is needed not only to support current programs and subsidies, but also to expand efforts to meet new and growing needs, Father Mulligan said. The diocese has already hired a development director, Mark

Seeberg, to seek ways to increase diocesan revenues. Father Mulligan noted that the diocese has also begun to reassess its budgeting process to streamline it and make it more efficient.

Meanwhile, however, such programs as the House of Mercy must find their own solutions. Because of growing demands on the drop-in center's services, the new staff member was hired on a part-time basis even without subsidy funding. Sister Grace Miller, RSM, who directs the house, has been speaking in parishes

## Teenagers

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are you willing to tolerate?"

I wish there were some way for me to communicate with young people who are swayed by pro-abortion rhetoric. If I were able to establish a channel of communication, I would urge adolescents to search their hearts until they discover the truths that life is sacred and that violence against the unborn is wrong.

I would urge them to think about what is obvious to me: You will not find peace until you acknowledge that God has given you great dignity and that you will be expected someday to accept the adult responsibility to nourish

to raise money, while the Sisters of Mercy continue to provide extensive support. The house has also received United Way funds.

Still, money from the diocese would have helped, Sister Lewis noted.

"It could have helped with client assistance," Sister Lewis said. "There are all kinds of needs our clients come in with."

"It just seems as if we're the Church in ministry, in action with the poor," she added. "We should be getting support."

and safeguard life.

In spite of what you hear from popular music and what you see on television and movie screens, you should face the fact that sexual relations are not trivial. You need to admit to yourselves that you will be happier if you wait for sex until you are married.

We all need to ponder the question posed by the girl who asked: "How much violence are you willing to tolerate?"

All forms of violence are dehumanizing: violence against our own flesh, against an "enemy" in a military uniform, against the poor or homeless, against the criminal.

The basis of personal, emotional and spiritual well-being, as well as the survival of the planet, ultimately rests on the resolution to reject violence.

The only way to get beyond this confusion is to examine and re-examine abortion. Abortion can be a very hard thing to confront. In spite of this, I hope that young people will give serious consideration to the moral, religious and human values at stake.

## 'Just Say Yes'

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at another Christmas. This time, Stevens responded by calling her and thanking her for her love and concern. "Our very special friendship will always be the two different worlds we managed to put together," she writes.

Grant's constant attention to boys like John Paul earned her the title "Mom." Indeed, in many ways, Grant serves as substitute mother to each youth she encounters. But being a mother implies that there is a father somewhere. Grant leaves the reader with no doubt as to who that father is — God.

"I never forget to say to say, 'Thank You, Father,'" she writes. Grant liberally sprinkles testimony about her belief in God as the unseen director of her work. Driven to despair numerous times by the stubbornness of various teens and the red tape of state bureaucracy, she often felt forsaken by God, but she clung to her faith. This tenacity helped her deal with the fluctuations of her work. Recently, she said, a boy with whom she had worked lost everything he had gained.

"I told you you can't drink," Grant said, recalling a phone conversation with the boy. He had a good job and a nice place to live, she said, but he got drunk and wrecked his car. He was subsequently fined and then lost his job. "I told him, 'You blew it,'" Grant said. "Now we're going to have to start all over again."

But starting all over is what Grant is all about. She said that if she had turned on the boy, he might not have been willing to try again. Possibly she was taking her own advice to her readers. "Remember the tear-stained face looking up at you could be someone you love saying, 'Please don't throw me away!'"

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