

Deep cuts

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more than 7,000 elderly people to deal with the maze of forms they must fill out to apply and obtain services.

Portanova said she did not yet know exactly where the cuts in senior services would occur, and added that the department's other services were all equally at risk for cutback or elimination.

In addition, Portanova noted that cuts in state funding for youth programs will mean a reduction in staff size, hours and programming, as well as a hiring freeze for the Catholic Youth Organization. Restart Substance Abuse Services has also laid off one administrator, Portanova said, in order to comply with state directives calling for substance-abuse programs to operate at 1989-90 funding levels.

Although the Finger Lakes Office of Social Ministry and the Southern Tier of Social Ministry will not suffer as dramatically from the proposed cuts, directors of both agencies pointed to potential problems

on the fiscal horizon for the years ahead.

FLOSM's executive director, Giovina Carosio, said that unless her agency can find another funding source, its state-funded Teen Pregnancy Prevention/Parenting program may go out of business in Seneca County this summer.

Carosio acknowledged that — according to the state's funding philosophy — the program should have been financially independent of the state after its first three years of operation. But she added that the mostly rural region in which it operates doesn't have a strong tax base to support such programs, and that it is easier to attract such monies from a city government with a stronger tax base.

"At this point, we don't have a line for any other source of funding to keep this program running in any way, shape or form," Carosio said.

While Portanova and Carosio ponder their immediate situations and short-term outlooks, STOSM's director, Anthony Barbaro, is looking down the road to how his agency is going to handle an increase in clients' needs amid signs that state budget-

slashing will continue well into the 1992 fiscal year.

Although his agency will suffer no direct impact from the proposed budget cuts, Barbaro noted that STOSM has been forced to freeze the growth of some of its programs to cope with state demands that such services as substance-abuse programs be maintained at prior budgetary levels.

In addition, the demands of the Persian Gulf War — especially as it now moves into the ground-phase — are a concern for STOSM's executive director, who fears that families left behind by military personnel may need increased social services.

Diocesan agencies' concern over pending budget cuts is shared by the New York State Catholic Conference, according to a statement issued last week by J. Allan Davitt, executive director.

"Especially in these times of fiscal crisis and economic recession, the legislature has a responsibility to protect the weakest and most vulnerable among us: the poor, the sick, the elderly, children and the unborn," Davitt stated.

Youth

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to have a program, and the teens are aware that they are supported. It makes a difference," Finocchiaro said.

Legere likewise remarked that the biggest advantage of rural ministry is a sense of family. Parishioners and members of the greater community rely more on each other than do people living in the city, she said, adding that she also appreciates the volunteer support she receives from the parish.

"You have people willing to do, to sacrifice, because they know they can make a difference," she said.

Cruise agreed, noting that the parents in her parish may be more supportive of her efforts because they know she is all they have to run the youth group.

"We've got to hang in and stick together," Cruise said she encourages parishioners.

The NYSCC statement asked that basic health and welfare programs be spared from the budget-cutting ax, and that the state create tax brackets "with a graduated and regularized scale of progressive rates for these brackets and an increased top rated."

The state Catholic conference also recommended that \$17.5 million earmarked for Medicaid funding of abortion be deleted from the budget, and that the funds be used "to fund prenatal and other health care programs for women and children."

On the other hand, the conference applauded Gov. Cuomo's proposal to repeal planned cuts in the state's personal income tax rates.

Albanian priest

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of betterment." "The Catholic Church in Albania survived communism as it survived 950 years of Byzantine rule and the Turkish yoke for 500 years," he said.

"When communism came, the Albanian genetic code was already programmed for resistance," he said.

Father Jubani told *Avvenire* that about 25,000 Catholics live in Albania, but there are only 27 priests.

The church faces a huge task, he said. Communism meant "the death of moral life, political life and cultural life."

The priest asked Western Catholics and governments to be ready to offer Albania "moral, material and economic aid."

Violence

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violence, there should be group discussions between the Vietnamese community and the police.

"They should teach people to know what to do," he said, adding that there needs to be better security during celebrations.

Five Vietnamese men and two women — from Texas and Denver — were stopped Feb. 17 in Colby, Kan., and were being held in connection to the investigation of the church robbery and shooting.

According to Colby Police Chief Randall Jones, diamonds, rings, gold jewelry and money were found in the two cars containing the seven Vietnamese. A red ski mask and four handguns also were found under the hood of one of the cars, he said.

Support group schedules drive for troops in gulf

HENRIETTA — The Operation Desert Storm Volunteer Support Committee will set up a collection point for donated goods in Marketplace Mall on West Henrietta Road from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Saturday, March 2. Goods collected will be donated to the men and women serving in the Persian Gulf War.

Items that may be donated include: socks, T-shirts, plastic bags, insect repellent (non-aerosol cans), feminine hygiene items, liquid soap/shampoo, shaving cream (brushless), toothpaste and brushes, disposable razors, bandages, antiseptic cream, canned fruit/juices, can openers, comic books, current magazines, puzzle books, writing supplies and athletic equipment.

Free use of electronic mail will also be available for friends and family members of those serving in the gulf. Donors are also urged to bring mail with them.

The drive is organized by Rochester-area business and community leaders through assistance from the American Red Cross.

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