

Poverty

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retail, factory, plant and service jobs.

The Washington, D.C.-based group also pointed out that women "are often forced to choose between working at low-wage jobs — without health benefits — and going on welfare, which provides Medicaid benefits."

The economic consequences that face unwed mothers may also confront married mothers if their husbands decide to leave them.

The financial fallout of divorce eventually forced Angie Gallo to rely on food coupons to feed her seven children, even while she maintained at least one full-time job.

Gallo, coordinator of the Separated, Divorced, Bereaved and Remarried Ministry of the Catholic Family Center, entered the world of the working poor after her husband left her in 1975. She said her husband initially helped with the mortgage payments on the family home, but eventually he stopped sending money.

Gallo's situation is an example of what Hanson said commonly happens to divorced women when their husbands exit the scene.

"Very few American women get alimony," Hanson said. "Add on to that the fact fathers are very, very poor in keeping up child-support payments."

To regain those child-support payments, women must track down their former husbands and find money for legal help to pursue them in court — a daunting prospect to many divorced women, who tend to be more concerned with finding other means to create an income, Hanson noted.

Experts cite numerous ways in which the lack of adequate income keeps poor women in their place, forcing them to live in substandard housing; traps them in poor neighborhoods where their children attend lower-quality schools than those found in more affluent neighborhoods; and leaves them without the means of regular transportation to work, school, day-care programs and other services.

Although society can paint a grim picture for an impoverished woman, the church can help brighten the landscape.

Divorced women in the diocese can turn to a host of support programs offered by various parishes, Gallo said. And each region of the diocese hosts an eight-week program each February and November, offering weekly two-hour sessions that touch upon such topics as child support and visitation, credit, education and a variety of self-esteem subjects.

Parishes can also work to alleviate the feminization of poverty, many observers claimed. "(Impoverished women) are not going to be able to solve these problems without the help of church and the community," said Dorothy Dobson, who gave the keynote address at the March 2 conference.

A retired Monroe County social worker, Dobson has long been active in such ventures as the Diocesan Pastoral Council — of which she was a charter member — and the Catholic Family Center, on whose board of directors she has served. While a handful of pastors have publicly addressed the social injustice of sexism and racism, she argued, most have skirted the issues and focused on other concerns.

"Every year, there's this Pro-Life Sunday, and I think that's great," Dobson told the *Catholic Courier*, "but what are we going to do when the child is born?"

She asserted that pastors could enlighten employers in their pews, for example, by addressing the effects of discrimination on minorities and women.

"A lot of men holding high power jobs attend these churches," she remarked.

One parish that has actively focused on educating parishioners about poverty is St. Rita's in Webster, which operates the Witnessing with the Poor program. Parishioner and WWP member Mary Ann Kwiatowski attended the March 2 conference in hopes of bringing some of what she learned back to her group.

The St. Rita's program operates through monthly after-Mass talks about poverty and related issues, and by offering suggestions on how parishioners can take action on such issues.

Other parishes interested in helping poor women might provide such services as day

care to those who can't afford it, Hanson said. And experts point to churches as potential clearinghouses for information on schooling, benefits, job training and the role of economics in women's lives.

Women at St. Peter's and Paul Parish in Rochester will begin meeting later this year in an effort to inform themselves about economics through a project created by The Religious Network for Equality, based in New York City, and sponsored by Mary's Pence, a Catholic group devoted to supporting women's ministries.

The project, which is entitled "Learning Economics — Empowering Women for Action," will use six sessions to show women how they can function better in the economy and how they can improve their economic situations, according to organizer Melissa Marquez, who presented a conference session about the project.

Jesuit

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Soldiers have been arrested for the murders of the Jesuits and the two women, but Father Cortina said he doubted that true justice will be found in their trial. "There are those who pulled the triggers, and those who planned it," he said.

Father Cortina charged that evidence in the case had been altered, and that some evidence also was being withheld. He said the withheld evidence included a number of documents controlled by the U.S. State Department.

In the wake of the murders, the U.S. government cut off military aid to the government of El Salvador, but restored it on Jan. 16, 1991.

Father Cortina said the U.S. funds will lead to more suffering among the Salvadoran people. "The military aid is going to provoke more war, and whatever encourages the war effects the community I live in," he said.

In fact, he said, the Salvadoran political situation is getting worse. The country does hold elections, but the persecution of

the people continues unabated, he said.

"If we do not have social security, a justice system, education for the poor, then no matter how many elections we have had, we do not have a democracy," he said.

Father Cortina acknowledged that he chose to live at risk in the rural community, having taken a temporary leave from his position at the University in order to work with the rural poor.

Even remaining in El Salvador — where his life is in danger — is a deliberate choice for the priest. He was born in Bilbao, Spain, and although he has served in El Salvador since 1955, he could ask to be sent somewhere else.

But he said he will not do so.

"If I would leave (El Salvador), I would be running away from my commitment," Father Cortina explained, adding that his commitment is to God, to his order, and to the people he serves.

"I have a commitment to work for the living God, to work for the poor, to work with (the poor)," Father Cortina concluded. "We have accepted the commitment as servants of the Kingdom — the Kingdom of God."

Thomas 'Chris' Rodenhouse, 18, student at McQuaid Jesuit High

ROCHESTER — Mass of Christian Burial for McQuaid student Thomas Christopher Rodenhouse was celebrated March 11 at the school, 1800 S. Clinton Ave.



The 18-year-old senior died of spinal meningitis on Friday, March 8, 1991, at Strong Memorial Hospital.

According to Dr. Karen Bell, Monroe County Deputy County Health Director, Mr. Rodenhouse had contracted Type C spinal meningitis, a form of the disease that is relatively rare locally.

Bell said this strain of the disease strikes with particular suddenness, and thus almost always results in death or the loss of limbs.

Bell said the bacteria that causes the disease — *Neisseria meningitidis* — is transmitted through nasal secretions. Transmission, therefore, could only occur by means of shared eating and drinking utensils, cohabitation, or close physical contact, she said.

Individuals at risk of contracting the disease through contact with Mr. Rodenhouse have been notified and prescribed the preventative drug Rifampin, Bell said.

Mr. Rodenhouse, a resident of Honeoye

Falls and a parishioner at St. Catherine's Church, Mendon, was active in sports at McQuaid, having played for the soccer and golf teams in the past. This year, he skied with the high school's alpine club.

"He was a very outgoing boy, greatly liked by his fellow students," noted Father Daniel J. O'Brien, SJ, president of McQuaid. "He was someone who was very anxious to be involved in something."

Father O'Brien said Mr. Rodenhouse — known as "Chris" — liked the outdoors, observing that on the day before his death the McQuaid senior had been out helping neighbors cut down trees felled by the March 3 ice storm.

Mr. Rodenhouse, who turned 18 Jan. 22, recently had been accepted at LeMoyne College in Syracuse, Father O'Brien reported.

Following the funeral service at McQuaid, Mr. Rodenhouse was buried at Pine Hill Cemetery in Rush.

He is survived by his father, Dr. Thomas Rodenhouse, a member of the first graduating class at McQuaid, and his mother, Sally, both of Honeoye Falls; three sisters, Elizabeth, Jennifer and Catharine; his paternal grandmother, Ruth Rodenhouse of Rochester; his maternal grandparents, Ivan and Mary McIvor of Winnepeg, Manitoba, Canada; and several aunts, uncles and cousins.

— Lee Strong

Sister M. Benetta Allman, taught 54 years

Sister M. Benetta Allman, SSND, a former elementary school teacher, died Feb. 25, 1991, at Lourdes Health Care Center in Wilton, Conn. She was 94.

Born in Rochester on March 6, 1896, Sister Benetta was a former parishioner of Holy Family Parish. She was a professed member of the School Sisters of Notre Dame for 73 years, and taught in Maryland, New York and Massachusetts elementary schools for 54 of those years. From 1949-1955, Sister Benetta taught at

Ss. Peter and Paul School in Rochester.

Following her retirement in 1969, Sister Benetta moved to the SSND motherhouse in Wilton in 1971.

A Mass of Christian Burial took place Feb. 28 at chapel of the SSND motherhouse. Interment was at St. Mary Cemetery in Bethel, Conn.

Donations in memory of Sister M. Benetta Allman may be made to the SSND Development Fund, 345 Belden Hill Road, Wilton, CT 06897.

Aquinas

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all shocked that Amy made her shot," explained Banaszewski, who had a game-high 13 points against Lake Shore.

The Aquinas girls advanced to the state qualifier after crushing Wellsville, 42-32, in a sectional playoff game on Thursday, March 7, at Geneseo State.

The win avenged AQ's 20-point loss to the previously undefeated Lions (22-1) earlier in the season. The loss came in the Wellsville Tournament on Feb. 9.

Radford came through with what Aquinas Coach Dan Bates called the "biggest play in the game" when she scored an uncontested layup with 3:21 left in the fourth quarter. Radford's basket began a string of eight consecutive points for the Little Irish.

Aquinas' defense shut down the Lions

late in the final quarter. Wellsville was held without a basket during the last five minutes of the game.

Reynders notched a game-high 16 points against Wellsville, but she admitted, "We definitely haven't played our best game in the past five games after the regular season."

She quickly added, "During the post-season, everyone has contributed to the wins." The Aquinas junior cited the defensive play of Radford and Kristina Dudley for helping the Little Irish overcome scoring droughts.

Bates saluted his players for the never-say-die attitude they have shown all season.

"Every time they find themselves in a losing situation, they find a way to win. They give me heart failure," said Bates, who referred to his team as "the cardiac kids."

McQuaid

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ball and broke away for an easy layup and Jim DeBloom came off the bench to sink McQ's final basket.

Montesano had what he called his best game of the year after finishing with a total of 30 points. Naylon collected 23 points, five rebounds and four steals, and McKinney notched 22 points, 11 rebounds and five blocked shots.

The Knights were also a near-perfect 26-for-28 from the foul line.

McQuaid Coach Joe Marchese said one of the keys to the win was his players' ability to force LaSalle into taking difficult shots. In addition to blocking five shots, McKinney altered about 10 others, accord-

ing to the McQ coach.

Marchese added that he was pleased with his team's patience in setting up its half-court offense and not allowing LaSalle to get its transitional game going.

Montesano noted that pressuring LaSalle into a corner and forcing many turnovers also keyed the win. The Knights were able to keep their turnovers down, he said.

Reese said he and his teammates now have the momentum needed to travel to Glens Falls and play unbeaten Henninger.

"We played the game knowing we were the better team, and we knew if we concentrated on our level of play we'd have no problems," the McQuaid forward said.

And Siena-bound senior McKinney had this to say: "After winning the sectionals you sort of expect it (to win). We haven't worked this hard not to go all the way."

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