



File photo
Lucy Dechaine (left), director of Catholic Family Center's Department of Disabled Services, discusses Project Support with Richard Miller. Although a similar program called Stress Watch has been cut due to state budget woes, Project Support — which provides housing and supportive services for the disabled — is still intact.

Programs cut in wake of state budget woes

By Lee Strong
Staff writer

Although the state government is still struggling to pass a budget for the fiscal year that began April 1, the effects of that as-yet-undetermined financial package are already being felt by social-service agencies in the Diocese of Rochester and throughout New York.

Rochester's DePaul Clinic — facing a cut of \$300,000 in aid — has left several positions unfilled and is delaying the purchase of new equipment.

Anticipating a 30-percent cut in its budget, Catholic Family Center's Department of Disabled Services has eliminated or curtailed several programs, and the department's director has taken a 20 percent pay cut.

Expected cuts have prompted the Hispanic Youth Employment Program and the Resource Referral Network — both programs of the Catholic Family Center's Department of Youth Services — to reduce services. And a program that provides tutoring for Hispanic youths ceased operations two months ago.

The Kinship Group Home — which aids Steuben and Allegheny county children at risk of abuse and neglect — already has been forced to reduce its client list by 10 families in recent months, and may need to eliminate 30 more families from its rolls in the months ahead.

The list of programs facing cuts goes on and on.

The bottom line is that "there's a lot of services to the neediest and poorest that are getting cut," noted Anthony Barbaro, executive director of the Southern Tier Office of Social Ministry. "The long-range impact is that they are going to require even more services."

And service providers fear that the state is being pound foolish in its attempts to be penny wise.

If cuts to the Kinship Group Home continue, "what may happen is a total elimination of preventative services, which will mean a drastic increase in the number of children entering foster care," observed the agency's executive director, Joseph Weider. "It's twice the cost to put them in foster care than it is for us to work with them."

The CFC's Department of Disabled Services has eliminated its Stress Watch program, which helped 42 disabled individuals to live in the community rather than in institutions.

These people often rely on Stress Watch for crisis intervention, noted Lucy Dechaine, the department's director. Without such assistance, she said, many of program's former clients will be forced to move into institutions or group homes. As a result, they will end up costing the state far more than currently is being spent to keep them in the community.

Even when a specific agency is not directly affected by state cuts, it may suffer the effects of cuts made to other agencies, Barbaro remarked.

"We have an emergency services program (at the Southern Tier Office of Social Ministry), and we're seeing the impact of cutbacks on the people who come in for

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Panelists to examine Catholic education

ROCHESTER — "The Need for Catholic Schools" will be the focus of a speech and panel discussion in Basil Hall at St. John Fisher College on Wednesday, May 1, at 7:15 p.m.

Father Peter Stravinskas — a Catholic school teacher and administrator for the past 20 years, and a contributing editor of the *National Catholic Register* — will be the evening's featured speaker.

Father Stravinskas will focus on the history of U.S. Catholic schools, along with the problems they face today and the steps that can be taken to resolve these problems.

Organizers said Father Stravinskas will extract from data still being gathered on the differences between parish-based school systems and consolidated systems; the pros and cons of the two approaches to Catholic schooling; the advantages to the public in maintaining a private-school system; and the need of private financing along with some type of tax relief for Catholic school

parents.

A strong supporter of Catholic education, Father Stravinskas has argued that the church is not devoting enough time, energy and money to what he sees as the foundation of its community — its parish schools.

"Next to the celebration of the Liturgy, it's hard to imagine any Church activity more important than Catholic education," Father Stravinskas observed in a *Register* article from September, 1989. "Indeed, in some ways it's almost more important than worship itself because without good catechesis, the rites of the Church can't be understood."

At the conclusion of that article, Father Stravinskas asserted: "So what if 300 (school) children are 'eating up' 60 percent of the parish budget? There can be no better investment. They are the future — not only of the parish but of the entire Church."

Following his speech, a panel will com-

ment on the topic. Scheduled panelists are:

- Brother Brian Walsh, CFC, superintendent of schools for the Diocese of Rochester;

- Dr. Christopher Lasch, University of Rochester professor and author of *The Culture of Narcissism* and *The True and Only Heaven: Progress and its Critics*, which discusses the notion of human "progress" and how society's belief in it may have undercut its base of civility;

- Samuel Ognibene, a member of St. Pius the Tenth Parish's Southwest Quadrant Task Force, which made headlines in the past few months for opposing diocesan school reorganization.

- John Ochs, a Catholic school parent from St. Rita's Parish.

Following the panel discussion, audience members will be able to ask questions of the panelists.

The evening is being sponsored by the St. Thomas More Lawyers' Guild of Rochester.

— Rob Cullivan

Institute at university examining process of change in education

ROCHESTER — The University of Rochester will host an institute on Catholic education from July 8-9. The event is entitled "Change: Initiating, Managing, Coping Strategies."

The conference will focus on what individuals can do to empower themselves in the midst of change. The institute will emphasize theories and strategies of change for those involved in classrooms, parishes, committees, councils, families and communities.

Among the topics to be considered are: The nature of change; Change resistance; Individual vs. Institutional Change; Identifying barriers to flexibility; Ethics in the ministry of change; Leadership — Taking risks in creating change; Building team in the faith context; and Managing change positively.

The institute will feature two speakers, Dr. Margaret Andrews from the Center for Community Education at Canisius College and James Ramerman, an independent consultant with the locally based Ramerman Consulting and Associates.

Those interested in attending the conference may contact Sister Edwardine Weaver, RSM, assistant professor and director of professional development at the university's education school. She can be reached writing: 403 Lattimore Hall, Uni-

versity of Rochester, Rochester, N.Y., 14627, or calling 716/275-7833.

The fee for the institute is \$100 per person for those who register by May 30, and \$125 per person thereafter. The registration fee covers materials, coffee breaks, luncheons, a picnic supper and parking.

Groups of five or more may be entitled to a 10-percent discount. On-campus housing also will be available at a rate of \$22.50 per night.

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