

## Abuse

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Robert Muhlneckel, an outpatient therapist at Rochester's DePaul Mental Health Services. "Our experience is that when you find one, you find the other."

All parents become angry with their children at times, sometimes resorting to yelling or physical punishment, Muhlneckel acknowledged.

But the difference between the average parent and the child abuser is that abusive parents do not give their children enough nurturing and positive reinforcement to counteract the negative messages.

Abusive parents have essentially lost control, Muhlneckel said.

"The physical abusiveness is just a symptom that the emotional control (of the parent) has gone haywire," Muhlneckel explained.

This lack of control can be triggered by a variety of problems in the parents' lives, Snyder observed. Frequent catalysts of child abuse are drug and alcohol abuse, illness, loss of a job, or the end of a marriage or a relationship.

In fact, social-service providers are now worried that the current recession will bring about an increase in abuse, noted Joseph Weider, executive director of Kinship Group Home Program, Inc.

"I think there's a real concern that with the recession and inflation and the increasing numbers of families that are going on unemployment, there will be an increase," noted Weider, whose agency provides services to prevent child abuse and neglect to 95 families in Steuben and Allegheny counties.

Thus parents are the target of Kinship's prevention program, Weider said. "We believe that the change agent in the lives of these children is in focusing on their parents," he remarked.

Focusing on the parents is vital, Piano acknowledged. "You have people who knew nothing about parenting, except what

they learned," she said. "They understand that what they were doing was wrong. They did it out of frustration and lack of understanding."

Indeed, Margaret observed, adult victims of child abuse often repeat the pattern simply because they don't know any other way.

"When you're doing it and people say, 'You know better,' do you really know better if you were never trained or taught?" she asked.

Although she said she does not hit her children, Margaret acknowledged that she sometimes raises her voice too much and insults them.

"I don't go to the extremes that my father and mother did," Margaret said. Nevertheless, she added, she several times has pulled herself back from becoming verbally abusive.

As a child, Margaret was constantly criticized, struck and insulted by her parents.

"I felt like Cinderella," she recalled, "like I was a puppet on a string. They'd ask me to do things and I would have to jump to it."

And if she did a chore incorrectly — such as making her bed, setting the table or cooking a meal — she was hit. She was also forced to do the chore again and again until she got it right.

Margaret turned to her mother for help when the abuse extended to sexual molestation by her father and abuse by other male relatives. But her mother said she was lying.

Helen, now in her early 20s, faced the same sort of parental denial when she revealed that her brother had been sexually abusing her. The incidents plagued Helen between the ages of 8 and 17.

For testifying against her brother before a grand jury, Helen's parents called her a liar and threw her out of their home. Her brother, nonetheless, was convicted of sexual abuse.

Sexual abuse was just part of a pattern of abuse, Helen noted. Her brother beat her

regularly to force her to give in to him. "There's a lot of times that I thought I was going to be beaten to death," she recalled.

Helen said her parents, who both abused alcohol, never noticed what was going on around them — even though her body was covered with bruises, she had been stabbed, and suffered bouts of depression throughout high school.

In addition, Helen said, her parents constantly insulted her.

"They didn't think I was going to amount to anything. They used to tell me I couldn't find anybody to get married to, that I was going to spend my life alone," she said.

Margaret and Helen currently undergo therapy and take part in Survivors of Sexual Abuse, a group that meets every Tuesday at DePaul. Helen said the group has been good for her because, "It helps to know that other people have been through

the same things. I guess it means now I'm not alone."

A combination of individual therapy and support groups — like the treatments Helen and Margaret are receiving — are especially helpful for adult victims of child abuse, Synder observed. Among the possibilities for group support are Parents Anonymous and the survivors group at DePaul.

"I think that it's a good part of the (healing) process for parents to talk to parents," Snyder said, cautioning that group support works best when done in conjunction with therapy.

Through the help she has received, Helen has overcome some of her problems — including an inability to trust men. She is now engaged and looking forward to starting married life.

"I'm just now beginning to think that I'm going to succeed in life," she said.

## Protest

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Planned Parenthood. Maher has claimed that he was unaware the Knights did not want the information released to the press. According to Maher's dismissal letter, DeRouen informed the CFC of Maher's actions.

Maher's dismissal letter also alluded to past incidents in which his political actions have offended funders of the agency.

"Because of your lack of sensitivity, the agency has been adversely affected on a number of occasions," stated Maher's dismissal letter in a paragraph which also stated he had not "properly distinguished between your private matters and those of the agency."

CFC officials, however, have denied claims that Maher was fired for his political activity, contending that the reasons for his firing are more complex. Yet, CFC officials have declined to discuss details of the case, based on the center's policies regarding the handling of personnel matters.

"This was precipitated by a personnel matter, and, of course, that was confidential," stated Carolyn A. Portanova, executive director of the Catholic Family Center. She also criticized Maher's supporters for concluding that Maher's firing was politically oriented.

"What I can say is it had nothing to do with his outside pro-life activities," Portanova remarked.

About 15 people joined a lunch-hour picket in support of Maher at the Catholic Family Center on Wednesday, May 22.

They carried signs that had crossed out the word "Catholic" in "Catholic Family Center." Other signs said that the center "loves" its funding sources more than Christ himself. Even others questioned the center's pro-life stance.

"I feel that it was very painful to see the pickets in front of our center," Portanova said. She added that the pickets were "upsetting" to employees of Catholic Family Center, and that she particularly disagreed with the protesters' contention that the center did not embody a pro-life stance.

"Every one of our programs is pro-life," she said, noting that the center's services — ranging from drug abuse rehabilitation and youth services to programs for the elderly and the disabled — "empower" people in all phases of their life.

During the demonstration and in an interview afterward, however, Crossed claimed that the center has lessened its commitment to social justice issues such as abortion, war and poverty while concentrating on its charitable outreach programs.

"The (U.S.) bishops are very clear that justice and peace go hand and hand with charity," Crossed said. "I don't know one bishop who's said that charity is more important than justice. Catholic Family Center is clearly an agency that puts its priority to charity to the exclusion of justice."

Portanova dismissed charges made by Crossed and others that the agency was not committed to the church's social stances.

"I don't even understand what (the protesters) are trying to say," she said. "Certainly, we would never go against our values to receive funding."

## Revival

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added.

Father Savage noted that there is nothing unorthodox or non-traditional about having a revival in the Catholic Church.

"The very first Pentecost was a revival," he said. "The first church was indeed a church that celebrated the spirit... That was very much Catholic."

He pointed out, for example, that those present in the room on Pentecost spoke in

many languages after their experience, and sang about what they had just experienced. They also attracted a crowd of people representing numerous cultures, he said.

"(Pentecost) was multi-lingual, multi-cultural," Father Savage asserted.

Dobson also maintained that a revival was grounded in Catholic tradition, likening the experience to what many non-African Americans encounter during a parish mission. She remarked that the eight parishes involved in the black Catholic revival decided to hold the event because the African-American populations in their neighborhoods continue to grow.

"Many people in these neighborhoods think of the Catholic Church — even in terms of its architecture — as an uninviting structure," Dobson said, adding that the parishes found themselves asking: "Wouldn't it be nice if we could have a revival to invite (blacks) in?"

Although blacks are the primary focus, both revivals are open to anyone, regardless of color, Dobson said.

"We want to outreach to people in the neighborhoods be they Catholic or not, black or not," she said.

EDITORS' NOTE — For information on either the pre-revival or the revival, call Dobson at 716/328-3210, ext. 337.

EDITORS' NOTE — Those wishing to register for the congress, can call DiVincenzo at 716/352-6973.

## Sr. St. Clare Casey, SSJ, at 100

ROCHESTER — Sister St. Clare Casey, SSJ, who taught in diocesan schools for 66 years, died on Monday, May 13, 1991, in the Sisters of St. Joseph Convent Infirmary. She was 100-years-old.

A native of Canada, Sister St. Clare was born in Campbellford, Ontario, in 1891. After graduating from Nazareth Academy and the former Nazareth Normal School

(which later became Nazareth College), she entered the Sisters of St. Joseph from St. Patrick's, Rochester, in 1908.

Among her 66 years of teaching in the Rochester diocese, Sister St. Clare taught at St. Patrick's (two years), St. Augustine's (25 years) and Corpus Christi (one year), all of Rochester. She served concurrently as principal and teacher for six years at St. Anthony of Padua and Holy Apostles, both of Rochester. She also taught at St. Patrick in Dansville for eight years.

Before retiring to the Sisters of St. Joseph Convent Infirmary in 1975, Sister St. Clare taught at St. Francis de Sales, Geneva, for 18 years.

Father Joseph D. Donovan celebrated a Mass of Christian Burial for Sister St. Clare in the motherhouse chapel, May 16.

Sister St. Clare is survived by a nephew, Francis Casey, a niece-in-law, Catherine Casey of Rochester; as well as grandnieces and grandnephews.

## Sacred Heart

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devotion to the Sacred Heart and the upcoming gathering.

DiVincenzo said Syracuse's proximity to Rochester will make it easy for Catholics in the diocese to participate in the congress. However, he noted, due to the limited number of spaces available at the convention center, people wishing to participate should make reservations by May 31. The local group has already reserved 165 places — one for each parish in the diocese, he said.

In order to save on lodging costs for dio-

cesan Catholics, organizers are hoping to provide buses to and from Syracuse during the congress, DiVincenzo said. In addition, he suggested that individuals might share tickets — which cost \$50 for the four-day event — to allow more people to attend the congress.

Organizers say they also plan to ask the staffs of all U.S. cathedral churches to hold Holy Hours and Eucharistic adoration, to celebrate the Mass of Our Lady on August 3, and to consecrate the cathedral and parish family to the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

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