Parishes, agencies seek means to combat effects of persevering recession

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Newspaper headlines and the stories on television and radio newscasts continue to proclaim that the nation is in a recession.

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Indeed, President Bush spent a portion of his Jan. 28 State of the Union speech discussing the nation's current economic distress. Using rhetoric similar to what he once aimed at Saddam Hussein, the chief executive warned that the recession "will not stand."

But the recession does, indeed, stand in New York state. Its effects can be felt in the rising unemployment rate — new almost 8 percent, according to the state liker department.

And every region in the state, including the 12 counties that constitute the Diocese of Rochester, expenenced flat or declining availability of non-farm obs between November and December of 1991, the labor department reported.

Yet facts and figures don't begin to tell the whole

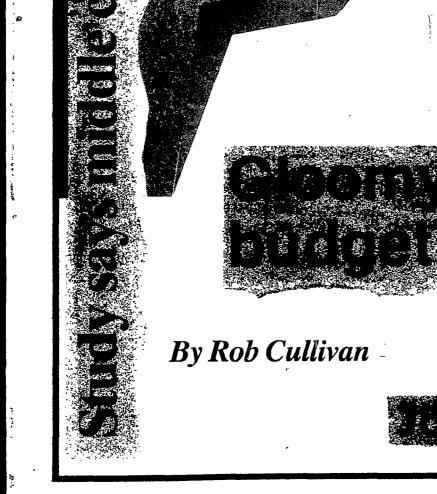
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story, according to Norm White, a volunteer family

DROP IN EMPLOY

RISE IN DEMANDS ON CHURCH SUPPORT

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support counselor in Elmira with the Rochester diocese's Southern Tier Office of Social Ministry.

Commenting on families suffering unemployment and underemployment, White inused that his office serves to diffuse the tensions such conditions generate.

At least we can offer a place for people to vent," he said.

As long as the recession refuses to withdraw from the nation's economic landscape, White and other volunteers and staff members at Catholic institutionswill be found on the front lines battling the downturn's effects.

Amid such battles, the church frequently plays the role of nurse to the financially wounded, feeding the unemployed and the working poor at parish soup Continued on page 18



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