



Adeline Affonso comforts her two-month-old baby sister Angela in the kitchen of her parents' home in Rochester. Affonso shares various household chores with her growing number of brothers and sisters. Kellie Mc Cann/Photo intern

Growing family means more responsibilities

By Mike Latona
Staff writer

ROCHESTER — Adeline Affonso's schoolmates reacted in disbelief after learning she had a new baby sister.

"When I first told my friends about Angela, they said, 'Is that the fourth?' And I said, 'No, it's the sixth.' They said, 'What? Are you trying to break the world record?'" Adeline recalled.

Arin Affonso received similar reactions from his friends. "They're like, so surprised. Six kids is not normal, I guess," he said.

Angela, born Jan. 6, 1992, to Al and Patricia Affonso, is the latest addition to what is an unusually large family by modern standards. The rest of the roll call is as follows: Arin, 14; Adeline and Allysia, 13 (they're twins); Alex, 9; and Andrew, 19 months.

The Affonsos have been married 15 years and have lived in Rochester for the last 10. Both are employed at city hospitals: Al is head of clinical chemistry at St. Mary's Hospital, and Patricia is a part-time medical technologist

at Genesee Hospital.

Since Al works during the days and Patricia will resume her normal schedule of Thursday through Saturday evenings next month, there are many occasions when only one parent is available to keep track of the kids. That means extra responsibilities for the older children at their Melrose Street house on the city's west side.

"Before, with just Andrew (as the only baby), just one of us (children) had to be home," said Arin. Now, however, "we stay home a little more," said Adeline.

Duties are distributed evenly among the older quartet, according to their mother. "They certainly help with many things: baby-sitting the little ones, doing dishes and laundry, trash removal," remarked Patricia.

And Angela can expect plenty of volunteers when the weather becomes nice enough for her to be taken on stroller rides. Last summer, when Andrew was only about a year old, "we'd fight over who would push (his stroller)," Adeline said.

Patricia still prepares most of the meals. Sometimes, Al said, "The girls like to cook. The only rule is that they can't cook if an adult isn't home."

Although the Affonsos' latest two arrivals have made life a little more hectic on the home front, the children are still allotted a good chunk of time to pursue extracurricular activities.

Arin, a freshman at McQuaid Jesuit High School, is a Boy Scout. Adeline, an eighth-grader at Monroe Middle School of the Arts, likes swimming and photography. Allysia, also an eighth-grader at Monroe, takes dance lessons

and enjoys drama.

In addition, the three oldest Affonso children are altar servers at Our Lady of Good Counsel Church, 640 Brooks Ave. And Alex, a third-grader at World of Inquiry School, plans on joining his sisters and brother on the altar in about a year.

Despite its hectic schedule, the family is looking forward to resuming its frequent excursions this summer.

"I like having a big family. It's nice," concluded Allysia Arin added, however, "I definitely wish it was a little quieter."



ABRAHAM LINCOLN APARTMENTS

Newly renovated in Irondequoit for Senior Citizens. Fall 1991 opening.

1 & 2 Bedrooms
Handicapped accessible
24-hour maintenance
Adult health/social center
Available (provided by Independent Living for Seniors)

EOH
544-9100

CONIFER DEVELOPMENT

FEET HURT?

ARTHRITIS BUNIONS
 DIABETES EDEMA
 NARROW/WIDE FEET

EXTRA DEPTH
P W MINOR & SON, INC.

Men's Size Range 6 to 15/Widths A to 5E
Women's Size Range 3 to 12/Widths 4A to 5E

LOTEPIO SHOE STORE

Rochester's Finest Orthopedic Shoe Store
Certified Orthopedic Shoe Technician
790 Ridge Rd., Webster • 671-8289
(West of 5 Mile Line Rd., next to Bethany Marine World)
Mon-Fri 9-6; Sat 9-5