

Hospital helping alcohol addicted

ELMIRA — It's common to hear of people who "haven't touched a drink" since going through rehabilitation for alcohol abuse.

Yet there's also a huge segment of the population which hasn't been as fortunate in its fight to beat alcohol addiction. These are the people a new program at St. Joseph's Hospital, 555 E. Market St., is attempting to help.

Known as the Relapse Prevention Program, this service has been offered by the hospital since November, 1992. It is available through the comprehensive treatment services of the Southern Tier Alcoholism Rehabilitation Services facility, based at St. Joseph's.

According to Kathleen Westcott, a St. Joseph's alcoholism counselor who serves as the Relapse Prevention Program's group therapist, the program offers an innovative approach by combining education and therapy.

"There's homework involved. We meet twice a week, while our regular (substance abuse) out-patients only meet once a week," Westcott noted. "Most people have a very narrow view of relapse, and they're surprised at the amount of work we do."

Program members are gathered through in-house referrals. Westcott currently oversees seven patients.

Participants engage in 90-minute sessions on Monday and Thursday mornings. They receive counseling for relapses related to alcohol, as well as other forms of substance abuse.

Throughout their eight weeks, patients are encouraged to confront the hidden personal reasons behind their relapses.

"These people thought they'd gone through fairly successful programs in their previous treatment, but they still go back to drinking despite their efforts. And they wonder why," said Westcott.

She explained that "relapses start long before the person ever picks up a drink or drug. We dissect parts of previous relapses; the objective is to divert the person from the action which led to the relapse."

— Mike Latona

Sisters' program seeks aid

ROCHESTER — Coordinators of the Tanzanian Sisters Project are seeking donations to help support the education of Tanzanian women religious.

The project, jointly sponsored by the Sisters of Mercy and the Sisters of St. Joseph, provides financial aid for Tanzanian women religious to earn degrees at Nazareth College, 4245 East Ave. The college provides scholarships.

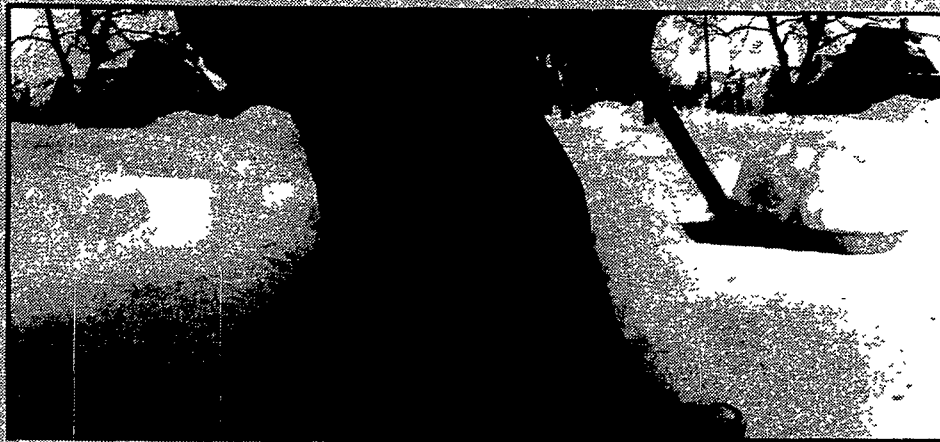
For information about the project, write or call Sister Maura Wilson, SSJ, 4095 East Ave., Rochester, N.Y. 14618 (716/586-1000), or Sister Kathleen Miliken, RSM, 1437 Blossom Road, Rochester, N.Y. 14610 (716/288-2710).

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Doin' the shovel shuffle



Rochester resident Philip McLean appears to be shuffling along with an extra leg to help him clear his driveway March 14, one day after a fierce blizzard dumped 23.5 inches of snow on the Flower City. This illusion is the result of printing two negatives next to each other.

Blizzard of '93 paralyzes all corners of the diocese

ROCHESTER — The savage winter storm that ravaged the East Coast March 12-14 also struck the Rochester diocese, calling a halt to most church-related activities.

In response to the storm, Bishop Matthew H. Clark dispensed Catholics of the diocese from their Sunday obligations.

Due to the storm, a number of meetings were postponed — including parish synod sessions — and daily Masses were cancelled at a number of parishes March 15 due to snow-covered sidewalks and parking lots.

Rochester received 23.5 inches of snow during the storm. Other totals in the diocese included 22 inches in Apalachin, 30 inches in Hornell and Elmira, and 15 inches in Geneva.

During the height of the storm March 13, numerous travelers were stranded on area roadways. St. Vincent DePaul Parish, 11 N. Main St. in Churchville, opened its church hall to approximately 45 people who had been stranded in a bus on Route 490.

St. Vincent DePaul's pastor, Father Dominic Mockevicius, told the *Catholic Courier* that he had received a call at approximately 11 p.m. on March 13 asking if the stranded people from the bus could stay at the church because a shelter set up by the Red Cross was already full. Father Mockevicius readily agreed to the request. In addition to the bus passengers, he said, a few other stranded travelers

also stayed at the church. He noted that everyone had departed by Sunday morning.

Meanwhile, Mary McGuire, director of homeless and housing services for the Catholic Family Center, said she had told the staff of both the Francis Hospitality Center and Women's Place to take in anyone who came looking for shelter from the storm. "It was interesting that we didn't get a lot of people," she reported.

In Apalachin, Father David Simon, pastor of St. Margaret Mary Parish, 110 Pennsylvania Ave., reported that his church was still not dug out as of March 15, forcing him to cancel daily Masses.

Father Simon praised Bishop Clark and other bishops who dispensed people from their Sunday obligations.

"I was so proud that (the bishops) were so pastorally sensitive," Father Simon said.

The only immediate harm caused by the storm, Father Simon observed, was the loss of the Sunday collection — something all churches experienced.

Due to the number of previous storms and the poor weekend weather this year, Father Simon observed, the parish's total collections are down about \$8,000 to date.

"I may add a second collection for a couple of weeks in a row," Father Simon concluded.

— Lee Strong

Quadrant plans March 28 raffle

ROCHESTER — Schools and parishes in the Southeast Quadrant are selling tickets for a scholarship raffle through March 28.

A \$25 ticket enables buyers a chance at one of 14 scholarships available for any southeast school. The scholarship would go to a K-8 student of the buyer's choice.

The drawing will take place Monday, March 29, during a quadrant board meeting at Holy Trinity School, 1456 Ridge Road E.

Make checks payable to "Southeast Quadrant Catholic Schools."

In addition to Holy Trinity, tickets are available at the following parishes or schools:

Corpus Christi, 864 E. Main St.; Good Shepherd, 3288 E. Henrietta Road; Guardian Angels, 2061 E. Henrietta Road; Assumption, 20 East Ave., Fairport; Blessed Sacrament, 534 Oxford St.; Holy Spirit, 1355 Hatch Road, Webster; Our Lady Queen of Peace, 601 Edgewood Ave.; Our Lady of Lourdes, 120 Fairmont Road; St. Boniface, 15 Whalin St.; St. John of Rochester, 10 Wickford Way, Fairport; St. John the Evangelist, 545 Humboldt St.; Resurrection, 63 Mason Road, Fairport; St. Anne, 1640 Mt. Hope Ave.; St. Catherine, 26 Mendon-Ionia Road, Mendon; St. Jerome, 207 Garfield St., East Rochester; St. Joseph, 39 Gebhardt Road, Penfield; St. Louis, 11 Rand Place, Pittsford; St. Rita, 1008 Maple Drive, Webster; St. Thomas More, 2617 East Ave.; St. Joseph, 6105 Rush-Lima Road, Rush; St. Mary, 15 St. Mary's Place; St. Paul, 29 Monroe St., Honeoye Falls; St. Paul, 783 Hard Road, Webster; Transfiguration, 9 Van Voorhis Road, Pittsford.

Parish to fete St. Joseph

AUBURN — St. Francis of Assisi Parish, 185 Clark Street, has scheduled several activities March 20-21 to honor the feast of St. Joseph.

The parish will host an Italian Mass — which will include the parish choir — at 5:15 p.m. March 20. The Mass will be followed by a dinner at 6:30 p.m. in St. Francis Hall. Cost of the dinner is \$7.50 per person.

Featuring an all-Italian menu, the dinner will honor Father Joseph Joseph Gaynor, who served the Auburn parish from 1954-56. Father Gaynor has assisted at the parish in recent years since retiring.

In addition, all weekend Masses will include blessing of St. Joseph's Bread and food collections for the poor.

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