

Church considers methods to help the unemployed

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dress unemployment, however, what seems certain is that demands for further action will continue into the near future.

According to the New York State Department of Labor, the number of unemployed people in the 12 counties that comprise the diocese was approximately 39,900 in January, 1993 — a rise of 2,700 from December, 1992. The state unemployment rate during the same period jumped from 8.1 percent to 9.3 percent.

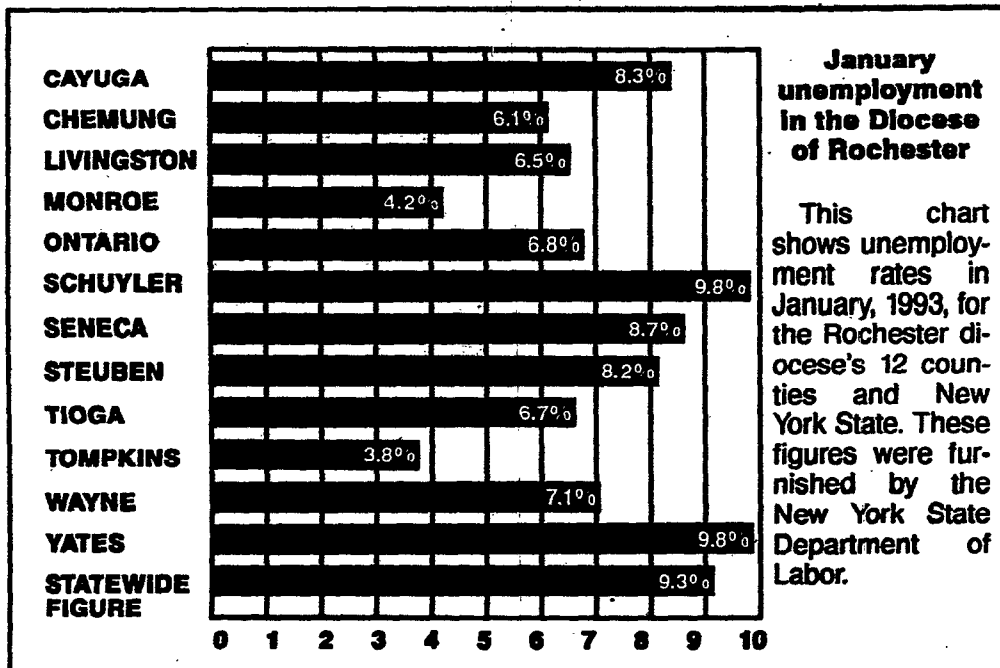
"I see it when I talk to the people," reported Father Peter Deckman, pastor of Rochester's St. Francis of Assisi Parish, 77 Whitney St. "It's a topic of conversation."

In fact, the parish celebrated a Jan. 19 Mass specifically intended to pray for the unemployed. "We've got a lot of folks who are not working or have family members who have worked and lost their jobs," the pastor said.

The diocese's various responses are similar in type — if not number — to the ways the church across the United States is responding to unemployment, noted William Droel, who edits *Initiatives*, a newsletter on workers published by the Chicago-based National Center for the Laity.

Churches respond to unemployment on four levels, Droel observed during a telephone interview with the *Catholic Courier* from his home near Chicago.

The first level, Droel said, is to provide for basic needs through such programs as parish food pantries and clothes closets. The second level is to create support groups. The third level is to lobby for social change. And the fourth is to create employment oppor-



This chart shows unemployment rates in January, 1993, for the Rochester diocese's 12 counties and New York State. These figures were furnished by the New York State Department of Labor.

tunities.

Unfortunately, Droel observed, when the church responds, "We always seem to be doing things after the fact."

Joe Buttigieg, associate director for human services at the New York State Catholic Conference, observed that the reality is the church cannot meet all of the demands placed upon it during periods of unemployment.

"There's got to be some way to keep these people whole until the economy turns around," Buttigieg said. "A lot of what happens in terms of unemployed person happens on an informal parish level."

In addition, Buttigieg said, responses must vary because there are essentially two kinds of unemployed people: those who lack the skills and education

needed to get jobs, and those who have skills and training and are waiting for the economy to improve.

"Most Catholic charities work with the first group," he remarked.

Such is the case of the St. Joseph's Work Cooperative, acknowledged Pat Mannix, a member of the cooperative's board of directors.

Mannix said the program was established to give people a place to go, to gain some job skills and to develop a source of income.

"The idea was to get a group of people who could work in a cooperative setting, and for (the cooperative) to become worker-owned itself," Mannix said.

The program has been limited by its size and resources, Mannix said. Currently, three people work on a fairly re-

gular basis in the bulk-mailing business, with four other people helping as needed. Several other ventures within the cooperative — silk screening, note cards and crafts — have yet to take off.

Still, the cooperative has helped some people to move into the job market or to school, Mannix reported. What is needed to help the effort to grow is volunteers and financial support.

As for skilled unemployed people who are waiting for the economy to turn around, a variety of resources have sprung up, noted Joseph Gosse, author of a forthcoming book on the spirituality of unemployed workers.

Gosse reported that in addition to hundreds of support groups that have sprung up nationally, retreat centers are even beginning to offer retreats specifically designed for the unemployed.

"I think a lot of these efforts developed when people went to the rectory and literally knocked at the door and said, 'I'm out of work,'" Gosse told the *Courier* from Allentown, Pa.

Gosse said his book grew out of his own experiences during a year of unemployment. That year taught him that unemployed people need to be helped to see that unemployment, while devastating, can be an opportunity for personal and spiritual growth, he said.

Thus, the church can step in and provide emotional and spiritual support to help foster an attitude that will lead to growth.

"I think it's important to listen and to be with the people," Father Deckman noted. "It's important to be a part of the discussion at all levels."

Father Patrick G. Sullivan; active in Auburn community

AUBURN — Auxiliary Bishop Dennis W. Hickey was the principal celebrant March 15 at the Mass of Christ the High Priest for Father Patrick G. Sullivan. The Mass took place at St. Mary Church, 15 Clark St.



Father Sullivan, parochial vicar at St. Mary Parish, died suddenly in his room at the parish rectory March 11, 1993. He was 40.

Born Dec. 30, 1952 in Victor, Father Sullivan earned a bachelor's degree in packaging science from Rochester Institute of Technology in 1976. In 1978,

he entered Becket Hall College Seminary — located on the campus of St. John Fisher College — and later attended St. Bernard's Seminary from 1980-81.

When St. Bernard's Seminary closed in 1981, Father Sullivan attended Immaculate Conception Seminary from 1981-84.

Bishop Matthew H. Clark ordained him to the priesthood on May 10, 1985, at St. Andrew Church, 924 Portland Avenue, Rochester.

From June, 1985, to June, 1988, Father Sullivan served as parochial vicar at Rochester's St. Margaret Mary Parish, 401 Rogers Parkway. He was then assigned as parochial vicar at St. Mary Parish in Auburn, where he served until his death.

"He was involved in a lot of things,

both here in the parish and out in the community," Father Robert J. Schrader observed of Father Sullivan. "He always was very energetic. He always seemed busy about things," added Father Schrader, pastor at St. Mary's.

In the Auburn community, Father Sullivan was co-chaplain of the fire department; helped organize the annual Tomato Festival to raise funds for Auburn-area food cupboards; served on the board of directors of Hospice of the Finger Lakes; and was involved with SAVAR, a group that provides counseling for victims of sexual abuse.

At the parish, Father Sullivan was helping to organize a reunion for St. Mary School.

In addition to the Mass at St. Mary Church, a Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated for Father Sullivan March

16 at Victor's St. Patrick Church, 115 Maple Ave. Bishop of Rochester Matthew H. Clark and retired Bishop Joseph L. Hogan were principal celebrants.

Father Sullivan is survived by his parents, Edwin and Helen Sullivan of Victor; two brothers and sisters-in-law, Edwin T. and Barbara Sullivan of Atlanta, Ga., and Gerald and Adele Sullivan of Penfield; two sisters and a brother-in-law, Mary Sullivan of Farmington, and Barbara and John Gaffney of Boston; several aunts and uncles; and eight nieces and nephews.

Interment was in St. Patrick Cemetery, Victor.

Contributions in memory of Father Sullivan may be made to School of the Holy Childhood, 100 Groton Parkway, Rochester, N.Y. 14623.

Father Richard M. Mattie, 60; retired after 20 years as naval chaplain

HORNELL — Bishop Matthew H. Clark celebrated a Mass of Christian Burial March 15 at St. Ann Church, Hornell, for Father Richard M. Mattie. Father Mattie had died suddenly in Rome, Italy, March 8, 1993, while on sabbatical at the North American College.



Father Mattie was 60.

Born in Hornell Oct. 17, 1932, Father Mattie was a graduate of St. Ann's School. He graduated from St. Andrew's Seminary in 1953, and St. Bernard's Seminary in 1959.

Then-Bishop James E. Kearney or-

daigned him to the priesthood on June 5, 1959, at Sacred Heart Cathedral. From 1959-63, Father Mattie served at St. Agnes Parish, Avon. He also served at St. Michael Parish, Lyons, from 1963-1966; St. Augustine Parish, Rochester, from 1966-71; St. Mary Parish, Rochester, for the summer of 1971; then at St. Boniface Parish from the fall of 1971 to April 1972.

On April 18, 1972, Father Mattie was commissioned a chaplain in the U.S. Navy. He was stationed at a number of naval posts in the United States, Japan and Iceland. During the 1991 Persian Gulf War, he served aboard the U.S.S. Mercy, a Navy hospital ship stationed in the Persian Gulf.

Following the war, Father Mattie made a visit to Rochester and was interviewed by the *Catholic Courier* for

an article published May 9, 1991. He told the *Courier* that the low number of U.S. casualties during the conflict meant that the crew of the U.S.S. Mercy had treated few wounded servicemen and women.

"It was remarkable," Father Mattie remarked of the low number of casualties among coalition forces. "Most people saw that God's hand was there."

Father Mattie retired from the Navy in May, 1992, with the rank of commander. Before traveling to Rome for his sabbatical, he assisted at a number of diocesan parishes.

In addition to the March 15 funeral Mass, a memorial Mass was celebrated the evening of March 14 at St. Ann Church.

Further, Cardinal John J. O'Connor,

Archbishop of New York and head of the Military Vicariate from 1984-86, celebrated a memorial Mass for Father Mattie in Rome, Italy, on March 9.

During the Mass, Cardinal O'Connor said, "Father Mattie was faithful to his God, his people, and his country — which is true Navy."

Father Mattie was predeceased by his parents, Ignatius and Mary Venuto Mattie, and a twin brother, Father David Mattie, who was killed in a car accident Sept. 21, 1969.

He is survived by a brother, Ignatius Mattie, of Hornell; three sisters, Marie Louise and Patricia Mattie, both of Hornell, and Mrs. Veronica Casaceli, of Avon, N.Y.; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Interment was in St. Mary Cemetery in Fremont, N.Y.