

# DIOCESAN NEWS

## Enterprise program aids business-minded refugees

By Rob Cullivan  
Staff writer

Ukrainian brothers Dmitry and Denis Akselrod know that the streets of this country are not paved with gold. However, the two young men do hope to pave it with Ukrainian diamonds they plan to import.

"If you bring them from Ukraine to the United States, it's going to be a good business," said Dmitry, 25. "Ukraine doesn't sell a lot of diamonds outside of Ukraine."

Both brothers are learning how to set up their business through the Refugee Microenterprise Program, whose office is located at Catholic Family Center in Rochester. The program started in February and is operated under the auspices of the Worker Ownership Resource Center, which is based in Geneva and was started in 1991 by the diocese with support from the U.S. Bishops' Campaign for Human Development. WORC helps low-income and economically disadvantaged residents develop small businesses. Programs like WORC answer one of the calls made in the U.S. bishops' 1986 letter "Economic Justice for All."

"Increasing active participation in economic life by those who are presently excluded or vulnerable is a high social priority," the bishops wrote.

The Akselrod brothers, whose father is Jewish, left Ukraine with their family and settled in Rochester about two years ago, Dmitry said. Dmitry and Denis — resourceful, enthusiastic and eager to learn — typify many of the clients who use the microenterprise program, said Jose Cruz, program director, and Marijana Ababovic, the program's business advisor and a Bosnian refugee herself. All clients must have been legally designated refugees by the U.S. government, they said.

Clients attend a series of evening classes



— sometimes taught by guest speakers — and one-on-one sessions with the program's staff, Cruz said. Clients learn basic accounting, market research and business planning, he said, and may qualify for loans of up to \$5,000 from the program.

Although the program has trained one woman from Sudan, the majority of the program's clients have come to the United States from republics in the former Soviet Union or Yugoslavia, or from Cuba, Ababovic and Cruz said. Cruz added that as the program continues, he hopes to recruit a wider pool of refugees.

The program offers a third option in a country that basically offers two to refugees — low-wage employment for those learning to speak English, or a social services net for the poor that is being cut, Cruz said.

"It doesn't take a rocket scientist to see what direction this country is going in," Cruz said. "People are going to be more responsible for themselves."

Helga Das, a Rochester-area real estate broker and investor, serves on the volunteer advisory board of the microenterprise program. She encourages refugees to start their own businesses here.

"If they stay on social services too long, one of the worst things is that they become afraid of trusting themselves," she said. "It's very difficult to think that you must go out into the world and find your own job."

But the rewards of owning your own business someday outweighs the risk involved, according to Akselrod.

"It's always better to work for yourself than to work for someone else," he said.

...  
This article is the sixth in a series commemorating the 10th anniversary of the U.S. bishops' pastoral letter "Economic Justice for All." To learn more about the Refugee Microenterprise



Matthew Scott/Staff photographer  
Father Alexander Bradshaw speaks at the Nov. 10 dedication of the Unborn Child Memorial on the grounds of Holy Ghost Cemetery, Rochester. The monument was financed by Lambs of Christ members Bob Brown, Pat Murphy and Michael McBride. It is inscribed with a passage from the Book of Jeremiah that speaks of God's love for the unborn child.

## Obituaries

### George T. Hoysic, 81; landscaper

George Thomas Hoysic of Wolcott died Oct. 5, 1996, at Rochester General Hospital, after being ill for several months.

Mr. Hoysic was a landscaper, nurseryman, active church member, Boy Scout leader and World War II veteran. He volunteered his landscaping skills to several diocesan churches and rectories.

Born in Charlotte in 1915, he graduated from the State University of New York at Farmingdale, and was a partner at the Hoysic Brothers Nursery on Browncroft Boulevard in Penfield from 1951 to 1984. He served in the U.S. Army during World War II, defusing mines off the New England coast.

Mr. Hoysic was a member of Holy Cross Church in Rochester, then St. Joseph's Church, Penfield, Holy Spirit Church in Webster, and most recently of St. Mary

Magdalene Church in Wolcott. For many years he was active in Family Camp, Teen Seminar and the Cursillo movement of the diocese, and in the Knights of Columbus.

At the time of his death, he served on the Board of Camp Koinonia, and was a eucharistic minister, server and a member of the building committee at the Wolcott church.

Predeceased by his daughter Judy, he is survived by his wife Dorothy Wehner Hoysic; children Jean (William) Gamble of Oswego, Stephen (Joy Landauer) of Penfield, David (Mary) of Farmington, Paul (Sylviane) of Albany, Ruth (Gordon) Keenan of Daphne, Ala.; Christopher (Eileen) of Perinton and Nancy (Stephen) Gant of Chapel Hill, N.C.; nine grandchildren; two sisters; and four brothers.

In lieu of flowers, the family has requested donations to Camp Koinonia, the Maryknoll Sisters or St. Mary Magdalene Church.

### Fr. Leo Matuszewski dies

As the *Catholic Courier* was going to press, news reached diocesan officials of the death of Father Leo Matuszewski in Florida, Nov. 5.

Bishop Matthew H. Clark will preside at a memorial service for Father Matuszewski at 11 a.m. Friday, Nov. 15, at St. Mary's of the Lake Church, Ontario.

The *Courier* is preparing an obituary for an upcoming issue.

### Having a Hard Time Meeting Catholic Singles?

• No Luck with Dating Services?  
• No Luck with Personal Ads?  
• Busy Schedule?  
**WE CAN HELP!**

**NEW ENCOUNTERS, INC.**  
• Confidential  
• Convenience  
• Security  
• Discreet  
Your personal introduction service.  
**YOU MAKE THE SELECTION.**

Not like the other services that pick your date... you're in control.  
(716) 244-3850  
Call today for your personal appointment.

### "IF YOU'VE MADE A WILL, THERE'S ONE MORE THING TO DO..."

To learn more about prearranged funerals, please call us. Our counsel is always available free of charge and at no obligation.

David P. Crawford • Mark E. Wakeman  
495 N. Winton Rd. • Rochester • (716) 482-0400

**Crawford**  
FUNERAL HOME INC.

The Founders Club of the Sisters of Mercy presents...

An Evening with  
**Marvin Hamlich**  
Sat. • Nov. 16 • 8 pm  
Theater on the Ridge

The Smothers Brothers  
& The Kingston Trio  
LIVE  
at the Eastman Theatre  
Sun. • Dec. 15 • 3 pm

Tickets: \$19.50 • \$24.50 • \$29.50 — 716-288-4817

## RESEARCH TREATMENT FOR MEN TROUBLED WITH URINARY INCONTINENCE

Urologists in the Department of Urology at Strong Memorial Hospital are conducting a study for men age 50 and older who leak urine with stress activities such as coughing, bending, lifting, walking, or jogging.

Men who are interested in participating are encouraged to call  
275-2486 or 275-0133 for further information.