

DIOCESAN NEWS

Rochester women plan microenterprise center

By Rob Cullivan
Staff writer

ROCHESTER — A handful of women hope to give a hand-up to the city's North Clinton Avenue neighborhood by establishing a small business center that would also serve as an education and training center.

For example, Delaine Cook-Greene, an active parishioner at St. Bridget's Church, wants to use her fledgling business Ebony Classic Caterers to profit herself and business partner Lovie Smith. But the duo also want to train teenagers in work skills through their business, Cook-Greene said.

"We've got to develop jobs for them," Cook-Greene said of teenagers. "We could let them work on a part-time basis. The mind-set would be 'I don't have to stand on the street corner. I can do something.'"

Smith heads St. Bridget's community outreach program along with Sister Beth LeValley, SSJ, director of community development economics for the Greater Rochester Community of Churches, an ecumenical organization to which the diocese belongs. The two women, with Cook-Greene, began meeting regularly with a few other similarly minded women last October at the Progressive Neighborhood Federal Credit Union on Thurston Road to talk about starting their own businesses.

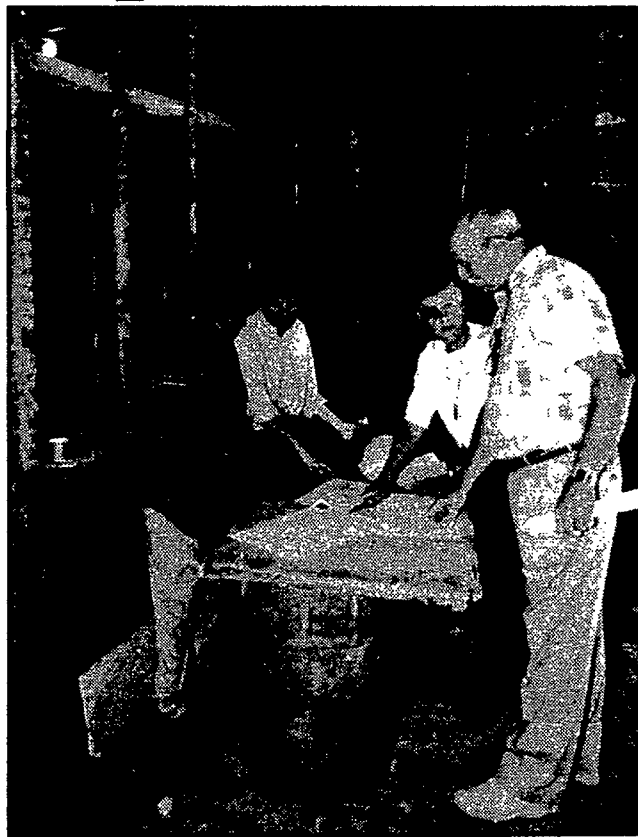
Lula J. Walker said she wanted to open her own hair salon, which would cater to whole families rather than just men and women. On a trip to Atlanta, she saw such a shop geared to serve several family members simultaneously.

"I'd like to have a shop and set it up the way I want to," she said.

Meanwhile, Alma J. Gause said she dreams of opening a second-hand clothing shop that would offer quality used clothing at affordable prices. Having struggled economically herself, Gause said she appreciated what such a store could offer to low-income shoppers.

"For me, the fulfillment is in doing something for the community," she said. "There'd be some profit or reward for me, as well as helping out others."

The group wants to open the Community Microenterprise Center by March 1998, they said. When it's finished,



Matthew Scott/Staff photographer
Alma Gause, Marilyn Tedeschi, Sr. Beth LeValley and Owen Butler (left to right) discuss blueprint changes July 31 amid remodeling a North Clinton Avenue building for a business center.

the center will house the salon, the catering business, the clothing shop and a sewing shop, along with a satellite office of the PNFCU, according to Sister LeValley, the credit union's vice president.

The center may house an office of the Child Assistance Program, a Monroe County Department of Social Services project that helps move people off welfare to work, Sister LeValley said. The center may also house a computer-ori-

ented technical training center, she said.

The center's building, located at 722 N. Clinton Ave., is owned by Marilyn Tedeschi, an area consultant who helps people start up their small businesses. She also serves as youth coordinator at the credit union, and she noted that she plans to open a consulting office in another building she owns across from the planned center. Tedeschi is handling inquiries about donations and other contributions to the microenterprise center (at 716/325-3312).

Sister LeValley and Tedeschi said they need \$175,000 to start up the center, and added that they had received pledges and actual monies from private investors, donors, area churches and the city government amounting to \$145,000. Donors have included Downtown United Presbyterian Church, the Women's Foundation of Genesee Valley and Chase Manhattan Bank NA, Sister LeValley said.

Tedeschi said the Community Microenterprise Center will probably take the form of a for-profit corporation that will rent the building to its occupants. As a for-profit corporation, the center will qualify for tax breaks and government grants that, in part, target corporations willing to operate in low-income areas, she noted.

The center's two-story building, which formerly housed a bar/restaurant and apartments, has been gutted. Owen Butler, former head of the building committee at St. Bridget's, is helping to oversee renovations. He said he volunteered for the project because he believed in the people undertaking it.

"I like the people I'm working with, and I love these type of rehab projects — bringing an old building back and making it useful," he said.

Sister LeValley emphasized that although the center has been planned by women, men are welcome to join the project.

Marga Jann, an architect based in Rochester who has worked internationally, is redesigning the building for half the cost of what she would normally charge. Jann, who owns the architectural firm, Poetic License, said she plans to make over the microenterprise center's building in a colorful Caribbean style that would match other buildings in the area, home to a large Puerto Rican population.

"The neighborhood should love it," she said.

Fr. William Lum pleads guilty to third-degree sexual abuse

By Rob Cullivan
Staff writer

Father William D. Lum, 53, former pastor of Our Lady of Mercy Church in Greece, pleaded guilty to one count of third-degree sexual abuse, a misdemeanor, before Monroe County Court Judge Charles T. Maloy on Aug. 1. He was given a one-year conditional discharge.

In making his plea, the priest admitted he had inappropriately touched a teenager

for purposes of sexual gratification, according to Monroe County Assistant District Attorney Alecia Elston.

The case stemmed from charges the district attorney filed this year based on complaints by a 21-year-old man. The man was a minor when he met Father Lum in 1991, while the priest was serving as temporary administrator of St. Joseph's Church in Penfield for a few months. The two had kept in contact after Father Lum was assigned to Our Lady of Mercy Church in June 1991.

Judge Maloy issued the discharge on the condition that the priest continue counseling and treatment, and that he have no contact with individuals under the age of 17, according to Elston. The judge also issued an order of protection, stipulating that Father Lum may have no contact with the victim for one year, Elston said.

Elston said the victim had wanted to speak at the priest's sentencing, but was denied the opportunity by Judge Maloy.

John Aretakis, a Manhattan-based lawyer who represented the victim, sharply criticized the judge's decision not to allow the victim to speak.

"Father Lum gets treated with respect ... and the victim of this doesn't get to make one minute's worth of a public statement," he said.

He added that he considered the sentence meted out to Father Lum as too light.

The priest, on administrative leave since July 1996, was originally charged in Greece Town Court last April with four counts of third-degree sodomy, to which he pleaded not guilty. The sodomy was alleged to have taken place on several occasions between June 15 and July 1, 1992. Had he been convicted on those charges, the priest could have faced up to four years in prison.

John F. Speranza, Father Lum's attorney, said his client agreed to a plea bargain with the district attorney's office in order to avoid a lengthy legal process in fighting the sodomy charges.

"He continues to deny that any of these sodomies existed or occurred," Speranza said of Father Lum.

An Aug. 1 diocesan release stated that Father Lum will remain on leave. The statement also said that no assignment would be made at this time.

Obituary

St. Mary's 'great mother,' at 85

By Lee Strong
Associate editor

When Bishop Dennis W. Hickey arrived at the St. Mary's Church, Auburn, June 23, 1941, for his first assignment as a newly ordained priest, he was greeted by Mary Rose Barron, the new church secretary.

Some 38 years later, Barron also greeted Father Edward Zimmer when in 1979 he became the parish's pastor.

"It's awesome the number of priests she greeted," Father Zimmer remarked.

Barron continued greeting priests and serving as St. Mary's secretary until she died June 23, 1997, at age 85.

Many of the priests she had greeted were among the 22 priests attending her June 26 funeral Mass at St. Mary's, noted Bishop Hickey, main celebrant.

"She was kind of the great mother of St. Mary's, looking after it all the time," Father Zimmer observed. "She worked 60 hours a week, got paid for 40, and thought it was too much."

"This was her parish, but this was her life, too," acknowledged Father Robert Schrader, St. Mary's pastor since 1992. "She was St. Mary's."

The Auburn native was born Oct. 13, 1911. She attended St. Mary's School, and Auburn High and Business schools. From 1930 to 1940, she worked at Dunn and McCarthy shoe company, Auburn, before joining St. Mary's staff.

She was more than a secretary, Father Schrader noted. She was the parish historian, for example, keeping photographs and clippings of all articles relating to the parish. And she served as a resource for the many priests who served the parish.

"She knew everyone and everything about the parish, and had a great sense of history about the parish," he said.

Moreover, she was a trusted adviser, Father Zimmer observed.

"She was like my mother, my sister, my friend and my counselor," he said. "I asked her advice many times, and it was always good and sound."

Barron was a member of St. Mary's Rosary and Scapular Society. At the time of her death she was chair of St. Mary's Renovation Historical Perspective Committee.

Memorial contributions were requested to St. Mary's renovation fund.

Interment was in St. Joseph's Cemetery, Auburn.

Women Needed for Hormone Therapy Research

As they search for the combinations of hormone replacement therapy that are both safe and effective, the Reproductive Endocrinology Unit and Menopause Center at the University of Rochester Medical Center seek women to participate in a study.

Volunteers must be healthy, post-menopausal women between the ages of 40 and 65. After a physical examination, women will be randomized to one of 8 treatment groups and receive various combinations of an FDA-approved estrogen and/or progestin, or placebo.

During this one-year study, volunteers are seen every three months. Benefits to volunteers include free Pap smears and lab tests, free mammogram, and possible relief of menopausal symptoms based on the medication(s) they receive. Compensation of \$450 is available. Women who have had a hysterectomy are not eligible.

Women interested in participating can call Wanda Rivers at 275-7891.