

Layoffs

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"I do believe that it does matter to God who we become," Fackelman said. "I believe that he is for us, that our God is a personal God who is on our side."

A handful of people showed up for the Jan. 12 session, she said, noting that the center has organized two more such sessions for Tuesday, March 10, from 7 to 9 p.m., and Monday, March 16, from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. For more information, the center may be contacted at 716/663-5856.

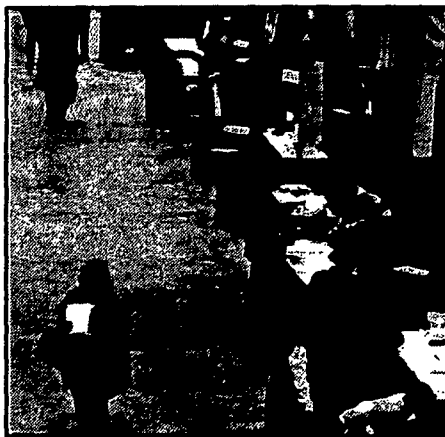
A number of other parishes offer practical help to ex-employees of Kodak and other companies.

St. Mary's Church in downtown Rochester, and St. Joseph's Church in Penfield both offer job networking services to the unemployed. Meanwhile, Transfiguration and St. Louis churches in Pittsford jointly operate "The Employment Network," according to Patrick Piles, a parishioner at Transfiguration and a volunteer with the network. The network offers various programs related to job-hunting, personal spirituality and group support, he said.

One ex-Kodak employee who recently took advantage of the Employment Network is Paul J. Carey, a Transfiguration parishioner.

Carey said he worked at Kodak for 25 years, and then went to work for Danka Office Imaging last year after it bought Kodak's copier and printer business. Under the buyout deal, Carey remained eligible for the retirement package administered by Kodak, he said. Hence, when he found out his position was being cut late last year at Danka, he voluntarily retired and became eligible for the same severance deals offered to ex-Kodak employees.

Carey said he recently attended several sessions of the Employment Network at Transfiguration and found them helpful.



Greg Francis/Staff photographer
Ex-Kodak employees with resumes in hand walk the aisles of the Kodak-sponsored, invitation-only job fair at the Rochester Riverside Convention Center Feb. 19.

"It gave me some self-assurance and showed me some inner qualities I had," he said of the program.

He added that he thought anybody who had lost his or her job would benefit from the Employment Network.

"I think it would be very helpful just to get people out of their shell and talk," Carey said.

A test of faith

There's nothing like losing one's job to test one's spiritual mettle, according to ex-Kodak employees. But keeping faith in oneself and God certainly helps, they noted.

On Feb. 19, Kodak and the Industrial Management Council sponsored a job fair at the Rochester Riverside Convention Center. The fair featured the booths of more than 260 companies from the area and other parts of the country.

While outside the center a handful of protesters derided the fair, inside more than 1,500 ex-employees of Kodak looked for new jobs. Despite having lost their jobs at Kodak, ex-employees who talked to the

Catholic Courier said they were trying to stay upbeat about their prospects.

One Catholic woman, who asked not to be identified, said that although several out-of-town companies were at the fair, it was hard to contemplate leaving Rochester. She added that her fellow Catholics should be sensitive to the plight of many people like her in Rochester now that Kodak is downsizing. Jokes about another's job loss, for example, aren't always appreciated, she said.

"I have to protect myself emotionally," she said. "The faith is real hard to keep. Sometimes you get real angry (at God) and say 'Why did you do this to me?'"

Nuran Dilek, a Turkish Muslim immigrant to Rochester who worked as a test operator at Kodak for two years, said she planned to use her \$5,000 in retraining money from Kodak to go to Monroe Community College and upgrade her computer skills.

"You lose your self-esteem at the beginning," she said of being laid off. "You say: 'Oh God, what am I going to do?' But I'm sure God is going to help me. He isn't go-

ing to leave us alone."

Ronda Tozier, who attends Webster Bible Church in Webster, shared Dilek and Friedman's optimism.

She noted that she was "very upset" when she found out she'd lost her job as a chemical lab technician at Kodak, where she'd worked for a decade. Nonetheless, she said that she spent little time dwelling on her job loss, preferring to look to the future.

"My job doesn't reflect me as a person," she said. "I'm a person who holds a job. My job doesn't hold me. I feel there's a reason I got let go from Kodak. The Lord has something else planned for me."

Carey, who also attended the job fair, echoed that sentiment.

"I think when God shuts a door in one place, he opens one in another," he said.

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If your parish is doing anything to help people find new jobs, call Rob Cullivan at 716/328-4340 or, outside the 716 area code, 1-800-600-3628. Such efforts will be featured in a future article in this series.

Workshop, fast, lobbying to highlight 'The Dignity of Work'

By Rob Cullivan
Staff writer

Since the end of January, the 25-member Diocesan Public Policy Committee has been encouraging Catholics to reflect on "The Dignity of Work," according to Father Brian Cool, parochial vicar at St. Mary's Church, Canandaigua, and chairman of the committee.

The committee provided parishes with bulletin inserts highlighting church teaching on work, and has encouraged pastors to give homilies on these teachings, Father Cool said.

The committee chose the theme "The Dignity of Work" for several reasons, Father Cool explained. Among those reasons are the fact that thousands of workers have been laid off at companies in the diocese, most notably Eastman Kodak Company in Rochester (see accompanying article), and the fact that welfare recipients are no longer guaranteed lifetime benefits.

According to information from the policy committee, "The Dignity of Work" is a phrase that sums up more than a century of Catholic social teaching, from Pope Leo XIII to Pope John Paul II.

"People have the right to decent and productive work, to decent and fair wages," the U.S. bishops wrote in a 1991 document, "A Century of Social Teaching," that was cited by the committee.

In light of this year's policy committee theme, the Geneva-based Catholic Charities of the Finger Lakes has organized its annual Social Ministry Workshop Day for parishes around "The Dignity of Work," according to Scarlett Emerson, parish and community development coordinator.

The workshop will take place from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at St. Mary's School, 35 Center St., Waterloo, on Saturday, March 21. Speakers will address such topics as the spirituality of work; what rules welfare recipients must follow now in making the transition to work; and issues relevant to migrant farmworkers.

The cost of the event is \$15 per person, and includes dinner. For information, Emerson may be reached at 315/789-2686.

In related news, other diocesan Catholics are organizing events related to "The Dignity of Work."

Sister Kathleen Bayer, RSM, pastoral associate at Eastside Catholic Parish in Elmira, (St. Cecilia, St. John the Baptist and St. Peter and Paul churches), said she's encouraging her parishioners to participate in a statewide fast for migrant farmworkers' rights. The fast is slated to run for 40 hours from 8 p.m. March 24 to noon on March 26.

Sponsored by the New York State Labor-Religion Coalition and other groups, the fast is designed to highlight the fact that farmworkers are excluded from rights other workers have, such as the right to bargain collectively.

The fast will precede a "Farmworker Advocacy Day" legislative lobbying effort in Albany on Tuesday, April 28, according to the Labor-Religion Coalition.

In addition to these events, the public policy committee is encouraging parishes to organize groups of Catholics to meet their county legislative leaders in March, April and May and to lobby them on the issues related to job creation, jobs training, public assistance, fair wages and workplace safety, Father Cool said.

The committee distributed postcards highlighting these issues to parishes, and is hoping Catholics will fill them out and take them to their representatives, he said.

The Monthly Prayer Request For Priests

Will you pray for a priest each day?

JESUS' PRAYER FOR HIS PRIESTS

Keep them, I pray Thee, dearest Lord,
Keep them for they are Thine—
Thy priest whose lives burn out before
Thy consecrated shrine.
Keep them, for they are in the world,
Though from the world apart;
When earthly pleasures tempt, allure,
Shelter them in Thy heart.
Keep them, and comfort them in hours
Of loneliness and pain,
When all their life of sacrifice

For souls seems but in vain.
Keep them, and O remember, Lord,
They have no one but Thee,
Yet they have only human hearts,
With human frailty.
Keep them as spotless as the Host,
That daily they caress;
Their every thought and word and deed,
Deign, dearest Lord, to bless.

Imprimatur: D. Card. Dougherty, Arch. of Philadelphia

Prayer Suggestions: Mass, Rosary, Fasting, Day Offering,
Eucharistic Adoration, Offering Sufferings, Divine Mercy Chaplet

March, 1998

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Pope John Paul II	2 Priests on Sabbatical	3 Gerald G. Kelly	4 John R. Lee, CSB	5 Kevin P. Murphy	6 James F. O'Connell	7 Bishop Matthew Clark
8 Joseph Stanton, OCSO	9 Melvin H. Walczak	10 Norman C. Tanck, CSB	11 John M. Mulligan	12 Robert G. Kreckel	13 Msgr. Gerard J. Gefell	14 Daniel J. Condon
15 Michael R. Brown	16 Gerald T. Connor	17 Frank J. Fallentta	18 Lawrence A. Gross	19 Christopher E. Linsler	20 Mark A. Miller	21 Matthew Swizdor, OFM, Conv.
22 Raymond J. Wahl	23 Richard M. Murphy	24 Thomas F. Nellis	25 James P. Jaeger	26 Bishop Joseph L. Hogan	27 D. Joseph Donovan	28 David L. Bonin
29 John M. Costello, SJ	30 William E. Graf	31 L. John Hedges	Look for the April MPRP Calendar in the March 27th Courier.			

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Where is the Spirit of God?

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Sunday, March 8, 12:45 - 5 pm

St. Catherine Parish Center
26 Mendon-Ionia Rd., Mendon
(handicap accessible)

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Registration deadline: March 2.

For a brochure or to register, contact Karen Rinefield (716) 328-5228, Ext. 255 or 1-800-388-