

To Life! To Life! To Life!

Diocese disburses \$32,000 in consistent life grants

Even as she currently experiences the pleasure of notifying 1998 Consistent Life Ethic Grant award winners, Suzanne Schnittman is aware of the broader reality.

"The needs are going up," declared Schnittman, the Diocese of Rochester's consistent life ethic coordinator. "Certainly the need for job training. The need for prison ministry is almost desperate."

This year, the diocese will distribute \$32,000 among 49 agencies and groups dealing with not only job training and jail

ministry, but also with such concerns as food cupboards, health care, seniors, pregnant women, homebuyers, the dying, and education and counseling.

The largest source of funds for the annual grants is through a dinner — held in May 1998 for this year's funds and scheduled for April next year. Approximately a third of the total comes from Thanks Giving Appeal funds. In addition, the diocese receives some private donations specifically earmarked for the grants.

The money is distributed by a committee that evaluates the requests. The funds are apportioned by region, with the Southern Tier and the Finger Lakes regions each allocated 25 percent, Livingston County 5 percent, and Monroe County 45 percent. A portion of each region's funds is also used for projects that cross region lines, such as the diocese's Project Rachel or a series of retreats around the diocese by Father Charles McCarthy (see story, page 2A).

Schnittman said that this year there has been "a growing consciousness of the effects of welfare reform." Thus, for example, food cupboards and job training programs have sought — and received — extra help. In addition, changes in HMOs and the trend toward shortening hospital stays have led to an increase in the need for home visits by nurses. When assessing the applications, Schnittman said the committee gives special attention to grass-roots efforts. "There's a huge emphasis on how we can fund groups that are not otherwise funded," she said. In addition, the committee tries to let the applicants know of other possible sources of funding. She noted, for example, that more parishes have begun to tithe money for such needs.

Clara, for one, welcomes this approach. "They give you the opportunity to put God in your life," Clara said. "It makes it nice that you know you've got God here." Tuite said that she doesn't preach to, or judge, her clients. Rather, her chief objective is to provide information and serve as a sounding board. "Once they're in here, we help them to make educated choices," Tuite said. Tuite added that Loving Arms also offers a large dose of emotional support. "We want to be friends. And I'm not just saying that; I mean that in my heart," Tuite emphasized. "If I have a life experience that goes along with it, I share it."

For instance, as the Jacksons have grieved over the death of their baby last February, Tuite has shared with them her feelings after her 8-year-old daughter drowned about 10 years ago. "I've lost a daughter, so we can connect," Tuite said. Clara said she's more grateful for Tuite's ongoing encouragement than anything else. "I can call her any time. It really helps to have someone to talk to," Clara said.

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EDITORS' NOTE: *Loving Arms will hold a fundraising banquet Oct. 8 at 6:30 p.m. at Family Life Ministries, Route 415 and Campbell Creek Road, Kanona. Freewill offerings will be accepted. For details, call 607/776-8004.*

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Outreach

Continued from page 1A

ite, director, and a contingent of seven or eight counselors. Wall said that Loving Arms is hoping to become more accessible through expansion of its counselor pool.

"Their first goal is to expand the hours. They really want to be open full-time," Wall said. Another objective, she added, is to have counselors on call so that "nobody has to talk with an answering machine."

Tuite and Wall emphasized that Loving Arms seeks to be known as more than a crisis-center for pregnant teens.

"You have to think of people with their fourth or fifth child, in poor health and with no job," Wall said. Tuite added that several grandparents, who have become the babies' primary caretakers, have sought help from Loving Arms as well.

Wall, who is also the Steuben County chairperson for Zero Teen Pregnancy, said that Loving Arms has been well received.

"We're getting referrals from all over, and the teens are spreading it by word of mouth," Wall remarked.

Loving Arms describes itself in its brochure as "an outreach by Biblical Christians." In fact, Tuite said that she often prays with her clients.

"I was kind of concerned about introducing God's love to the clients, but it



Haven; F. L. Visiting Nurse/Ontario Yates Hospice; House of John Comfort Care; The Pines of Peace Comfort Care Home; Rape and Abuse Crisis Service, Yates County; Twin City Council of Churches Nonviolence

Southern Tier:
\$8,000

Corning-Painted Post Heath Ministry; Interfaith Hospitality Center; Interfaith Volunteer Caregivers; Loaves and Fishes Job Training Program; Loving Arms of Steuben Pregnancy Help Ctr.; Samaritan Center/Catholic Charities of the Southern Tier; Southport Correctional Facility Bible Study; Teens & Family Outreach; St. James First Homebuyer Program

Monroe County:
\$14,400

Benincasa Comfort Care; Bethany House; Birthright of Rochester; Cameron Community Ministries; Catholic Family Center Pregnancy Counseling; Catholic Family Center STAR program; Corpus Christi Center; Corpus Christi's Rogers House; Education for Peace Week; Hamlin Association of Ministers Counseling; Mercy Residential (Melita McAuley Housing); Problem Pregnancy Help Center Retreat; St. Andrews Area Food Cupboard; St. Bridget's Respect Life Outreach; St. Joseph's Neighborhood Center; St. Peter's Kitchen; Sex, Truth, and Decision Associates; Step by Step of Rochester. Retreats; Unplanned Pregnancy Task Force

All County Projects

Feminists for Life Celebrate Women; Pax Christi — Fr. Charles McCarthy retreats; Project Rachel Abortion Healing; Common Ground CLE Conference; Legal Aid Society Immigration Program.

— Lee Strong

Livingston County:
\$1,600

Birthright of Geneseo
Catholic Charities Legal Services
Teresa House Comfort Care

Finger Lakes: \$8,000

Auburn (prison) Hospitality Association; Birthright of Auburn; Birthright of Canandaigua; Birthright of Ontario; Birthright of Victor; Catholic Charities Women to Work Program; Crisis Pregnancy Center of Wayne County; Faith



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We Respect **Life**

As a part of its mission, the Catholic Church seeks to safeguard life from the moment of conception through natural death. Here, in the Diocese of Rochester, the second Synod Priority is the Consistent Life Ethic, indicating the importance of life to Catholics in upstate New York. As businesses and organizations, we support the stance of the Catholic Church and the Diocese of Rochester on life issues.

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