

DIOCESAN NEWS

State to give millions to 2 housing agencies

By Mike Latona
Staff writer

The State of New York has awarded \$4.5 million in grants to Providence Housing Development Corp. and Bishop Sheen Ecumenical Housing Foundation Inc.

The awards were announced this month by Gov. George Pataki and state Housing Commissioner Joseph Lynch.

Providence Housing will receive approximately \$2.2 million for an affordable senior housing project in Henrietta, as well as \$900,000 to convert the former Geneva YMCA building into affordable apartments for people with developmental disabilities.

Bishop Sheen Ecumenical Housing was awarded \$1.4 million to be used in Cayuga, Ontario, Wayne and Yates counties for home renovation and mortgage assistance.

The monies are part of a \$74 million statewide package of loans, grants and tax credits. Funds will be issued through the state Housing Trust Fund Corporation, and Division of Housing and Community Renewal.

In Henrietta, a 59-unit senior facility — 43 one-bedroom apartments and 16 two-bedroom units — will be constructed on six acres near the corner of West Henrietta and Erie Station roads. The two-story senior complex will include an elevator.

Maggie Bringewatt, executive director of Providence Housing, said that groundbreaking in Henrietta is scheduled for this fall and the project is to be completed by the summer of 2000.

The Geneva project is located downtown, on Castle Street. It will feature a 20-unit facility for developmentally disabled people. The apartments will be located on the building's second and third floors and will be accessible by elevator. The first floor is being designated as commercial space.

Bringewatt said that full-scale renovation of the YMCA building will begin in October and be completed by mid-2000. She added that Providence Housing took

ownership of the facility in early 1999 after it had been vacant for about 10 years. The historic structure, which is more than 100 years old, had noticeably deteriorated, Bringewatt said.

"It was an eyesore. Pigeons were flying in and out of it," she said.

Maximum annual income for residents of both the Henrietta and Geneva facilities, Bringewatt noted, will be \$17,700 for a single and \$20,250 for a couple.

Meanwhile, Bishop Sheen Ecumenical Housing will distribute \$400,000 allotments each, to Ontario, Wayne and Yates counties, and \$200,000 to Cayuga County.

Allynn Smith, executive director of Bishop Sheen Ecumenical Housing, said that grant money will be put toward covering home renovations and reducing mortgage principals to make houses more affordable.

"We can get some lower income families into houses," she said.

Smith added that the financial assistance with mortgages would be based on need.

Both Bringewatt and Smith said they were elated by the size of their allocations from the state.

"We're very pleased that the state has recognized the need for this kind of housing in the diocese," Bringewatt said.

"This is very significant, to put this kind of commitment behind housing rehabilitation and home ownership opportunities. It's wonderful," Smith said.

Although the state budget is currently at an impasse, Bringewatt said that Providence Housing has been promised its monies as soon as the Henrietta and Geneva projects are completed.

"We don't anticipate that the budget situation will have any impact on the availability of the funding," she said.

Smith said she's been told that Bishop Sheen Ecumenical Housing will receive its \$1.4 million in September or October. Given that the state legislature had not passed a budget nearly four months past its April 1 deadline, she is cautiously optimistic.

"I could be wrong," Smith said.



The combined choirs of St. Louis Church, Pittsford, and St. Catherine of Siena Church, Mendon, are slated to sing at a papal Mass in Rome this fall.

July 23-24 sale to raise funds for choirs' adventure abroad

The choirs of St. Louis Church of Pittsford and St. Catherine of Siena Church in Mendon will hold a "Rome-age Sale" on Friday, July 23, and Saturday, July 24, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at St. Louis Church, 64 S. Main St., Pittsford.

The sale will feature antiques, household items, books, clothing, Christmas decorations and a penny and nickel table for children. The sale will raise funds for the choirs' Oct. 28-Nov. 4 trip to perform in churches in Rome and Assisi, Italy, according to Stephanie Honz, St. Louis choir director.

The choirs will sing at an Oct. 31 Mass in St. Peter's Basilica that Pope John Paul II is scheduled to celebrate, she said.

"It's an experience even if the pope isn't there," she said, noting that, unfortunately, there's always a possibility that health problems will keep the pope from attending.

Both choirs rehearse together every three weeks and perform a few concerts together each year, Honz said. She added that she travels to Rome four to five times a year for workshops and performances, and wanted to share the experience with the choir members.

The choirs have raised \$11,000 of the \$20,000 they need for the trip, she said. A total of 96 people plan to go: 30 St. Louis choir members and 25 St. Catherine's choir members, the rest of the trip's participants being family and friends from both parishes.

Chrisanne Yule, director of liturgical music at St. Catherine's, will direct the choirs, and Honz will accompany them on organ. Tara Noval, a nationally acclaimed violinist from Pittsford, will also perform with the choirs.

— Rob Cullivan

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Recognizing

★ **Carolyn Portanova**, president and CEO of the Catholic Family Center, celebrated her 25th anniversary with the CFC. She was honored May 27 at the Oak Hill Country Club.

★ **Christine Bochen**, professor of religious studies at Nazareth College, has been appointed the second holder of the college's Kilian J. and Caroline F. Schmitt Endowed Chair. During the two years she holds the chair, Bochen, a Thomas Merton scholar, will continue her Merton studies, focusing on the significance of the feminine in Merton's life and spirituality.

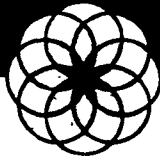
★ **Catholic Charities of Livingston County** received three grants totaling \$16,500 for its Partnership for Success program, which helps homeless and at-risk families find decent affordable housing and work toward self-sufficiency and independence. The grants were: \$15,000 from the Rochester Area Community Foundation; \$1,000 from Fleet Bank; and \$500 from M&T Bank.

★ **Nicholas Moeller**, of St. Bridget's/St. Joseph's Church, East Bloomfield, received his Eagle Scout Award at a ceremony at the church June 19.

★ **Cheryl Hollenbeck** was named the St. Joseph Hospital Employee of the Month for May. She is the coordinator of the hospital's Outpatient Care Center.

★ **Dominick Caroselli**, **Patrick Cusato**, **John R. Finkle** and **Paul H. Salmin** have been elected, respectively, president, vice president, secretary and treasurer of the Bishop Sheen Ecumenical Housing Foundation Inc. for 1999-2000.

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