

# CONTINUED...

## Food

Continued from page 1

People who were barely scraping by to begin with are the ones hit the hardest when the economy declines. "Marginalized people are the people who get whacked first," Ferraro said.

Receiving emergency food provides a way for these people to meet their debt obligations and feed their families, he added.

Norton agrees. "There are so many issues that contribute to the hunger," she said.

Those who use the food pantry at St. Alphonsus say they have to pay other bills — rent, utilities, prescriptions and higher taxes — before buying food. And once those bills are paid each month, there's no money left to buy groceries.

"They still have to feed their family, and the grocery store doesn't care," Norton said.

Laurie Farraro, a volunteer at Catholic Charities of Livingston County, has heard similar tales. Farraro not only coordinates Catholic Charities' food pantry in Mt. Morris, but also the Salvation Army's food pantry in the same community, where she's recently seen a doubling in the number of families served.

She said some of her clients use food stamps, but oftentimes the stamps do not last an entire month. In some cases, she said, a person's food stamp allotment has decreased because their wages have increased — but that wage increase does not make them more able to buy the food they need.

And the local economy's health — or lack thereof — is another contributing factor to the rise in food pantry clients.

"Mostly it's down to the work situation," Farraro said. "Everybody's getting laid off." That is certainly true in Geneva, Ontario County, where Cheryl Toor manages the food pantry at the ecumenical Center of Concern.

"There's so much layoff," Toor said. "Geneva doesn't have a lot to offer right now for hiring."

The Center of Concern, which receives donations from 19 Geneva-area churches, including the Roman Catholic Community of Geneva, serves about 300 families a month, Toor said. That figure has risen by 20 families since March.

In the Southern Tier, layoffs by the thousands at the area's largest employer, Corning Inc., have contributed to an increase in clients at Elmira's Samaritan Center, according to its director, Cindy Smith. The Samaritan Center, a part of Catholic Char-



Charlie Norton arranges some of the canned goods at the St. Alphonsus food pantry.

ities of the Southern Tier, is one of 18 food pantries in Chemung County alone, Smith added, and there are plans to open two more.

During 2001, the Samaritan Center served 20,000 individuals, up from 19,801 served in 2000. When those numbers are compared to Chemung County's total population of 93,000, "it's a little alarming," Smith said.

"It gets harder and harder (for people) to make ends meet," she added.

The terrorist attack of Sept. 11 didn't help make things any easier. Most of the food pantries and soup kitchens interviewed for this story say people's need for food has been even more apparent since Sept. 11.

Norton said she noticed an increase in clients right after the attack, when people unexpectedly became unemployed as a result of the attacks or couldn't scrape by working minimum-wage jobs that did not pay enough to buy food for their families.

"Then they have to come to us," Norton said. "We see a lot of it, and it's increasing."

### The new faces

Workers at food pantries and soup kitchens around the diocese agree: They are seeing new faces all the time.

"We are seeing numbers coming through that are utilizing a food pantry for the first time," Smith said.

And many among them are children, she added. Of the 20,000 people the Samaritan Center serves annually, 7,500 are children.

According to statistics from Food Bank of the Southern Tier, the Samaritan Center's major food supplier, nearly 34 percent of those served by the food bank's member agencies are 18 years old or younger. The statistics were included as part of a national hunger study, Hunger in America 2001, sponsored by America's Second Harvest.

Norton said some of the former donors to St. Alphonsus' food pantry are now in need of food.

Children served are also on the rise, she added, especially in the summer months when schools — along with emergency meal plans they provide — are closed. Some communities do offer summer meal programs, but not everyone who experiences hunger has transportation needed to use the programs, Norton said.

Margit Shanahan of Catholic Charities of the Finger Lakes, who coordinates a lunch program at the First United Methodist Church in Geneva, says she

serves roughly 78 meals a day, including six or eight to children. When school lets out, those numbers rise to 35 to 45 children per day.

"I've seen an increase, especially the last two months," she said.

### Combating hunger

The problem of hunger locally goes much deeper than just providing free meals, according to FOODLINK'S Ferraro. Organizations that provide food for the needy also must look at the bigger picture of why people are hungry, and adopt a holistic approach to combating hunger.

Giving food to people who are hungry is just a quick-fix, he noted. FOODLINK believes that helping people find work so they have money to buy food or helping them start businesses that make them self-sufficient while creating jobs for others is the way to actually solve the hunger problem. For example, FOODLINK will allow someone who wants to start a bakery to use its kitchen facilities until the person can afford facilities of his or her own. Once the person takes that step, he or she is making money to buy food and creating jobs that will allow others to do the same, Ferraro said.

"That's foremost in our efforts to combat hunger. You don't combat hunger by just giving people food," he added.

Norton's approach to combatting hunger is to lobby local politicians for help. She asks them to support such initiatives as affordable housing, living wages and low-cost health-care programs so people don't have to choose between paying their bills and eating.

She also wants to make Cayuga County residents aware of the hunger problem and the reasons for it. In an effort to do so, she and members of the county's other food pantries held a fundraising soup supper at Calvary Presbyterian Church in Auburn in March, which was Hunger Awareness Month.

"It focused awareness that there is a need," Norton said.

The Samaritan Center offers more than just food, Smith said. It also offers furniture, clothing, money for prescriptions and a wellness center. If people can get themselves healthy, Smith said, they will be able to find jobs and eventually be able to afford to feed themselves.

Smith said when she hears of job openings, she tells her clients about them. She is also exploring ways for the center to concentrate more on this aspect of assistance. Smith said her approach is to make people comfortable accessing the Samaritan Center's services, so she can offer them solutions to their hunger.

## COURIER CLASSIFIEDS

### GENERAL

#### Announcements

**ADOPTIONS** The Catholic Courier does not publish adoption advertising. To obtain a list of agencies that serve birth mothers and adoptive parents, call 585-529-9530. Agencies wishing to be included on this list may send information to the Catholic Courier.

**THANK THE BLESSED** Virgin Mary, St. Jude and St. Theresa for favors received. JC

### EMPLOYMENT

#### Help Wanted

**HELP WANTED:** Food Service, assembly, machine operator positions. All shifts available, starting pay \$6/hr. Apply in person Manpower, 2534 Ridgeway Ave.

**MAKE A LIVING FROM YOUR HOME!** Control hours. Full training. Free info. 877-320-3837 www.dreamintoreality.com

### MERCHANDISE

#### Wanted to Buy

#### Marilyn's Antiques

We buy all antiques & household goods for highest cash prices. One item or entire estate. Complete estate services. Appraisals, sales conducted. 585-647-2480 Home # 585-872-2239

**OLDER ACCUMULATIONS PURCHASED.** Single item or entire estate. Courteous, professional, confidential. Cash paid. 265-9516.

www.catholiccourier.com

**NEXT-TO-NEW SALE  
BIGGEST  
NEXT TO NEW SALE IN DIOCESE**

May 1, 2, 3: 9 am - 8 pm • May 4: 9 am - 2 pm

**Blessed Sacrament Auditorium  
534 Oxford Street at Monroe Ave. • 271-7240**

### SERVICE

#### Ceiling Repair

**TEXTURED/SWIRED CEILINGS:** 9' x 12' ceiling only \$59! Water damaged, stained, poorly textured/swirled ceilings repaired, re-textured, repainted, or made flat again. Any size drywall/plaster wall repairs. No job too small. 585/392-5076.

#### Gutter Cleaning

#### GUTTER CLEANING & REPAIR

New Heavy-Duty Aluminum & Galvanized Gutters  
**Bernard K. Bayer & Son**  
est. 1952 (585) 381-0812

**Classifieds  
get the  
job done!**

#### Health/Exercise

**FRIZZUTTI** Classes for any age  
• Spencerport • Brockport • Hilton  
Over 25 classes weekly  
No contracts or membership fees.  
New Student Special:  
**6 weeks for \$36.00**  
Call 352-7700

#### Masonry

**MASONRY REPAIRS** ALL TYPES, brick & cement step repairs, basement walls & garage foundations. 40 years experience. Al Meyvis Sr. 323-1007

#### Moving & Hauling

**R-D Moving & Storage, Inc.**  
Experience in office, household moving and deliveries.  
Big or Small, We do them All!  
473-6610/473-4357  
23 Arlington St. Rochester NY 14607  
NYDOT#9657

#### Painting & Wallcovering

**AL MEYVIS, JR.:** Painting exterior/interior. Basement walls repaired/painted/wet basement problems/all type home repairs. Small jobs welcome. NYS certified. 392-4435 or 323-2876

#### Plaster Restoration Wallpapering Painting

Free Estimates  
**585-482-3243**

Terry & Nina McCullough  
A Couple That Care

#### Pet Care

**Dog Holiday**  
Brand New Large  
Indoor Boarding Facility  
For Dogs & Cats  
Located between  
Brockport & Bergen  
**494-0220**

C2

©2002  
1136  
P.O. 1  
Roch  
585/5  
800/6  
http/  
e-mail

Presid  
Bish

Gener  
Kare  
kfrai

Editor

Assista  
Jenni  
jficca

Staff W  
Rob C  
rcullif

Mike  
mlato

Staff Ph  
Andr  
adixoi

Editoria  
Louis  
litzzen

Photo In  
James

Busines

Office M  
Mary I  
mdipoi

Circulatio  
Donna  
dstubbi

Administ  
Arlene  
agall@

Graphics

Graphics  
Kim Pai  
kpark@

Graphic A  
Linda Je  
livers@

Advertisi

Account Es  
Tracy M  
tmoses@

Donald F  
dwilson@

Letters P

The Cath  
provide spa  
throughout  
opinions on  
We welcome  
about curre  
church life.

Although  
letter we rec  
possible, to  
representati  
opinions and  
on life in the  
letters for pu  
ly reader inte  
sense of fair  
readers may  
agree or disa  
writers' opini

Letters mu  
words. Anony  
use of pseud  
unacceptable.  
to edit letters  
concerns. Wit  
submitted tex  
spelling only.

Mail letters  
P.O. Box 2437  
14624. Please  
name, phone  
address for pu