

Network News

Network of Religious Communities

1272 Delaware Avenue, Buffalo, NY 14209-2496 • Phone 882-4793 • Fax 882-3797 • www.ReligiousNet.org • ReligiousNet@mac.com

*Facilitating interreligious, ecumenical, and interracial cooperation among
judicatories, congregations, and religious organizations in Western New York and the Niagara Peninsula*

March/April 2003



Please Join Us— Appreciation Dinner May 8

The 23rd Annual Appreciation Dinner, sponsored by the Network of Religious Communities, will begin at 6:00 p.m. on May 8 at the Hearthstone Manor, 333 Dick Road, Depew. The event provides an opportunity for congregations to honor members who have given significant service to their religious organization and/or local community. The speaker for this occasion will be Bishop Marie Jerge of the Upstate New York Synod, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

We invite your congregation to choose an honoree(s), complete the form on Page 4

and return it no later than April 11, 2003. Honorees will receive a personalized plaque. Their names will be printed in the take-home journal and honoree's booklet.

Tickets are \$25 per person. The cost per honoree is \$40 and includes dinner and plaque. Please complete the Ticket Order Form on Page 4 and return with payment to the Network of Religious Communities by April 24, 2003. Tables of ten can be reserved. For additional information, please call 716-882-4793.

—See Ticket & Nomination Forms on Page 4

From Reverend G. Stanford Bratton Co-Executive Director

For they sow the wind, and they shall reap the whirlwind. Hosea 8:7

All who draw the sword will die by the sword. Matthew 26:52

On those who show compassion, God is the most compassionate. Qur'an 12:64

The entrance way of the Network of Religious Communities was filled to capacity from the hour the door was opened until well after the Food Pantry closed. Standing and sitting in the hallway were women, children and men, families and single persons seeking enough food to get through the next several days. I have seen them many times before, but somehow the persons coming to our door in recent months seem a bit more desperate.

As the volunteers filled grocery bags and handed them to our visitors, a radio played in the background. From time to time an announcer on the radio reported our increasing mobilization for war with Iraq.

The volunteers worried about there being enough food to feed all the hungry people. I could not avoid seeing the thread connecting the poor and hungry persons at our door and the drumbeats for war.

Late in the afternoon Doug Anderson, the staff person for Church World Service in Syracuse, called. He asked about the human climate in Buffalo and invited me to visit the Church World Service web site, <http://www.churchworldservice.org/> and to download a recently produced document about the "cost and consequences of a war." Following the call I downloaded the document.

—Cont'd on page 2—From Co-Executive

President:

The Very Reverend Allen Farabee

Co-Executive Directors:

The Reverend Dr. G. Stanford Bratton

The Reverend Francis X. Mazur

Network News

Editor: Maureen Gensler

Guest editorials welcome

Please pass Network News on to others:

- Clergy Secretary
 Lay Leader Newsletter Editor

Deadline For the Next Issue Is May 2

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- Please Help Network Food Pantry

**Network News is also
available at
www.ReligiousNet.org**

Food For All Faith & Hunger Conference March 15

"Healing a Hurting World"



15, 9:00 a.m.-1:45 p.m., at St. Joseph's University Church, 3269 Main Street, Buffalo.

Sr. Beth LeValley, Community Outreach Person for Congresswoman Louise Slaughter, will offer words of inspiration and motivation. Jim Stipe, Northeast Regional Organizer for Bread For the World,

The Food For All Public Policy Committee will co-sponsor with Bread For the World and the Hunger Action Network of New York State the 4th Annual Faith & Hunger Conference, *Healing a Hurting World*. The event will take place on Saturday, March

will travel from Washington, D.C. to speak about this year's Offering of Letter's Campaign, *Rise to the Challenge: End World Hunger*. Joining us from Albany, New York, will be Mark Dunlea, the Associate Director of the Hunger Action Network of New York State. He will speak about the impact the proposed New York State budget will have on people, especially those in need, and how we can effectively voice our concerns. A choice of two workshops, presented by experienced leaders, and an opportunity for action will complete the day.

The registration fee of \$7.50 includes lunch and printed resources. To register, please complete the form and return no later than March 10. For additional information, call Maureen Gensler, Food For All Public Policy Coordinator, at 716-681-2246.

4th Annual Faith & Hunger Conference "Healing a Hurting World"

Pre-Registration Required

Please Print Clearly:

Name _____
 Congregation/Organization _____
 Address _____
 Phone _____ Zip _____
 E-Mail _____

Cost \$7.50 Per Person
 Includes Lunch & Materials
 _____ Number Attending
 \$ _____ Amount Enclosed
 # _____ Choice of Workshop

Make Checks Payable to Food For All and Return by March 10 to:

Food For All Faith & Hunger Conference, 1272 Delaware Avenue, Buffalo NY 14209-2496
 For additional information, please call Maureen Gensler 716-681-2246 or e-mail mgensler@aol.com

Cont'd From page 1—From Co-Executive

What I found suggests more than a thread connecting a possible war with Iraq and the resources available to meet real human needs in our community and beyond. I invite you to download the document and draw your own conclusions (<http://www.churchworldservice.org>)

The document reports that in September 2002 the House Budget Committee estimated the cost of a war with Iraq to be \$93 billion and the first year of military occupation up to \$45 billion; a total of \$139 billion or \$1 million per minute to wage war against Iraq. In contrast \$9 billion a year could provide subsidized housing for every homeless family with children, another \$9 billion could provide health insurance for every uninsured child and \$4 billion would allow us to hire 100,000 new teachers for our schools.

The unbudgeted expenditures for a war with Iraq will occur at the very time when the US is suffering through its worst economic crisis in years. As a nation we have gone from a \$236 billion budget surplus to a \$156 billion deficit. 8.5 million Americans are now out of work and states, including New York, are facing their worst financial crisis since World War II. Who will pay the costs of our hard economic times and a war with Iraq? According to recent federal and state budget proposals it will be those who wait in our hallway

for a small amount of food, the families who live daily with illness because they cannot afford a doctor, and children trying to get an education in our city schools who will pay a disproportionate share.

The children and civilians of the nation of Iraq will also pay an enormous price. At this writing our nation's military is planning a massive bombardment of the City of Baghdad; a city of 5 million human beings. The World Health Organization estimates that a War with Iraq will result in as many as 500,000 casualties among Iraqi civilians with the number of civilian deaths possibly reaching 3.9 million should weapons of mass destruction be used.

There are those who would have us focus our attention on destroying one evil man whatever the costs. They suggest that assessing the costs and consequences of war is somehow unpatriotic and will open the door to more terrorism. I see it differently. I find the major religious traditions teaching that individuals and nations must be aware of the costs and consequences of their actions just as God is aware of them. Even more, as the prophets remind us, the true measure of a person or nation is not the wealth and power they possess, but how they treat the poor and vulnerable. Our security rests not in the power of our munitions, but in the justice and mercy of God. (Is. 10)

—Stan

See \$138 billion alternatives on Page 4 in this newsletter and please visit the Church World Service Web site <http://www.churchworldservice.org/>

World Day of Prayer to Be Celebrated Locally

World Day of Prayer will be celebrated worldwide on March 7, 2003, and at congregations throughout Western New York. The local services are planned annually by Church Women United. World Day of Prayer is observed in more than 145 countries around the world and in more than 20,000 communities in the United States. The services begin on the Tonga Islands west of the dateline and continue throughout the day, encircling the globe until the last service is held on the St. Lawrence Island off the coast of Alaska. For additional information, please call the Church Women United office at 716-882-4793. World Day of Prayer Celebrations will be held at the following locations on March 7:

Blessed Sacrament RC Church, 263 Claremont, Kenmore
Cleveland Heights Christian Church, 4774 Union Road, Cheektowaga
Faith Lutheran Church, 1230 Bowen Road, Elma
First Baptist Church, 122 Main Street, Akron
Friendship Baptist Church, 402 Clinton Street, Buffalo

Holy Cross Lutheran Church, 633 Church Street, Farnham
Immaculate Conception RC Church, 8791 Main Street, Eden
North Presbyterian Church, 300 North Forest Road, Williamsville
Orchard Park Presbyterian Church, 4369 So. Buffalo Rd., Orchard Park
Pilgrim St. Luke UCC Church, 335 Richmond Avenue, Buffalo
Roland United Methodist Church, 168 Roland Avenue, Lackawanna
St. George's RC Church, Old Glenwood Avenue, West Falls
St. John the Baptist RC Church, 60 Hertel Avenue, Buffalo
St. John's Lutheran Church, 55 Pleasant Avenue, Lancaster
St. John's RC Church, 6895 Boston Cross, Boston
St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Route 219, Ellicottville
St. Paul's RC Church, 47 Victoria Boulevard, Kenmore
St. Peter & Paul RC Church, 38 Pine Street, Eden
Trinity United Methodist Church, 2100 Whitehaven Rd., Grand Island
Zion Lutheran Church, Porter Avenue, Silver Creek
Zion UCC, Parker and Koenig, Tonawanda

Celebrations will also be held at the United Church Home and Beechwood Residence.



19th Annual Growth In Ministry Seminar Planned

Made to Fight Tigers, But Called to Serve People: Self Care For the Care Giver is the theme of the 19th Annual Growth in Ministry Seminar to take place Monday and Tuesday, 8:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m., March 31-April 1, 2003, at Trinity Old Lutheran Church, 3445 Sheridan Drive, Amherst. The two-day seminar, led by Linda Eaton, focuses on managing stress and time in the context of the unique demands and needs of clergy, social workers, and others in lay ministry. The seminar is sponsored by Catholic Charities, Episcopal Community Services, the Lutheran Service Society of New York, and the Samaritan Pastoral Counseling Center.

Linda Eaton is an internationally acclaimed seminar leader and motivational speaker on the topics of Time and Stress Management, and Work/Family Balance with strong ties to the religious communities.

Full registration is \$115 (\$105 before March 15); student registration \$75. For additional information and to request a brochure, call the Samaritan Pastoral Counseling Center at 716-743-9117. Outside Erie and Niagara Counties, call 800-660-5053.



Canisius & Network Sponsor Lectures

"Conversations in Christ and Culture" is an ongoing lecture, workshop and conference series within the Buffalo/Niagara Region. It is designed to foster conversations

about important issues involving the relationship between Christianity and culture. It promotes cooperation and understanding across religious, gender and ethnic lines. The series is sponsored by the Canisius Center for the Global Study of Religion and the Network of Religious Communities. The following lectures are planned for 2003.

At 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, March 6, Dr. Anne Foerst will speak about *Theology, Human Nature and Artificial Intelligence* at the Grupp Fireside Lounge in the Student Center of Canisius College. Dr. Foerst is Professor of Theology and Computer Science at St. Bonaventure University.

Can There Be a Just War? A Dialogue From Different Perspectives will take place on April 1, 7:30 p.m., at the Montante Cultural Center. In this timely event, Dr. Martin Cook, Professor of Military Ethics at the Army War College will dialogue with David Robinson, the national director of Pax Christi on the question of whether war can be justified. Cook is an advocate of traditional "just war" theory, while Robinson maintains a pacifist perspective.

Joan Chittister, OSB, will be the guest speaker at an Affiliate Lecture: *Struggle & Spirituality*, on Friday and Saturday, July 25-26 (times to be announced), at St. Mark's Anglican Church, Niagara-On-The-Lake, Ontario. Sr. Joan Chittister has been a leading voice in contemporary spirituality and church and world issues for more than 25 years.

All lectures are free and open to the public. A nonperishable food item is requested for food pantry donation. For additional information call Dr. Timothy Wadkins at 716-888-2824 or e-mail wadkins@canisius.edu.

The Cost of War

The world faces the prospect of imminent war in Iraq. Government sources report that a new war will cost American tax-payers up to \$93 billion and the first year of military occupation up to \$45 billion—a total of \$138 billion. (House Budget Committee Democratic Staff, “Assessing the Cost of Military Action Against Iraq” 9-23-02; Congressional Budget Office, “Estimated Costs of a Potential Conflict with Iraq” 9-30-02).

The Center for Economic and Social Rights and Church World Service have produced a document, “Costs and Consequences of War and Sanctions.” The document, available at www.churchworldservice.org, contains a list of alternatives to spending on a war in Iraq.

\$138 Billion Alternatives (Estimated Cost of War Plus One Year of Occupation)

- **Teach Our Children**—For \$4 billion we could hire 100,000 new teachers for our schools.¹
- **Food Aid**—For \$7 billion annually we could provide food stamps to those eligible but not served.¹
- **Health Care for Kids**—For \$9 billion a year we could provide health insurance to every uninsured child.^{1,2}
- **Homeless Children**—For \$9 billion a year we could provide subsidized housing for every homeless family with children.^{1,2}
- **Fighting Global AIDS**—For \$10 billion per year we can fully fund the global fight against AIDS.^{3,4}
- **Providing Safe Water to All**—For \$16 billion per year we can provide safe drinking water to all the world’s children in need and prevent two million deaths every year from water-borne diseases.^{5,6}
- **Rehabilitate Our Schools**—For \$33 billion we could rehabilitate 25 % of our 59,000 public schools in need.⁷

- **UN Millennium Development Goals**—For \$50 billion annually we could cut world hunger in half, provide primary education for all children, and reduce childhood deaths by 2/3, among other noble goals.⁸

¹ Speeter, Greg, FPIF, *Redefining Security: A Budget for A New Generation*, 4-01

² *CDF 2002 Report*

³ Global AIDS Fund

⁴ Center on Budget and Policy Priorities

⁵ *WHO/UNICEF Global Water Supply and Sanitation Assessment 2000 Report*

⁶ *Implementing the 20/20 Initiative*, joint report of UNDP, UNESCO, UNICEF, WHO, and the World Bank, 1998

⁷ *National Center for Education Statistics Statistical Analysis Report*, 6-00

⁸ UNDP Millennium Development Goals project

Appreciation Dinner Ticket Order Form

_____ Regular Tickets @ \$25/person \$ _____
 # _____ Honoree Tickets* @ \$40/person \$ _____
 Total Amount Enclosed \$ _____

Name of Honoree _____

Congregation _____

Address _____

_____ Zip _____

Contact Person _____

Phone _____

* Price of honoree ticket includes dinner and personalized award plaque

Return with payment by April 24 to:

Network of Religious Communities
 1272 Delaware Avenue, Buffalo, NY 14209-2496

Appreciation Dinner Nomination Form

Must be returned on or before April 11, 2003, to have honorees name on a plaque and in the program

We wish to nominate for our 2003 Religious Service Award:

Name _____

We have chosen this person because (in 75 words or less): _____

Suggested brief introduction of honoree: _____

Return by April 11 to: Network of Religious Communities, 1272 Delaware Avenue, Buffalo, NY 14209-2496.

ICE To Sponsor “Trade Show” May 2

The Interfaith Coalition on Energy of WNY (ICE) is hosting an Energy and Environment Fair on Friday, May 2, 2003. The program will be held at the Center for Tomorrow on UB’s north campus. While the agenda is not yet finalized, we expect to begin with a key-note address in mid-morning, after which exhibits in a trade show format will be available to peruse at your leisure throughout the afternoon. The program is intended to equip religious organizations to be better stewards of energy and our environment as well as their own (finite) financial resources, but is open to the public and all interested parties are invited to attend.

Vendors will have information on green power options available from the local electric utilities, funding opportunities for energy conservation measures from the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA), new lighting and boiler technology, technical assistance resources and general energy conservation information. We also plan to have information about the Green Schools program, including energy conservation curricula appropriate to elementary and secondary school levels.

Short presentations will be scheduled on a rotating basis throughout the day on green power options, NYSERDA funding opportunities and new technology products/concepts. An idea exchange center will be available for registrants to share their success stories and energy conservation tips.

The cost to register will be \$10 per person if paid in advance, \$15 if paid at the door and will include refreshments throughout the day. The registration cost will be capped at \$50 per organization if paid in advance. Please encourage your administrators, teachers, maintenance staff, trustees, deacons and anyone else concerned about energy and our environment to attend.

Registration information will be sent to your organization in March. Individuals that would like to receive this information directly may contact Maureen Gensler at mggensler@aol.com or 716-681-2246 to ask to be placed on ICE’s first class mailing list.

Questions about the program may be directed to Viki Ingersoll, ICE Technical Liaison, at Vingersoll@Buffalodiocese.org or 716-847-8389.

Green Power Alternatives Available

NYSEG and Niagara Mohawk, electric utilities serving western New York, are offering “green” power alternatives to their customers. This “green” power is produced using renewable resources, such as wind, bio-mass, solar and low-impact hydro plants. While it will cost more than the regular cost of electricity to purchase “green” power, doing so will support increased development of these alternatives, eventually bringing the price in line with existing sources.

You do not need to leave your existing utility company to select a “green” power provider. If you enroll in one of the available programs, you will continue to have electricity delivered, and power lines and meters maintained, by your existing utility company.

The “green” power supplier will deliver power from their generation sources onto the electric grid, based on the amount of electricity you contract for. This will reduce the amount of power obtained from the other generation sources now used.

Information about Niagara Mohawk’s program may be obtained by visiting niagramohawk.com. Under *Energy Choice*, select *Programs and Services*. Information about NYSEG’s program may be obtained by visiting NYSEG.com and selecting *Catch the Wind* under *Products and Services For Your Home*. You may also call the customer service number on your electric bill to discuss these options with a customer service representative.

April Is Fair Housing Month

Fair Housing Month is a time to lift up the issue of housing discrimination. People are losing their homes and finding themselves deeply in debt because they have not been told of high interest rates and/or hidden costs at the time of purchase. Speakers are available to help groups understand the problems of predatory lending.

Also, the Erie County Fair Housing Partnership in cooperation with Gary Earl Ross has written and published a book called “Dots,” designed to help children understand housing discrimination. It is hoped that if we teach our children about these concerns, they will be prepared to prevent these acts in the future.

Finally, Housing Opportunities Made Equal, Inc. has a group of people called the HOME Players, who enact plays and skits, which teach people about the problems some people face every day. The HOME Players can be scheduled to come and perform at your congregation or organization.

Please help the Erie County Fair Housing Partnership spread the word that justice should be for all Western New York residents. For more information on Predatory Lending, speakers, the HOME Players or the “Dots” book, call Cathy Braniecki at 716-847-2395, Merle Showers at 716-832-3233 or Ann Huiner at 716-854-1400.

Calendar of Events

March 2, 4:00 p.m.

Winter Concert: J. S. Bach's *St. John Passion*

St. Paul's Cathedral, 128 Pearl Street, Buffalo; general admission \$12 in advance, \$15 at the door; for information call 716-855-0900.

March 2, 5:00 p.m.

***Life & Debt*, a Documentary by Stephanie Black**

First Presbyterian Church, One Symphony Circle; for information call 716-884-7250.

March 6, 7:30 p.m.

Conversations in Christ & Culture Series, "Theology, Human Nature & Artificial Intelligence"

Grupp Fireside Lounge of the Student Center of Canisius College; see page 3.

March 6, 7:30 p.m.

The Dosberg Notable Speaker Series: *World Jewry*

Jewish Community Center, Benderson Building, 2640 North Forest Road, Getzville; Presenter David Harris, Jewish Rights Advocate; tickets \$8; for information and to reserve a ticket by credit card, call 716-886-7750.

March 7

World Day of Prayer

Locations throughout Western New York; see page 3.

March 8, 12:00 Noon

"Step Into Spring" Salad Bar Luncheon & Fashion Show

Central Presbyterian Church, 50 Jewett Parkway, Buffalo; sponsored by Church Women United; call 882-4793 for reservations

March 12, 8:00 p.m.-March 14, 12:00 noon

Annual 40-Hour Fast, *Replacing Greed With Justice*

Sponsored by the NYS Labor Religion Coalition; for information call Maria Whyte at 716-892-5877.

March 15, 9:00-1:45 p.m.

4th Annual Faith & Hunger Conference: "Healing a Hurting World"

St. Joseph's University Church, 3269 Main Street, Buffalo; sponsored by Food For All/Network of Religious Communities; see page 2.

March 31-April 1

Growth in Ministry Seminar, "Made to Fight Tigers, But Called to Serve People"

Trinity Old Lutheran Church, 3445 Sheridan Drive, Amherst; see page 3.

April 1, 7:30 p.m.

Conversations in Christ & Culture Series, "A Dialogue on Just War"

Montante Cultural Center of Canisius College; see page 3.

May 2

ICE "Trade Show"

Center For Tomorrow, UB North Campus; see page 5.

May 2

Network News Deadline

Send articles/announcements to Maureen Gensler at the Network office; phone 716-681-2246; fax 882-3797; mkgensler@aol.com.

May 8, 6:00 p.m.

23rd Annual Appreciation Dinner

Hearthstone Manor, 333 Dick Road, Depew; sponsored by the Network of Religious Communities; see page 1.

Don't Miss Out

News & Calendar Updates Now Available By E-Mail

Network News is published quarterly. Between issues, there are often news items and announcements of religious activities and events.

Now you can get the latest news and calendar updates at our website www.religiousnet.org.

And . . . you can have up-to-the-minute news and announcements delivered directly to your e-mail address.

To subscribe, just send your name, the name of your congregation/religious organization, and your e-mail address to:

religiousnet@mac.com. You'll be glad you did.

Announcing the 2003 Riefler Ministry Enablement Awards

Amount Ministry	Sponsoring Organization
\$ 6,000	Lighthouse Free Medical Clinic Resurrection Lutheran Church
3,250	Sharing the Vision & the Good News Network of Religious Communities
1,000	Together We Serve Masjid Nu'Man Mosque & Cleveland Hill Lutheran Church
3,000	Signs For Our Time Trustees, Network of Religious Communities
2,000	Drummers For Peace Westside Mennonite Church
500	Taking It to the Streets Rally God's Ministry of Deliverance, Inc.
2,500	Weekend Retreat For Persons AIDS Family Services
3,000	Centennial Dining Room Centennial AME Zion Church
3,000	Nehemiah Arms Shelter True Bethel Baptist Church
1,000	Buffalo Lutheran Employment Service Lutheran Ventures in Human Services
2,000	Operation Good Neighbor Lakeshore Association of Christians
4,000	Conversations in Christ & Culture Canisius College Center of Global Studies
3,000	The Forum Summer Youth The Bridge to Building Community
500	Christian Heritage Festival Elim Christian Fellowship
1,000	Lockport Area VOICE Lockport-Area Churches
2,500	Building Community Ministry Pilgrim-St. Luke's United Church of Christ
\$38,250	Total

Television	Channel	Day	Time
Story Time Puppets Puppet Therapist Janet McDonald, Co-Host Dan Mackowiak, and Jr. Puppeteers tell stories with a positive message to children, parents, and teachers	20 Adelphia	Every Friday	7:35 p.m.
Challenge for the 21st Century Making the connection between faith and life commitments; Moderator Rev. Dr. G. Stanford Bratton, Co-Executive Director, Network of Religious Communities	7 WKBW	1st Saturday	7:00 a.m.
Kaleidoscope Multi-faith program featuring segments on religious activities and matters of concern in the community	2 WGRZ 20 Adelphia	1st Sunday Every Friday	6:30 a.m. 6:35 p.m.
In Process Discussion of today's issues as they relate to the religious community; Moderator Rev. Dr. G. Stanford Bratton, Co-Executive Director, Network of Religious Communities	4 WIVB 20 Adelphia	2nd Sunday Every Wednesday	5:30 a.m. 5:35 p.m.
Radio	Channel	Day	Time
Crossroads Life experience interviews; rotation of regular monthly hosts	96.1 WJYE-FM	Every Sunday	6:00 a.m.

~Tune In~

Network of Religious Communities' Radio and Television Ministry Offers a Variety of Quality Programs

Become a Member of the Network of Religious Communities

Membership Form Congregation/Religious Organization

- Our congregation would like to join the Network and we agree with the purposes. Enclosed is our 1-year membership contribution of:
 - \$100 for congregation with 100 or more members.
 - \$50 for congregation with less than 100 members.
- Our religious organization would like to join the Network and we agree with the purposes.
 - Enclosed is our 1-year membership contribution of \$50.
- We have also enclosed a special gift of \$_____ to support the work of the Network.
- We would like more information. Please contact us.

Date _____
 Congregation/Religious Organization _____

 Address _____
 _____ Zip _____
 Phone _____ Fax _____
 E-Mail _____
 Contact person _____

Please send completed form to:
 Network of Religious Communities
 1272 Delaware Avenue, Buffalo, New York 14209-2496

The Purposes of the Network are:

- To facilitate communication and increased understanding among the members and between the members and the wider community;
- To foster cooperation within and between the faith communities to which the members belong;
- To facilitate collaboration in areas of common concern and in response to needs in the wider community; and
- To promote justice, peace and the common good in Western New York and the Niagara Peninsula of Ontario.

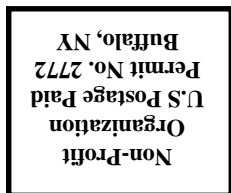
Membership Form Individual

- I would like to join the Network and I agree with the purposes.
- Enclosed is my 1-year membership contribution of \$25.
- I have also enclosed a special gift of \$_____ to support the work of the Network.
- I would like more information. Please contact me.

Date _____
 Name _____
 Address _____
 _____ Zip _____
 Phone _____ Fax _____
 E-Mail _____

Please send completed form to:
 Network of Religious Communities
 1272 Delaware Avenue, Buffalo, New York 14209-2496

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



Network of Religious Communities
1272 Delaware Avenue, Buffalo NY 14209-2496

Please Help! Network Food Pantry Stretched to the Limit!

The Network of Religious Communities' Food Pantry, at 1272 Delaware Avenue, Buffalo, is open every weekday from 9:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m. and is staffed by volunteers. During the year 2002 the pantry served 12,583 people, including 3,244 children. There were 787 more people requesting food assistance than in 2001. Some of the first-time visitors are recently unemployed.

At times, persons in need are turned away due to insufficient availability of food. The Network Pantry receives food from the Food Bank and the Food Shuttle of Western New York, but depends most heavily on the generosity of local congregations and organizations for donations of nonperishable food items. Congregations also collect monetary donations for the Pantry, necessary for the purchase of supplementary food. In recent months, there has been a significant decrease in the amount of food and funds donated to the Pantry. This was especially evident during the months of November and December, just when requests for assistance increased.

Have You Changed Your Address?

Please help us update the *Network News* mailing list. If your name and/or address are incorrect on the mailing label, complete the form and return to the Network office. Also include a copy of the label attached to this newsletter so that we can make the correction in the database. Thanks for your help!

There are three ways you can help: (1) organize a food drive in your congregation; (2) volunteer your time and publicize the need for volunteers through your congregation's newsletter or weekly bulletin; and (3) collect and send a contribution designated for the Food Pantry to the Network of Religious Communities, 1272 Delaware Avenue, Buffalo, New York 14209-2496.

We meet people every day who are in desperate situations. We don't want to send them away empty handed. Please help!

**My name and address should appear as follows on the
Network News mailing list:**

Name _____
Organization _____
Address _____
_____ Zip _____
Phone _____

- Please add my name to the mailing list.
- Please remove my name from the mailing list.

Send completed form and copy of label to:

Maureen Gensler, Network of Religious Communities
1272 Delaware Avenue, Buffalo, NY 14209-2496
FAX: 716-882-3797