

# Requests for holiday help pile up at Duns Scotus

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Photos: MINDY SAUNDERS

Somebody out there needs you.

She may be a mother on welfare assistance, an unemployed breadwinner or the head of a low-income family.

According to Brother Martin at Duns Scotus College and Seminary, more than 325 requests for holiday help have already come through the mails to his attention.

At Thanksgiving, Brother Martin and the other Franciscan Friars, as well as volunteers in the community, were able to see that 200 families had food on their holiday table.

"A big response from the public to newspaper notices made it possible for us to help that many," Brother Martin said.

"We never got so many donations before."

Today, the shelves that hold canned foods at Duns Scotus are nearly empty with just a few leftovers from the Thanksgiving donors.

A large green foil covered box with a Santa Claus on the front is empty and waiting for the wrapped gifts the Friars expect from school children and other donors.

"Thanksgiving and Christmas are our main programs of help for the needy," Brother Martin said. "But we have a year-round program of supplying food, clothes and even limited financial help."

WE HAVE a lot/more applications for help this

year, said Brother Francis.

"A little kid can't really understand why they can't get toys like any other child," he said.

The two Friars said most of their requests come by mail. When received, the volunteers at Duns Scotus send back a card telling the family when to come to the Southfield seminary for their gift certificates for food and toys.

"Mostly we give out certificates," Brother Martin said.

"When we started back in 1970, there were only a few families with whom we would shop, wrap the gifts and even deliver them."

"Our new method works quite well. We process the requests and they get the certificates."

"That way the children can think their gift is from Santa Claus."

Students at Duns Scotus will be home enjoying their holiday with their own families when the program gets into full swing. This is because many of the wrapped toys and food gifts come from schools and other organizations and they come at the last minute.

"Fortunately, we have a group of dedicated volunteers who help us," Brother Francis said.

"OUR STAFF members will be here for religious services, though some who live within a few hundred miles get a short leave to spend with their families."

"We have daily religious services, seven days a week, year-round."

The biggest fear of the friars is that they might have to turn down some people who are in need.

"But we may have to disappoint some," Brother Martin said. "We have to handle what we can."

He said the procedure is to process mail requests first. Each applicant is asked to send a medical health card which gives the names of all the family members or a copy of that.

"We prefer the mail requests, but toward the end we always get phone calls for help. We leave them to the last but will try to give them aid as well."

The letters asking for help are still arriving each day at Duns Scotus.

Every request and those made by phone as well can be answered if the public joins forces with the friars and volunteers at college.

There are several ways to help.

• Send a cash donation to enable purchases of gift certificates for toys and food items.

• Drop off wrapped gifts and toys at the seminary. Gifts should be marked as to appropriate age ranges if applicable.

• Donations of food, such as turkeys, hams and other canned goods may be dropped off to see that no family goes hungry.

• It is possible to sponsor a particular family and become more involved with the poor. The seminary will supply the names and ages of children in the family. Packages should be brought just before Christmas and the friars will see that they are delivered.

Anyone requiring more information about the program can call either Brother Martin or Brother Francis at 357-3072.



Brother Francis (left) and Brother Martin sort through some of the more than 300 requests for food, clothing and Christmas gifts they have received thus far at Duns Scotus. Unfortunately,

the Franciscan Friars say, their supply of goods is far below the amount requested. (Staff photo by Mindy Saunders)

## OCC really means business

The business administration and the business education departments at Oakland Community College's Orchard Ridge campus are offering new courses during the winter term.

The business administration department offers a course in personal finance featuring community leaders lecturing in various areas of money management.

Speakers include Abraham Seleny, a Southfield attorney speaking on consumers' legal rights; James Flynn of Royal Oak and a mortgage officer at First Federal Savings of Detroit speaking on home mortgages; Gerald Sheldon, president of Crambrook Realtors of Southfield-Lathrup and the 1979 winner of the Realtor of the Year award for south Oakland County speaks on buying and selling a home. Harold Greenblatt, manager of the Southfield office of American United Life Insurance speaks on buying life insurance. He is

joined by William Mayer, president of Keys Insurance Agency of Lathrup Village discussing auto and homeowners' insurance; Dr. Jeffrey Barry, president of Walsh College, Troy concentrating on goal oriented budgets and investments and Norton Stern, president of professional benefit plan will speak on investing.

In addition, Carl Siegel, a Southfield tax attorney will talk about income tax and other taxes.

CLYDE BURTRUM, president of a Flint furrier concern will lecture on running a small successful business and Palmiro Leemon a Farmington Hills attorney will speak about money, banking and the economy.

The class meets Wednesdays beginning Jan. 9 at 7 p.m. Tuition and fees for area residents is \$67. The class is open to anyone regardless of educational background. The section number is

BUS 141 or 744. For further information call 476-9400, extension 406 or 408.

The business education department will offer a course concerning technological advances in business equipment.

Word Processing/Text Editing, SEC 206, will be offered on Mondays from 6-10 p.m. The course is designed to provide the student with a brief theoretical base for word processing as well as experience on an IBM Memory typewriter, the IBM 50 and 60 electronic typewriters and Redactor II word processing equipment. Prerequisites for the course are a minimum typing speed of 45 words per minute and a knowledge of setups or satisfactory completion of Intermediate Typing.

Further information on this course and the full range of secretarial courses offered during the evening can be obtained by calling the department at 476-9400, extension 400.

## Get set to kick cigarette habit

Smokers who really want to "kick the habit" for the '80s will get all the help they need Jan. 6, when "The Great New Year's Cigarette Send-Off" comes to Detroit's Cobo Hall.

"This is more than just a public demonstration against smoking," explained Tom Banas, executive director of the American Lung Association of

Southeastern Michigan, the event's sponsor.

The two complete sessions offered, at 1-4 p.m. or 6-9 p.m., will accommodate up to 7,000 people, making this the largest known anti-smoking program.

Tickets, priced at \$12, are available at all metro Hudson's ticket offices, or by calling 961-1697.



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