

## ...e of service



Photo by Douglas Kaup

...ies to work on a volunteer basis with  
...utler County.

# Catholic-Bruderhof talks begin officially

NEW YORK (CNS) — A new ecumenical dialogue has been announced to bring Catholics into conversation with the Bruderhof (Society of Brothers), a small pacifist group of German origin that shares the pro-life position of Catholics.

Five members of the Bruderhof, which has six of its eight communities in the northeastern United States and the other two in England, met Oct. 6 in New York with Cardinal Edward Cassidy, president of the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity.

Two Bruderhof communities are in Fayette County, Pennsylvania, south of Pittsburgh.

The Bruderhof movement originated in the 1920s with the desire of Eberhard Arnold, a minister of the German Lutheran Church, to build a community that would live according to the Sermon on the Mount and the model of sharing goods found in the Acts of the Apostles.

They currently support themselves through such

activities as making furniture.

Eberhard Arnold came into conflict with the Nazis, and after his death in 1935, the Bruderhof members were driven out of Germany. They went first to England and then to Paraguay, but began transferring to the United States in 1961.

The current leader — Johann Christoph Arnold, a grandson of the founder — succeeded his father in 1982.

Arnold said his grandfather found his principles had been taught by Anabaptists of the 16th century, and for a time he became connected to the Hutterites, one of the groups continuing that tradition.

But the reluctance of the Hutterites to make their witness in the outside world and open themselves to change led to a separation, he said.

Arnold said the Bruderhof is strongly pro-life, and expressed this not only in pacifism but also in opposition to abortion, capital punishment, euthanasia and physician-assisted suicide.

“If you have been diagnosed