

COURIER-JOURNAL

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2 Sections

Bishop Hogan Opens Antipoverty Drive



Today, more than 8.1 million people in the United States live in conditions officially recognized as

below the poverty level. A collection for the poor of our country will be taken up Sunday, Nov. 22.

The Diocese of Rochester this week began the most intensive effort ever undertaken to understand and remove the root causes of poverty.

Announcing the diocesan share in the national Campaign for Human Development organized by the U.S. Catholic Bishops, Bishop Hogan in a pastoral letter and radio address called for "a continuous financial and educational effort to break the chain of the hellish circle of want that enslaves millions of our fellow Americans."

The Bishop explained the two phase program of fund-raising and education as a "year-round effort to help people build a national will to end the poverty that entraps one out of every five people in our nation."

(Please turn to page 22A for the complete text of Bishop Hogan's pastoral letter read in all churches last Sunday.)

On next Sunday, Nov. 22, a collection will be taken up in all churches of the nation toward a \$50 million Catholic fund to support self-help projects by the poor. It is expected to produce \$5 to \$7 million dollars nationally this year. Probably \$75 to \$90 thousand will be raised in the diocese.

By national agreement of the U.S. Bishops, one out of every four dollars collected will remain in the individual diocese for area problems. Its distribution will be directed by a local committee and will be restricted to projects which will attempt to remove the causes of poverty. The financial support for self-help enterprises will not duplicate existing relief or charities.

Bishop Hogan announced that the diocesan Office of Human Concern which presently directs all urban and rural social welfare programs will henceforth be known as the "Office of Human Development" and will be responsible for the administration of the total program in every area of the diocese.

In a radio talk on the Family Rosary program hookup of WSAY, Rochester, and six stations covering the diocese, the Bishop explained the educational phase of the campaign:

"Our educational effort will be a year-round program to lead the people of God to a new knowledge of today's welfare problems. The keynote slogan of the campaign is 'For God's Sake' — a phrase which makes God the focal point of the campaign and its essential motivation."

Citing government statistics the Bishop described a family of four as "poor" whose annual income is \$3,553 or less. He said there were 8.1 million

The Office of Human Development

How the Diocese Administers Self-Help for Poor

By ALEX McDONALD

The new responsibility of the diocesan Office of Human Development, formerly called the Office of Human Concern, to administer new self-help projects in the diocese as part of the national Catholic war on poverty, raises the question: "What has this Office been doing?"

The Office of Human Concern was established in 1967 to supervise two apostolates: an Urban Ministry for social projects in the city of Rochester and a rural thrust, called the Secular Mission, for disadvantaged peoples in rural areas of the diocese.

Presently funded at \$48,000 annually from the Pastoral Office and directed by Father John Hempel, its staff includes

two other priests, Fathers Timothy Weider and George Gauthier, a Deacon-in-training, three Sisters of Mercy and three Sisters of St. Joseph, plus several lay assistants.

The rural ministry has the following activities:

- Project REACH at Perkinville in Steuben Co. Father Weider, caring for migrants and poor resettlers in that area, maintains a day-care center and nursery, a medical-dental clinic and a self-help, low-income housing operation.

Father Weider is also the administrator of Sacred Heart parish where REACH is centered but his mission includes some 19,000 poverty-stricken people in the county.

- Houses of Concern in Penn

Yan and Seneca Falls-Waterloo areas. These are human needs centers, ecumenically orientated and staffed by women of ten Christian churches of the area. The Houses stand ready to meet immediate needs of poor people who apply, and constantly work toward social change in the area.

- House of Concern in Lyons is run by the black community to assist 15,000 disadvantaged people in Wayne County.

- The Rushville Clinic in Yates County offers medical-dental assistance and other aids to the migrants and rural poor of that area.

- Western Monroe Co. Community Action Program for self-help low-income housing and adult education receives some funding from the Human Concern Office.

The work of the city-side of the Office of Human Concern is an operation called the Joint Office of Urban Ministry in which the diocese has joined the Rochester Area Council of Churches to meet the needs of disadvantaged here, especially the black and Puerto Rican communities.

Projects of the urban ministry are:

- To develop strategy and tactics to bring about social change in Rochester in areas

of housing, unemployment, education and all welfare problems.

- Urbex Affiliates, a diocesan funded training organization to direct middle-class and upper-class groups in understanding and resolving social issues in a process-oriented way.

- A money-share in: breakfast program for poor children; Joseph Avenue Academy, run by Mercy Sisters, for educationally-disadvantaged children; tuition fees for children unable to pay in inner-city parochial schools; a black-operated Virginia Wilson Center; MICA, the Metropolitan Inter Church Agency in the Elmira and Corning area.

Father Hempel and staff are also involved in the workings of the Bishop Sheen Housing Foundation which has raised and spent some \$50,000 to help approximately 26 families in Rochester's inner-city, Geneva

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