

Bishop Urges Help For Overseas Fund

My dear People:

You are right! This is another begging letter and I am not only not ashamed to write it but consider it a privilege and responsibility to add volume to the anguished cries of the wretched of the earth.

These are our brothers and sisters in the one family under God — a third world that encircles the earth that haunts us with its hunger and thirst and desperate plight just to maintain existence—that challenges us to open our eyes to the inequities of a society that has created this blight and to open our hearts to a realization that the only really human society is one in which men have learned to share the abundance of God's gifts.

I join with my brother bishops throughout the country today in this Lenten appeal to your Christian conscience. On next Sunday in all of our churches we will have the traditional Laetare Sunday Collection known as the American Catholic Overseas Fund. It is our special opportunity to respond to the challenge of Lent: Can I be convicted of being a Christian?

The II Vatican Council reminds us of our common vocation: "The joys and hopes, the

griefs and the anxieties of the men of this age, especially those who are poor or in any way afflicted, these too are the joys, the hopes and the griefs and the anxieties of the followers of Christ."

I sadly report that last year's appeal fell 15 per cent below our national gift of previous years. This obviously necessitated the curtailment of vital programs of our Catholic Relief Services and the turning of deaf ears to the pleas of the desperate.

Next Sunday, March 21, the Church announces joy to the faithful Christian. The meaning of this message is experienced only by those who have accepted the challenge of the Cross which Christ carries today in the person of the poor, the disadvantaged and the suffering.

May our response to His Cross merit for all of us the joy He has promised to the generous disciple.

With a blessing, I am
Devotedly yours in Christ.

Joseph L. Hayes
Bishop of Rochester



A Pair of Bishops

Worcester, Mass. — (RNS) — Roman Catholic Bishop Bernard J. Flanagan of Worcester (left) and recently installed Episcopal Bishop Alexander D. Stewart of Western Massachusetts enter Worcester's St. Paul's Roman Catholic Cathedral to preside at a "Service of Witness and Celebration." The Sunday afternoon prayer service was offered for the intention of the participants in the joint Anglican-Catholic dialogue studying organic union of the two denominations.

In his homily during the service, Bishop Stewart said both churches were "in substantial agreement on the fundamentals of the faith and the nature of the ministry." The challenge to members of both churches, he said, "as members of one, holy, catholic and apostolic church" is to "live with such a quality that this world would not make sense if God did not exist."

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Poverty Fund Tops \$8.4 Million

Washington — (RNS) — The nation's Catholics gave more than \$8.4 million to fight the U.S. bishops' war on poverty. It was the largest collection ever taken within the church in this country.

The results of the first Campaign for Human Development were announced here by Auxiliary Bishop Michael R. Dempsey of Chicago, national director. He indicated that the funding program would focus on poor housing, inadequate education, lack of job training and legal services, and the dearth of adequate health care for the poor. Initial grants will be made July 1.

The money contributed in parish collections throughout the U.S. in November totaled \$8,428,847. (The Rochester diocese gave \$130,000.)

Bishop Dempsey, at a news conference here, stressed that the money was only part of a campaign, which "seeks to inform the people of America about the facts of poverty," and create "a greater solidarity between those who do not suffer material want, and their brothers in need."

The emphasis in funding is to be placed on projects which not only benefit the poor, but in which the poor "have a dominant voice in planning, directing and implementing."

Bishop Dempsey urged American Catholics to keep alive their "spirit of Christian concern," in the realization that the work has only just begun.

'Walk for Water' Slated for April

The 1971 Walk for Water, the Monroe County Conservation Council's communitywide event to obtain the support of area residents to "Outpace Pollution" will be held Sunday, April 25 at 11 a.m.

Plans for the fund-raising event were outlined recently by Dr. Joseph Barra, chairman of the walk. He said he hopes that participation will be at least double the 1,000 hikers, who last year picked up an average of nearly \$20 per person, and first-hand information about Rochester's environment along the 10-mile route.

Last year's Walk for Water attracted national attention among conservationists.

Research financed from the proceeds provided summer employment for students in conducting tests of the waters near most of the state's main population centers, air pollution studies in Monroe County, checks on mercury contamination of fish in Lake Ontario and the Niagara and St. Lawrence Rivers, monitoring of radioactivity near plants working with nuclear fuels, development of an educational slide show on pollution for schools, and other related projects.



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