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Bishop Joseph L. Hogan annoints Mrs. Wharmby in rites at St. Ann's.

Answer to CICP

Bishop Hogan Challenges All To Help Poor

During the three years that I have been in office I have repeatedly emphasized that the primary concern of the Church in this diocese must be directed toward the poor and underprivileged.

A recent painful decision affecting six inner city parishes is not intended to alter this emphasis.

Decisions have to be made within the framework of reality and the reality is the limited financial resources of the diocese.

The parishes affected by this decision represent only one aspect of the Rochester Diocese's commitment to the poor. The Office of Human Development, the Spanish Apostolate, and the Secular Mission will require operating revenues amounting to \$80,000 and together with the six inner city parishes will be receiving one third of the total of diocesan revenues obtained annually through parish assessments.

It should also be remembered that while six parishes are presently receiving financial assistance from the diocese there are others which might easily qualify for the same kind of aid but which are prevented from doing so simply because the money is not available.

Because of the financial crisis and the escalating cost of the schools, the CICP budget request showed an increase of \$150,000 over the previous year. The amount approved does not represent a cut from the previous year's budget but rather an increase of \$50,000.

The discouraging prospect of public monies for education and the fiscal reality of parish fi-

nances across the board necessitates the action we have taken.

I realize the whole diocese must have concern for the poor wherever they are, be it inner city or rural areas.

I issue the following challenges:

I challenge the CICP to define its mission to the poor to me and to develop programs that meet these needs within their financial limitations.

I challenge all people and priests of the diocese to be more responsive to the needs of the poor by sharing their material resources.

I challenge the Office of Finance to develop creative ways of raising new monies which will allow the diocese to add new dimensions to its mission of the Church.

I challenge the department of education to work with the CICP to develop quality educational approaches in the schools of the inner city.

I want to make it clear that this decision was not made, and I repeat, was not made by taking only the advice of my financial advisors.

My financial advisors do not dictate policy in the diocese. They merely inform me about the funds that are available.

An open meeting of the priests of the diocese on May 2 made it very clear to me that the pastors generally felt an unwillingness or inability to accept a surtax for meeting the inner city school needs. Following this open meeting the Priests' Council recommended the following:

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A Special Confirmation

Text and photo by
Laurence E. Keefe

In a simple confirmation ceremony last Thursday afternoon,

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Bishop Joseph L. Hogan annointed William R. Myers and Susan Wharmby. While that may not seem like news in a diocese where hundreds are confirmed each year, the fact that Mr. Myers is 93 years old and Mrs. Wharmby has passed 80 makes the ceremony unusual.

Both of the confirmands are recent converts and residents of St. Ann's Home, where they were instructed in the articles of the faith by Father Raymond Moore, chaplain.

Mr. Myers, whose wife was Catholic, attended Catholic churches for many years before his conversion by Father Robert MacNamara of St. Bernard's. He was baptized the week before Easter, 1971, and says of Father MacNamara, "I got a good pal in this priest."

Mrs. Wharmby, who claims to be 25 years old (her sponsor, Mrs. Dorothy Barrows, gave away the secret) took the confirmation name of Mary at the Mass celebrated by Bishop Hogan, Msgr Donald J. Mulcahy, Msgr Leo V. Smith and Father Howard A. Geck.

Four hundred pupils, 15 teachers and about \$100,000 in programs will be eliminated from the six inner city schools as a result of Bishop Joseph L. Hogan's decision not to accept the Council of Inner City Parishes (CICP) proposed school budget of \$350,000.

Since a ceiling of \$250,000 was imposed on the CICP by the Bishop, there will be no junior high school Catholic programs east of the Genesee River as of September 1972, according to Father Raymond Booth, pastor of Our Lady of Mount Carmel and Spokesman for the CICP.

Actually the \$250,000 represents an increase of \$50,000 over the previous year's budget of \$200,000.

Bishop Hogan gave the CICP the responsibility to decide how the sum should be spent.

The CICP announced that it doesn't feel that this action is representative of all the advisers to the Bishop, Father Booth said. "The diocesan school office, Interim Diocesan Education

Commission, a special commission of nine pastors, the inner city task force on education and the CICP all advised the full funding of inner city schools," Father Booth said.

"But all this advice apparently did not match the priority of the financial committee of the diocese," a statement issued by the CICP said. "We believe that the Bishop's decision was a misreading of the Church at large," Father Booth said.

The saddest aspect of this situation, Father Booth said, is that once again the poor are the first to suffer. There are no compar-

able cuts being made in schools outside the inner city.

Therefore, the CICP is calling upon the Bishop to take a stand to insure that there will be no further erosion of inner city Catholic schools, and that these schools in fact, because they serve the poor, will be the last to close.

As a result of recommendations made by the principals of the six schools involved, the following changes will be made:

Holy Redeemer School, St. Michael's and St. Francis Xavier

(Continued on Page 2)