

# Bishop's Challenge Stirs Drives for Poor

## St. Charles Parish Donates \$5,000

By CHARLES RANDISI

Applause signified parishioners' approval of St. Charles Borromeo Parish's decision to donate \$5,000 to inner city parish schools.

The decision, which was announced at Sunday's Masses at St. Charles, was made by the parish council in response to Bishop Joseph L. Hogan's challenge to the people of the diocese to help meet the needs of inner city schools.

Fifteen teachers and 450 students will have to be dropped from the five Catholic inner city elementary schools, because of a \$100,000 deficit in the budget for the 1972-73 school year, unless the people of the diocese can raise the necessary funds.

At St. Charles' 11 a.m. Mass, William Schwartz, a member of the parish council, issued the statement, which said that the

gift was made "as a concrete and tangible way of expressing this integration" of "word and act, church and outside-of-church, worship and world."

The \$5,000 will come from a cash reserve that "permits us to do this at a time when every one of us is sensitive to the pain of having his school doors involuntarily closed."

The statement also blamed the \$100,000 cutback on "the failure of New York State to come up with even token assistance for our schools." It called on other parishes to follow St. Charles' example by responding "to the challenge of the bishop as well as their means permits them."

After reading the statement, Schwartz opened the floor for comment and questioning using a roving microphone. When asked how the council arrived at the figure of \$5,000, Schwartz

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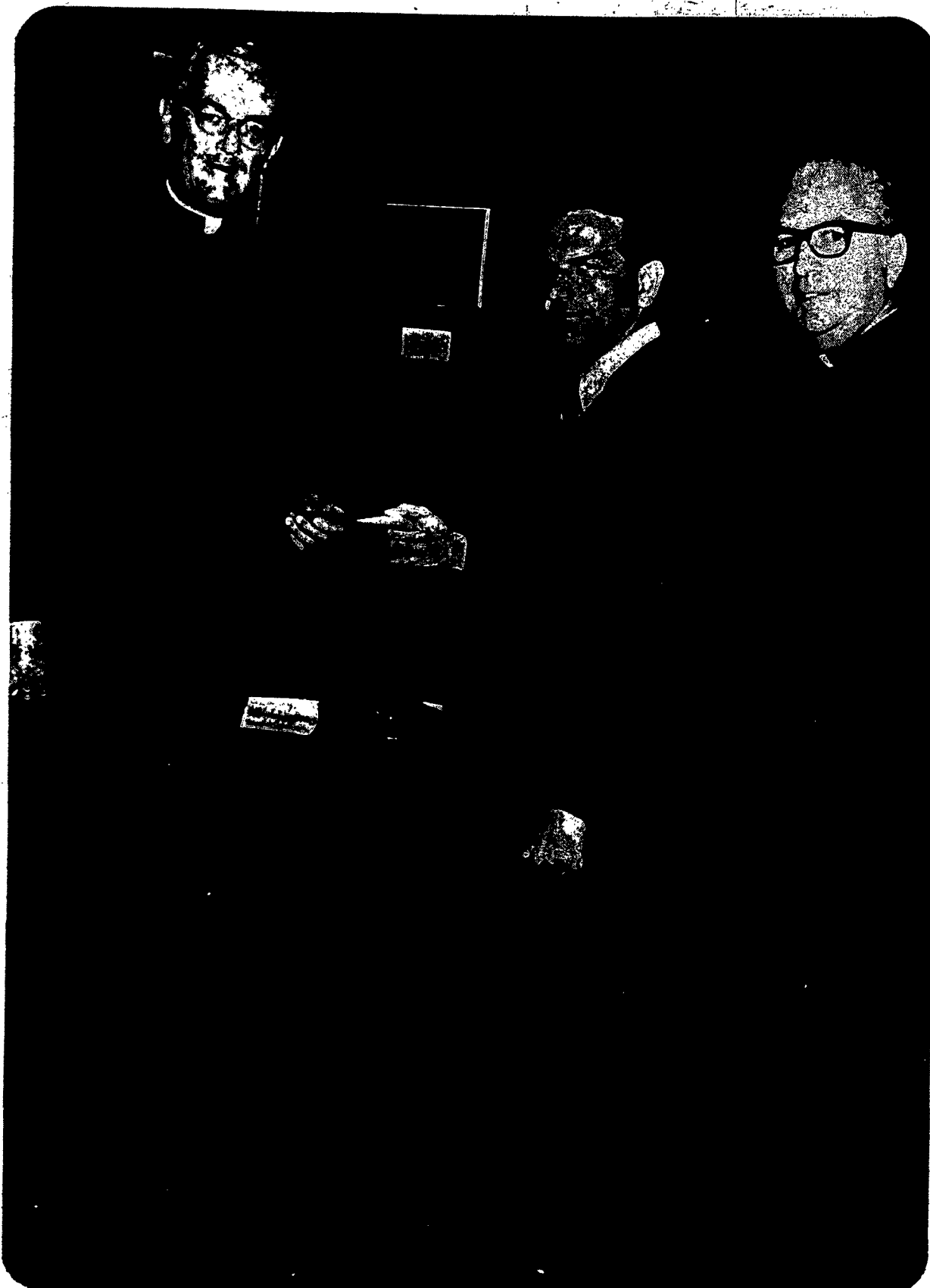


Photo by Laurence E. Keefe

Father John Hedges, pastor of St. Charles Borromeo Church, and George Pfeifer, chairman of the parish council, present Bishop Joseph L. Hogan with a check for \$5,000 to aid inner city parish schools.

## \$15,000 to Go To Holy Redeemer

Father Douglas Hoffman, diocesan regional coordinator for Monroe County, North District, announced Monday that the parishes of the district have decided to pledge \$15,000 to aid Holy Redeemer school.

The decision was made in response to Bishop Joseph L. Hogan's challenge to the people of the Diocese of Rochester "to be more responsive to the needs of the poor by sharing their material resources."

Father Hoffman, associate pastor of St. Thomas the Apostle, released a statement which said, in part, "Several inner city parishes announced last week that they must close their seventh and eighth grades because of lack of funds. No one parish could possibly supplement all these inner city parishes' income properly. But we must begin to share.

"We, the parishes of the Monroe County, North Region," the statement continued, "wish to offer our support to Holy Redeemer Parish, which falls within our newly defined region. We welcome the encouragement of the bishop to give an inner city parish the kind of help it seeks."

The statement concluded, "We have pledged \$15,000 to Holy Redeemer School for 1972-73 for the maintenance of their school. We hope this marks a new era in sharing our problems and sharing our solutions."

The parishes included in the Monroe County, North District are St. George, St. Margaret Mary, St. Theresa, Christ the King, Church of the Annunciation, St. Salome, St. Thomas the Apostle, St. Cecelia, St. Andrew, St. Stanislaus, and Our Lady of Perpetual Help.

## Role of Religion

Religion is a community thing at Columbia, Md., one of the new planned towns springing up across the nation. Two are projected for this area, Riverton and Canada.

To find out how Columbia incorporated religion into its programs read the second part of Barbara Moynehan's series, "The New Cities and Religion" on Page 10.

## Kearney Students Open Campaign

By LAURENCE E. KEEFE

The diocesan department of education will back the senior class of Bishop Kearney High School in their response to Bishop Joseph L. Hogan's challenge to help inner city Catholic schools, Father Albert Shamon announced Friday.

Father Shamon, vicar for education, appealed by letter to the priests of the diocese, and will approach the people through advertisements pointing out the donation of \$1,000 made last week by the senior class of Bishop Kearney. The money was to have been a class gift to their own school.

"All inner city parish schools are now running on a budget deficit," said Father Shamon, highest diocesan education official. "It's a question now of amputations instead of just pruning back."

The fund is referred to as HOP,

an acronym for "Help Our Poor," according to the letter mailed to each priest. Contributions can be mailed, the letter said, to the HOP Fund at Bishop Kearney, 125 Kings' Highway South, Rochester, 14617.

The HOP Fund will be separate from all other diocesan aid to the six inner city schools, Father Shamon said, thus providing "an answer to the challenge of the bishop to seek other means of funding" than reliance on the diocesan assessment.

Initiative for the fund came from two Bishop Kearney seniors, Mike Celentano and Michelle Scardinale, following the June 6 announcement of Bishop Joseph L. Hogan that Rochester Catholics would have to help the diocese if inner city schools were not to cut back 450 pupils and 15 teachers.

The inner city schools, most of which teach large numbers of

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