



These Peruvian Indian women restyle North American clothing for local use, thus learning new skills worth money. Thanksgiving clothing collection gives them something to wear, plus raw materials for this enterprise.

Thanksgiving Tradition: Clothing for the Needy

The people of the diocese were reminded this week of the approach of that traditional Thanksgiving event, the nationwide collection of clothing for the needy overseas.

Pastors were asked to schedule parish collections during the week of Nov. 19-25.

Father Charles Latus of Blessed Sacrament parish, di-

cesan chairman, said the emphasis in this 24th annual effort would be on light weight clothing to be sent to countries devastated by war and catastrophic floods. Areas of greatest need were listed as Bangladesh, Vietnam, Burundi, the Sudan, the Philippines and Korea.

Catholic Relief Services, distributor of the material in 70 countries, has asked for piece

goods to use in sewing cooperatives, bedding, baby clothes and men's pants, in addition to the usual run of good, used clothing.

Last year, this diocese contributed "well over 300,000 pounds" Father Latus said, toward the national total of 16 million pounds of clothing and other material.

Through Tax Credits

Nonpublic School Parent Aid Now Reality in N.Y. State

By State Catholic Committee

Albany — Nonpublic school parent aid, in the form of a partial reimbursement through the state tax system, is now a reality in New York State.

Starting with the 1972 tax forms (to be filed in April 1973) partial reimbursement for tuition payments will be available for parents of nonpublic school students.

The tax benefit portion of the law, passed in the 1972 legislature and called the Omnibus Education Aid Bill (since it provided programs of help for both public and nonpublic school students) was declared constitutional by a three-judge federal court in New York on Oct. 2.

Opponents of the program have accepted the decision, filing their acceptance last week, and plan now to appeal the decision to the United States Supreme Court.

Following the decision, some news reports indicated further lower level court action was necessary. It was not. The judgment affirmed leaves the United States Supreme Court as the only one who can overturn it.

It is now the law in the state, however, and marks the first time in the federal court system that a program of aid to nonpublic school students has been upheld since the Supreme Court ruled against certain forms of aid in the Rhode Island and Pennsylvania cases in 1971.

"The decision," says Charles J. Tobin, State Catholic committee, "is a major victory. It is an encouraging move forward in our long fight. It clearly points to the tax benefit principle as the way to go, and should encourage all those interested in the Federal Tax Credit Bill. It shows this is the best solution to the problem."

The problem has been how to help those children, some 850,000 in New York and millions in the nation, who are attending a plurality of schools authorized under our Constitution and to help parents, who wish to exercise their right to a religious-oriented education for their children, and still not disturb anybody else's rights.

The tax benefit principle, based on the traditional concept of providing tax exemption for legitimately useful aspects of

our society (libraries, art museums, churches, parks, schools, playgrounds, public monuments, etc.), thus becomes one which is fully in accord with our Constitution.

The judgment of the three-judge federal court cites in particular the Walz case before the U.S. Supreme Court, which upheld the constitutionality of tax exemption for religious institutions. Using this as a guiding principle the court distinguishes between a subsidy, which is not allowed, and a tax exemption which is. Further, the judges took note of the lightening of the tax burden on all taxpayers by virtue of the existence of the nonpublic schools.

That portion of the bill which provided for tuition reimbursement for low income families (those earning under \$5,000) was declared unconstitutional by the same court. That portion of the decision will be appealed by attorneys for parents and by the state. The bill as designed by the legislature is aimed at helping both low and middle-income families.

"Also," Tobin said, "we will return to the legislature next year to request a program of help for low-income parents be enacted that will survive constitutional challenge. It is one of our top priorities. We will be approaching the level both on the basis of an appeal in the courts and a new means in the legislature."

Bishops' Unit Requests Synods at 3 Year Intervals

Vatican City (RNS) — The Bishops' Council of the Permanent Secretariat of the (world) Synod of Bishops has recommended to Pope Paul that plenary sessions of the Synod of Bishops be held every three years instead of every two.

The 15-member council, which met here, proposed that the next plenary session of the world's bishops be held in the Fall of 1974.

Under the biennial meeting plan, which had been in force since the first synodal meeting — in Rome — in 1967, the plenary sessions were slated every two years. The second Synod of Bishops was held in Rome in 1969, and the third, in 1971.

The Permanent Secretariat has the function of maintaining liaison operations with national and regional episcopal conferences

and drawing up the agenda of subsequent synodal meetings.

The council consists of 12 elected members and three members appointed by Pope Paul. Cardinal John Krol of Philadelphia, president of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops (NCCB), is an elected member.

A major factor is proposing a three-year spread between synodal meetings, it is believed, is the desire to allow time for the bishops to give deeper study to topics scheduled for the meetings.

The Bishops' Council statement made no mention of what specific topics, if any, it had recommended to the Pope for inclusion on the agenda of the next Synod.



night falls and the sweater news sparkles

\$66

Slinky sweater-knit torso with a fling of plaid for the skirt. Jet black, glittered all over with gold and silver metallic. Collared and cuffed in white. Strictly for innocent sirens, now in McCurdy's First Impressions, Second Floor, Midtown.