

Diocesans Gave \$108,300 To Human Development Fund

By PAT PETRASKE

Thanks to a total of \$108,300 in contributions to the Campaign for Human Development, several self-help projects in the diocese will be able to begin or continue. Four programs in Wayne County that received checks from local funding last week have already been lifted off the ground.

With the theme "making us all less poor" Human Development Sunday, Nov. 11, climaxed the 1973-74 campaign. The collection was held the following week, Nov. 18, on Respect Life Sunday. The two themes were combined this year because "respect life is the attitude and human development is the action."

The total of \$108,300 represents an increase over last year's collection which netted \$104,379. Staff members from the diocesan Office of Human Development believe this is partly due to the intensive education program that promoted this year's campaign. Meetings were held in each of the seven regions and resource booklets were distributed to parish human development committees. Radio and newspaper sports and a clergy conference also were used for promotion.

PARENTS DAY

Naples — The Naples Youth Group combined Mothers' Day and Fathers' Day and declared June 2 Parents' Day. Communion breakfast was served to parents after both of the Masses on that day.

Each year one fourth of the total collection is retained for local self-help projects while the remainder is sent to national headquarters for distribution. Local funds have been allocated as follows:

Monroe-Wayne, \$17,330; Cayuga, \$1,341; Tioga-Tompkins, \$3,117; Chemung Schuyler, \$2,317; Seneca-Ontario-Yates, \$2,320; Livingston, \$16,14; and Steuben \$1,375.

Some of these figures include regional funds that were not allocated last year. National grants have not been announced.

Five regional boards or task forces are responsible for evaluating proposals. Objectives must be based on the principals of self-determination and self-development. Last year 11 projects received local funding and two were awarded national grants.

The campaign each year attempts to alleviate not only economic poverty but "poverty of spirit, of mind, poverty of love, of friendship." Four anti-poverty programs in Wayne County have begun to overcome these problems.

Father George Wiant, a member of the Monroe-Wayne Task Force and a staff worker in rural ministry for the Office of Human Development, explained that half of the grant is distributed initially and after an evaluative progress report is made of the project, the

remainder of the funding is handed out.

A grant of \$6,000 was given to the Legal Aid Society in Lyons. The Society offers assistance to indigents on civil matters and handles 250 to 300 cases per year. An additional attorney will be hired with the funding money to help "an already overworked staff," according to James DePoint, executive attorney for the Legal Aid Society.

Answering "immediate needs immediately" is a people-to-people project that also received funding. A grant of \$3,000 to the Come-Unity Center in Williamson will be used for salaries. The Center provides informational and referral services, counseling, classes, emergency food and used clothing and household goods.

"We're not here to support anyone, but we're here to help anyone who needs it," noted D.L. Baize, coordinator and developer of Wayne County Rural Ministries and program coordinator for the Come-Unity Center. Approximately 500 people use the services of the center each month.

The Sodas Bay Sportsman Club seems an unlikely place to find children, but it houses the Ridge Parent-Child Day Care Center until a location nearer the mainstream of town can be found. The grant of \$1,500 will be used to establish a scholarship fund to enable more mothers to enroll their children in the program.



Nancy Rubery from the Monroe-Wayne County Task Force distributes a check for a human development grant to representatives of the Legal Aid Society, James DePoint left, and John D. Lynn, as Father George Wiant, Office of Human Development, looks on.

Director Jean Georgianna explained that, "Many of the mothers are not poor enough for social services, but cannot afford to send their children to the center." The operating cost is \$40 a week for each of the 26 children of working mothers or migrant parents.

A final grant of \$500 was awarded to Turning Point, a halfway house for troubled boys, located in Palmyra. Run by a minister of the Church of God, Turning Point has provided housing, counseling, and assistance with probation to approximately 50 boys since it began three years ago.

Father Wiant noted that the task force believed the project for the boys qualified as a poverty program since "we feel that the boys are estranged. They can't

earn, or handle life's situation. They are powerless."

The funding of Turning Point will be used to hire an outreach worker whose assistance will allow the director to have time to start a similar halfway house for girls.

A total of approximately \$341,300 has been donated since the campaign began four years ago by the bishops of the United States. Proposals that have been accepted in the past have dealt with welfare rights, voter registration, housing and manpower development, day care, youth resources and development and job training. Money from the national Campaign for Human Development has funded over 500 self-help community groups.

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