

Rev. Marvin Chandler Leaving GEM and Area

By MOLLY JUDGE

The Rev. Marvin Chandler, administrative director of the Genesee Ecumenical Ministries for the past year and a leading churchman here for 13 years, announced last week that he would be leaving soon to take a position in San Francisco. He will be associate director of the San Francisco Council of Churches.

Mr. Chandler's resignation from GEM is effective April 1.

In his new position, he said at a news conference Friday, he will deal chiefly with community development.

"There are many minority groups in San Francisco. My job will be to find ways in which they can relate their problems to one another and then work together. I will develop new strategies and ways of working within and developing the communities to their potential. All in all, the job will be similar to what I am doing here.

"I regret leaving Rochester, but

this new position offers me the excitement of a new challenge."

Mr. Chandler, an American Baptist Minister, assumed the top position at GEM when Father Henry Atwell stepped down because of ill health. Prior to that, Mr. Chandler had been associate director of the Black Church Ministries within GEM. He also served on the executive staff of the Council of Churches in Rochester before the establishment of GEM.

Much progress has been achieved here in ecumenical cooperation between churches, Mr. Chandler said. "People's hearts are now reaching out to people — out from the grassroots toward ecumenism. They are becoming more involved with one another and an area of conscientiousness has been raised in the realm of justice."

Mr. Chandler said, "I feel very excited about the new relationship we have with the Catholic Diocese. The Catholic Church is now becoming more involved with GEM and I think it's terrific!"

have accounted for much of this dramatic shift. You only have to look at corporate assets and earnings over the past 15 years to know that they have been making out pretty well.

In 1974 the 19 largest oil companies paid an average of 6 per cent of their net income in federal corporate taxes (they are supposed to pay at a 48 per cent rate). In that same year a typical family of four with an annual income of \$12,000 paid 16 per cent — almost three times as much — on its net income in federal taxes alone. (Based on the standard deduction computation and the Social Security tax rate of 5.85 per cent.) Underlying this is the fact that oil profits doubled in the same year over what they were in 1973. How many workers salaries doubled over the same period? Texaco's earnings were up 123 per cent yet they paid at a rate of 1.7 per cent. Mobil's earnings went up 66 per cent and their rate was 1.3 per cent. ("People & Taxes", March and May 1974). The oil companies are not to be singled out, however, for we see the same kind of statistics almost daily right across the corporate field. The federal government provides loopholes and direct subsidies to corporations that cost us billions of dollars every year. Loopholes make effective tax rates (what is actually paid) look ridiculous next to the stated rates. What is needed is reform that will better distribute the income, wealth, and power of this country.

The real injustice of all this is that both the poor and the middle-income Americans are struggling (sometimes against each other) when the problem lies elsewhere. The fact that in 1949 1 per cent of our people owned 21 per cent of the total personal wealth and in 1969 this 1 per cent increased their holdings to 40 per cent shows that something is wrong and that maybe things aren't really getting all that better (figures from March 10 Democrat and Chronicle "Middle Class is Groggy and on the Ropes"). People's awareness is changing, however, and more often politicians and governmental officials will be called upon to act more justly and in the interests of all the people, not just a few.

ST. JOACHIM'S DANCE

Canisteo — An adult dance will be held at St. Joachim's Parish Center March 1 from 9:30 to 1:30 a.m. with music by the "Three of Us." Cost is \$6 per couple. Parishioners and friends welcome.

Sisters Council to Form New Plan

By MOLLY JUDGE

As a result of the conflict resolution stage of the diocesan Process "A," the Diocesan Sisters' Council has re-organized and expanded the Ad Hoc Committee on Sister's Living Needs. The committee will review all information regarding Sister's Maintenance as a basis for developing a new proposal.

The Sisters met Saturday at the Mercy Motherhouse.

The participatory bodies in the decision-making process included the Priests' Council, Sisters' Council, Sisters of Mercy, Sisters of St. Joseph, Sisters of Notre Dame and the Interdepartmental Staff. They

specified that the new proposal should be presented to Bishop Joseph L. Hogan for review no later than Aug. 1, 1975. Present practices regarding Sister's Maintenance will be continued through June 1976.

The Bodies also recommended that each Sister be responsible to contribute in some way for her lodging and that each employer of a Sister should contribute in some way to the Sister's housing needs.

The new proposal must state that new policies be worked out dealing with Sister's living needs. Fidelity to the value of contributed services, simplicity of life-style and concern for the

mission of the Church should be honored as these policies are formulated.

The representatives involved in conflict resolution called the Bishop's attention to the need for the results of the new proposal to be in line with the development of Sister's salary agreements which expire in June 1976.

The original proposal which was rejected by the bodies stated that \$600 should be added to the income-producing Sister's salary to cover lodging, expenses and that a car be provided to cover ordinary transportation needs. The amount would have been paid by whoever provided the Sister's housing.

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Church And Politics

Sister Frances

"Tax Reform" is an expression that is being tossed about more frequently these days as a solution to many of the economic injustices in American society. The idea hits most of us with a bit of apprehension because we have heard this cry before but have seen few results. Deep down we have a feeling that the tax structure is in serious need of reform but years of promises have made us a little leery. Recent events on both the national and state level support these feelings.

President Ford's proposed tax rebate of \$16 billion sounded good at first but now it doesn't appear to be all that simple. First of all, part of that rebate (\$4 billion) will go to corporations through certain tax benefits. Further, most economists feel that an added tax on oil will not only end up costing us around \$30 billion in added consumer costs for oil, gas, and certain manufactured goods, but will also be inflationary. What it comes down to is that the government will be putting back a dollar and taking two. A little discouraging to say the least!

At the state level Gov. Carey's proposed 10 cent a gallon gasoline tax seems to be just another way of squeezing out the poor and middle-income American even more. Both of these proposals only treat "symptoms", not causes. Neither really gets at the root of the problem.

To get into this question of tax reform a little further, let's look at some of the facts. In 1944 corporate income taxes accounted for 34 per cent of the federal government's revenues while individual income taxes accounted for 48 per cent. In 1974 these figures changed drastically. Now corporate taxes account for about 15 per cent of the revenues while personal income taxes have soared to 74 per cent. The corporate burden has been more than halved while the wage earner's has been doubled. (Figures from "People & Taxes", October 1974). Tax "loopholes"

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