



Stephen Veltz, a 9 year old student at St. Charles Borromeo School, bakes bread for the monthly sale at St. Charles. Proceeds from the sale are given to Catholic Charities for use against hunger.

and can't put out cash for the stamps, Mrs. Harvey said. A family spends from 10 to 22 per cent of income for food stamps and can elect to purchase 100, 75, 50, or 25 per cent of the amount for which they qualify.

Applications for food stamps have skyrocketed, rising during 1974 from 200 to more than 500 monthly. Mrs. Harvey said recently that a lot of people are swallowing their pride these days. Thirty-three per cent of last month's basic assistance applicants were people the Department of Social Services had never seen before, people who never expected to find themselves on welfare. Meteyer said that some seem to expect special treatment and resent the strict documentation of need that is required.

Food stamps are not the only means of easing local hunger. Mrs. Harvey said that the Department of Social Services tries to pass on helpful hints when they hear of them. For example, it is possible to buy damaged Comstock canned goods for relatively little in the nearby community of Egypt. Day-old bread can be purchased at outlets on East Henrietta Road. Good quality produce sometimes can be bought for prices less than those in the super markets at the farmers' market. Food stamps can be used to buy seeds for home gardens. But, Mrs. Harvey pointed out, it is the people who really need to take advantage of these savings that cannot. Many lead such crisis lives that only a day-to-day existence is possible, with no time or security for more long-range planning. Transportation is also a problem for many.

Mrs. Harvey said that many churches seem to be returning to the days of helping to feed and clothe the poor. Bob Meteyer, chairman of St. Phillip Neri's parish council, said that he hopes parishes will consider local hunger when answering the challenge of Bishop Joseph L. Hogan that proposals to combat hunger be submitted to him by April 1.

Some parishes already have taken action. St. Gabriel's parish in Hammondsport, Steuben County, and St. Michael's in Newark, Wayne County, are collecting food monthly for distribution to the needy. St. Michael's in Rochester is considering piloting a soup kitchen for transients or inner-city people with immediate food needs. Several parishes have celebrated hunger liturgies and held hunger suppers.

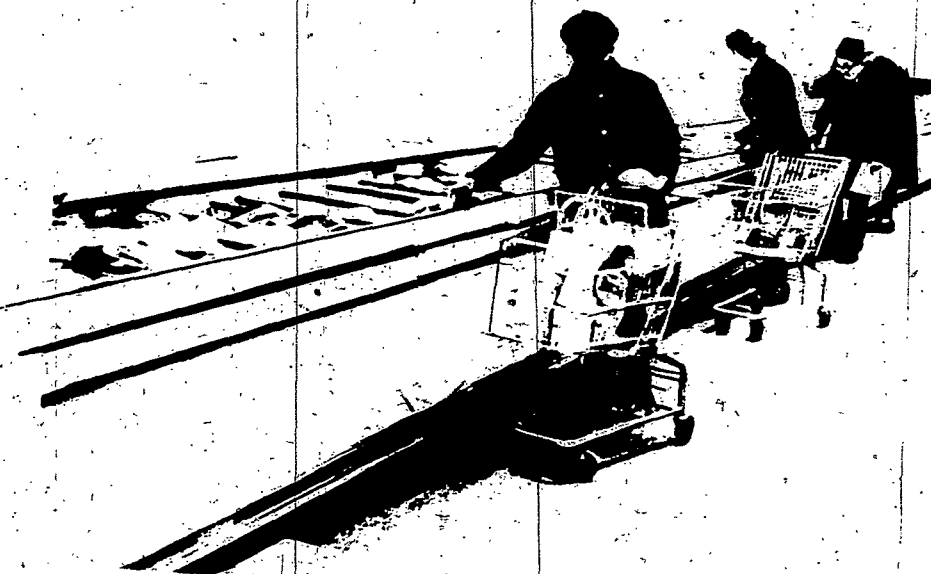
For Lent, some parishes have started "hunger jars." Families fast for a meal or a whole day and put the money thus saved into the jar. Mrs. Judy Willberger of Holy Family said that the project is sensitizing parishioners. "People are learning what it feels like to be hungry."

Although, as Bob Meteyer said, "There are people out there that are hungry," many more simply want to fight inflation. Some are organizing food cooperatives. The Human Development committee at Holy Family is studying the possibility of organizing food coops in their area as a means to a better diet and a substantial saving.

Still others fear that the situation may worsen to the point where they themselves will be threatened by the food shortage. Bill Dewey worked as a research engineer for Burroughs Corporation for 15 years. He left his position there last May to do something that he considered more important: help start a food distribution business.

Bill hedged when asked to make predictions, "Because everybody that makes predictions seems to be wrong," but nevertheless said that he expected the U.S. to be faced within two years with the decision either to feed itself and let the rest of the world starve or to feed the world and ration itself. His company sells dehydrated food that can be purchased in quantity at savings and can be stored without refrigeration. "In the Northeast, food storage is an unfamiliar idea," Bill said, but Mormons have always taught that a family should have a year's supply of food stored.

He buys from a company that uses this motto: "It wasn't raining when Noah built the ark."



Rising food prices are a national concern.

Text by Bonita Baldwin
Photos by Susan McKinney



Meat is a luxury priced beyond the reach of many of the world's people.