

# COURIER-JOURNAL

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An elderly woman and a group of children are a picture of despair as they sit, alone and homeless, in a street in Guatemala City. (RNS)

## Diocese Helping

### Aid Pours In To Guatemala from 'Round the World

Impelled by harrowing reports from Guatemala, where more than 22,000 persons have been killed by the recent earthquake, organizations from around the world have been pouring in donations.

Pope Paul VI told crowds in St. Peter's Square on Sunday, Feb. 8, of his "great sorrow." He said Guatemala is a country where "the poor are so poor and numerous." "We are present in spirit there because our Caritas organizations are serving with other aid groups," he said.

The pontiff asked for "spiritual aid" as well as material and medical aid for the Guatemalans.

Right here in the Rochester diocese many assistance groups have been active in providing relief.

The diocese of Rochester has sent \$2,500 to Catholic Relief Services on behalf of the people of the diocese. Anyone wishing to assist the charity may send contributions directly to the Pastoral Center, 1150 Buffalo Road, Rochester, N.Y. 14624 for immediate disbursement to CRS.

The CRS reported last week that it already had sent two plane-loads of relief supplies from New York City, forwarded \$50,000 to Guatemala for the purchase of needed materials on the spot and sent \$20,000 to Honduras to expedite the shipment of 100,000 pounds of foodstuffs from Honduras to Guatemala.

Archbishop Joseph L. Bernardin, president of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops, said that the American ambassador to Guatemala, Francis E. Meloy Jr., has termed the earthquake "the greatest catastrophe in the history of Central America."

Reports have it that in addition to the 22,000 killed, another 75,000 have been injured and hundreds of thousands are homeless.

The American Red Cross reports that it has been flooded by donations from American corporations and individuals to assist the earthquake victims.

A spokesman for the Red Cross said it has a team of disaster specialists at work in Guatemala. The organization has sent a \$100,000 cash contribution to the Geneva-based League of Red Cross Societies for use in the emergency area.

Among the corporate offers received by the Red Cross are 1,000 cases of soup from Cambell Soup; sizeable quantities of surgical dressings and other medicaments from Johnson & Johnson; lights from Union Carbide; air transport from Delta and Pan American; and \$25,000 worth of cereals from Kellogg.

CARE reports that its initial shipment of aid arrived in Guatemala shortly after the earthquake. It included 150,000 tetracycline capsules, 75,000 penicillin tablets, 2,500 vials of penicillin for injections and enough tetanus toxoid for 1,250 injections. It reported that its staff in Honduras, a neighbor of stricken Guatemala, had purchased 5,000 blankets which have been flown to Guatemala City by the Honduran Air Force.

Archbishop Bernardin summed up concerns when he said that the earthquake has provided "a new opportunity to bring comfort, solace and help to the hundreds of thousands of the afflicted in this tiny Central American republic."



Photo by Susan McKinney

## Looking Back

Fifth graders at Our Lady of Mercy parish school in Greece invoked the Spirit of '76 as they posed in old-time costume for the photo above. Their schoolmates at the left are Kevin Bucklin, Joanna Mitchell and David Pye, standing, and, in front, Joey Albano and Bill Miller.

## DSC Tackles Internal Matters

By MARTIN TOOMBS

A long list of internal and diocesan matters was dealt with at the Diocesan Sisters Council (DSC) last Saturday. The agenda included a change in bylaws, establishment of a Mission Task Force, establishment of a Peace and Justice Commission, the Permanent Diaconate Task Force, and the DSC budget for 1976-77.

Bishop Dennis W. Hickey asked for a DSC representative to the

Permanent Diaconate Task Force, which is charged with determining the way the permanent diaconate will be handled in the diocese. Several sisters expressed concern over the fact that possibly only three women would be on the 19-member task force. Sister Barbara Moore noted that women make up 51 per cent of the people in the diocese, and possibly should have a larger voice in the committee. Responding to a question about women being ordained as permanent deacons, Bishop Hickey

pointed out that that decision can't be made locally. The request for a representative will be handled in the DSC executive committee.

Among the speakers was Avilio Perez, chairman of the Justice and Peace Proposal Committee. He said the proposed Justice and Peace commission was designed to "prevent bureaucratic growth" as it would provide coordination between the Propagation of the Faith and the Office of Human

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## Priests Council

### Working for Vision

By JOHN DASH

The eldest of the three young consultative bodies in the diocese, the Priests Council, is charged with the task of defining the mission of the Church, "to be visionaries," in the words of its president, Father James Marvin.

By this he means that the total needs of the people of the diocese not only the physical, "the temporalities" come under the purview of the body.

Father Marvin is an original. He was present at the birth of the council back in 1967. Interviewed last week in a small, sparsely furnished office at St. Ambrose where he is pastor, Father Marvin recounted the "soul searching," "agonizing," growth of the council to its position today, and outlined its function and future.

"Bishop Sheen started it by edict — that there would be one," Father Marvin recalls. "But doing it in reflection of the spirit, the direction, of the Second Vatican Council."

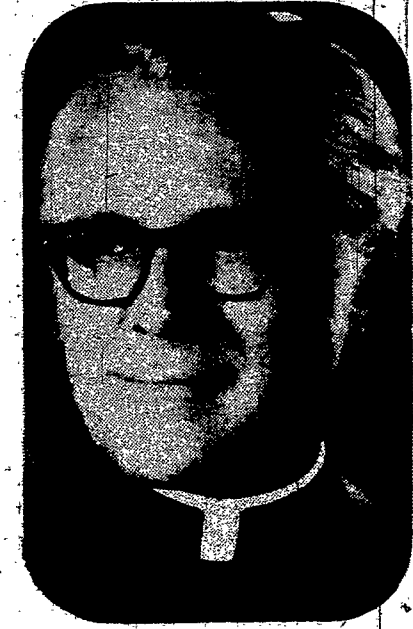
Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen at the time was bishop of Rochester.

"At that time there was no model. Very few dioceses had priests councils. There had been no pilot projects with it."

He said that the bishop would convene the body and set the agenda. "Even the priests didn't know how to use democracy in those days — things have changed a lot," he said.

At the time of the creation of the council, priests were banding

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FATHER MARVIN