

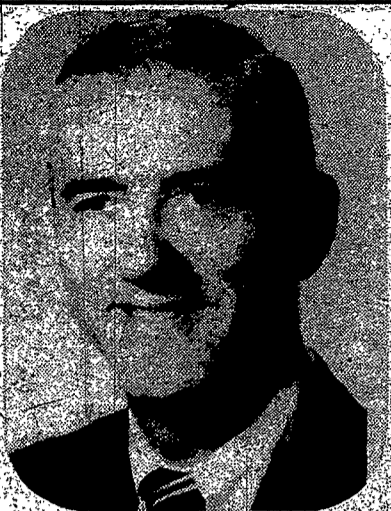
Finance

The Office of Finance reports that the fiscal year just ended was very successful. Among other improvements the department has refined the data processing system which eliminated unnecessary paperwork and allowed the department to operate more efficiently.

Another major improvement has been the adoption of a new health plan for the diocese. The new plan provides much more coverage, excluding abortion coverage, and saves the diocese 12 per cent on premium costs, according to Thomas Weber, finance director.

The Finance Office's "Scope of Accountability" report describes the major tasks of the department. Weber explained that the purpose of the department is multi-faceted. One of the main functions is the administration of the diocesan investment portfolio. The department invests in securities for the diocese, which are "low risk" and have "maximum returns."

Some other important functions include performing activities relative to general accounting, external auditing, financial forecasting, investments and tax matters, recommending to the



THOMAS WEBER

Bishop and departmental directors effective policies and procedures and time schedules for the development, submission, consolidation and review of all budgets for the diocese. They also provide technical assistance to management at departmental levels in the development of realistic and meaningful budget objectives and provide advisory service to the parishes relative to financial and accounting management as directed by the Bishop. They also report the

status of parish operations to the Bishop based on financial reports submitted annually by the parishes.

Commenting on the staff of the finance department, Weber felt that mentioning the number of employees and their functions was not necessary. He stated that the present staff was adequate "for the present work load" and that the people who work in finance do a "tremendous job."

He also declined to comment on the operating budget of the department explaining that a budget should be based on need. He continued saying that his budget is ample to accomplish the goals of the department.

Summing up the Office of Finance's responsibilities to the people they serve Weber said that the department deals with all other departments in the diocese. They supply information and advise, when asked, and the cooperation between Finance and the other departments is very good.

He concluded saying that the Office of Finance maintains financial stability for the diocese so that the diocese can perform the work it sets out to do successfully.

Fund Development

The diocesan Development Department has accrued almost \$840,000 in deferred gifts and expects at least one-half million more from estates, according to Joseph A. Smith, director.

The Development Department was established two years ago, to organize structures and systems that will make fund resources available to the diocese and to prevent further drain of parish funds to support the Pastoral Center.

It is responsible for building structures and systems to fund operations, present socio-economic projections for decision making and responding to requests for professional suggestions related to funding and programs entertained by parishes, departments or local Catholic institutions, Smith said.

The department employs two people and makes use of a cadre of 20 volunteer leaders and 100 volunteer solicitors and contact people, loyal to the Bishop throughout the diocese.

The department operates on a budget of \$57,000.

Smith said another important service provided by the department is parish counseling. He stated that he is available to any parish



JOSEPH SMITH

whenever ask to counsel them on financial planning and fund-raising.

Some parish councils that do not make allowances for day-to-day upkeep can easily get into trouble. "A few parishes seem to think that because the church roof doesn't need fixing now, they shouldn't have to worry about it. However, the roof will need fixing in the future and that will take money," he said.

Inflation is another problem which must be faced. He explained that if a parish is still collecting the same amount of money that it did four years ago, they are in trouble.

Prior to coming to Rochester, Smith was executive director of the Valley United Way, a regional community fund serving a 78,000 population area of Ansonia, Derby, Oxford, Shelton and Seymour, Conn. He is a graduate of Fordham University and took his masters degree at Southern Connecticut State College.

Smith bases his work on the theology of St. Paul. He said that Paul saw the need for the Church to have financial stability in order to carry out its mission. He feels that people should donate money not only for the support of the Church but as a sign of "surrendering their mortality." "If a man makes five dollars an hour and gives the five dollars, he has given one hour of his life," he said.

The Development Department has several major plans for the future. Although the diocesan appeal, in the past, has not worked as well as Smith hoped, a complete reorganization has been made and a major effort will begin this fall to raise money without hurting parish programs. The department is also looking into "grantmanship." Some diocesan programs may qualify for grants from foundations. The department hopes these grants will improve the Church's financial situation.

General Education

"Fortunately we have a staff which doesn't count hours," remarked Sister Roberta Tierney, superintendent of Rochester diocesan schools. She referred to the Educational Department staff working into evening as well as week ends just to make a dent in the paper work.

It's the paper work and all the associated red tape which is the tedious part of the department's functions. There's no denying that Central Office is caught up in it and Sister Roberta admitted they create it for the schools but it is necessary.

The collecting of statistical data for federal and state requirements, monitoring government legislation and the many hours spent reading documents are just a few of the jobs tended to by the Central Office staff which numbers 10, including clerical personnel. With 77 elementary schools and nine secondary schools to service, it is Sister's opinion this number is not sufficient. "Our members are overworked and overstretched to service our schools."



SISTER ROBERTA

Under the coordination of Sister Roberta, the intradepartmental responsibilities for the vast job of education centralization are handled by Timothy Leahy, deputy superintendent of schools, who is responsible for administration, management and public relations. Grace Conway, as assistant

superintendent of Personnel, handles the recruiting, certifying and referring of teachers.

Sister Edwardine Weaver, assistant superintendent of Curriculum, directs the development, maintenance, and implementation of basic curriculum, except for religious subjects.

Sister Anne McGill, as superintendent for Religious Education, coordinates this area in assisting schools in developing a faith community and directing the sex education department.

Another staff member is Sister Boniface Roeger, assistant superintendent of liaison. Her responsibility is to communicate with principals and to assist them in developing innovative programs.

The coordinator of Educational Services for Minority Groups is Sister Barbara Fox who acts as

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