

# COURIER-JOURNAL

28 Pages

Wednesday, November 17, 1976

NEWSPAPER OF THE DIOCESE OF ROCHESTER

20 Cents

## Eighth Annual Christmas Fund Under Way

The eighth annual Courier Journal Christmas Fund, run in conjunction with Catholic Charities, will get under way next week. Every year since its inception the fund has collected an increased amount from an increased number of contributors. Last year, 1951 contributors donated \$42,290, both figures upward from 1974's \$33,904 from 1,774 contributors.

The Courier-Journal will list the 100 neediest cases in the diocese as provided by Catholic Charities, the

first 20 in next week's edition. All of the cases are true and are within the diocese but they represent only a small part of the caseload being cared for by Catholic Charities through its family center.

"We are beginning earlier than ever this year," said Anthony J. Costello, Courier-Journal general manager, "to allow more time for contributions. To some it may seem that Christmas is far off, but we all realize how quickly it seems to

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## Bishop Asks

## Consider Catholic Secondary Schools

[See Center Section.]

### My dear People:

Life is pocketed with choices to be made and new beginnings to face. Some of them are routine, everyday options, whereas some are major decisions which serve to design our futures.

One of the choices that is now opened to our youth in the last year of elementary school is to decide where to continue their formal education. For the first time many of our young people will join their parents in making a decision for which there are several alternatives and possibilities. I realize that this is often a difficult decision and so I encourage parents and young people to reach this decision together.

In their deliberation I ask them to consider the option offered by our Catholic Secondary Schools. Philosophies, programs and goals of these schools are featured in our Courier-Journal this week to provide information about and motivation toward the fine Christian education available in these schools.

I commend the men and women who have dedicated their lives and professional careers to teaching and guiding young people. From my own experience as a secondary school administrator, I recognize the challenge and the reward of being a part of the life of high school students. Certainly the opportunities presented and the values realized at this stage of maturation influence the lifetime commitment of students.

I am pleased with the efforts made in our secondary schools to fulfill the threefold mission of Catholic schools — to teach the Word of God, to develop Faith Community, and to offer service beyond the school boundaries. Continued striving toward these goals, while fostering academic excellence, assures parents and students that these school communities seek to offer a viable formation for responsible adulthood.

My prayer is that God will guide and bless all of you who are searching for the right step toward the future.

With every best wish, I am

Devotedly yours in Christ,



+ Most Reverend Joseph L. Hogan, D.D.  
Bishop of Rochester

## Social Action Unit Formed By Sisters

The Diocesan Sisters Council (DSC) has established a body which, among other things, will study various programs of social action especially those which have come from an August meeting of the National Association of Women Religious and the recent Call to Action conference in Detroit, and "bonding" with other groups of like concerns.

The group, as yet unnamed, will function as a committee of the DSC.

The motion to create the committee followed two lengthy presentations, one on the Detroit Conference, the other on the status of NAWR vis-a-vis the DSC, at the November meeting of the Sisters Council at Nazareth Motherhouse.

The sisters who were part of the Rochester delegation at the Detroit conference each spoke on the spirit generated at the meeting, a spirit which they felt was excellent.

A lively round robin ensued with concern voiced over the future of the Detroit resolutions and the reaction of the hierarchy to the process used in drafting those resolutions.

Sister Mary John Van Atta was among those who worried over the future of the resolutions. She noted her "discouragement" with the deliberations last week of the nation's bishops in Washington.

Sister Josepha Kennedy spoke on her concern that the consultative process used in drafting the resolutions was something completely new in the Church. "What in the name of heaven will Italy do?" she asked, when faced with the beginnings of democratic processes in an otherwise hierarchical system.

The sisters of the delegation, among whom was Sister Barbara Moore, DSC president, counseled patience, and trust in the Holy Spirit.

As for the resolutions themselves, Sister Elizabeth Hughes said they reflect "lived Christian Reality." Sister Alice McLaughlin said they reflect "simple justice."

Later in the meeting, the sisters debated whether to form a local unit of the National Association of Women Religious. It was in the course of this debate that Sister Alice moved to incorporate all the sisters' concerns for justice under a council committee.

Her motion passed nearly unanimously, with one nay and one abstention.

In other Sisters Council action it was revealed that proposed guidelines for sisters' transportation needs had generated controversy and concern among sisters around the diocese. The responsible committee will be working on rewriting its proposals to reflect those concerns. It is expected that the proposals will be voted on the next DSC meeting.

## At Bishops Meeting

# Traditional Moral Stands Reaffirmed

From Courier-Journal Services

Washington, D.C. — The National Conference of Catholic Bishops at their semiannual meeting here last week, approved a pastoral letter, "To Live in Jesus Christ," reaffirming the Roman Catholic Church's traditional teachings on sexual ethics.

The NCCB action contrasted sharply with the stands taken at the recent "Call to Action" conference in Detroit which urged many changes in Catholic policy. This NCCB meeting, however, did not officially consider the Detroit recommendations. They are on the agenda for next May when the bishops meet again.

But the approach taken by the bishops here could indicate that the Detroit proposals will face stern opposition, although the bishops themselves were divided on this pastoral letter. Many felt that it lacks compassion for those experiencing difficulty with Church positions on artificial birth control, divorce and abortion.

The bishops upheld traditional prohibitions in these areas, thus by implication rejecting any changes in Church law.

Bishop Francis J. Mugavero of Brooklyn, in a compromise move in the midst of intense debate on the 36-page letter, suggested that it be referred back to committee, but the bishops defeated that proposal, 162-65. The final text was approved, 172-24.

The document states that sexual intercourse is both "love-giving" and "life-giving" and that artificial birth control "severs the link" between those two meanings.

The letter also stands firmly

## 'Call to Action' Cited

Washington, D.C. [RNS] — The chief organizer of the recent Roman Catholic "Call to Action" conference in Detroit defended the unprecedented delegate assembly by saying it gave "eloquent testimony to the Church's vitality and diversity."

In a report to the U.S. Catholic bishops meeting here, Cardinal John Dearden of Detroit said that as a program of consultation and dialogue, the conference was a success, and as a "process of decision-making... based on mature reflection," it was "a significant first step."

The Detroit conference was sponsored by the U.S. bishops' bicentennial committee — chaired by Cardinal Dearden — to formulate a five-year pastoral plan on social justice for the U.S. Catholic Church. It has been criticized by some leading churchmen as "not truly representative" of the American Catholic Church. And

Bishop Joseph L. Hogan returned to Rochester neither surprised nor discouraged by the "strong opposition" to his resolution, to study opening up the process for the selection of bishops, met last week in Washington.

"I have the satisfaction of bringing the issue before the body," he said this week. His motion, that the bishops' Committee on Canonical Affairs study ways to allow local dioceses to recommend names of specific men to head them, was defeated by a voice vote.

against extramarital or premarital sex, opposes divorce, and restates the Church's anti-abortion position. It says that homosexual acts are wrong but that "homosexuals should not suffer from prejudice against their basic human rights."

On divorce, the document states that "it remains a tragic fact that some marriages fail. We must approach those who suffer this agonizing experience with the compassion of Jesus Himself."

The bishops stressed that the letter was not in response to the "Call to Action" conference, nonetheless the Detroit meeting loomed over the proceedings. For instance, Cardinal John Dearden of Detroit, chief organizer of the "Action" meeting, defended the

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some of its recommendations — particularly those on the ordination of women and divorce and remarriage for Catholics — were termed "problematical at best."

But Cardinal Dearden informed some 250 bishops here that "in general the actions recommended to us (in Detroit) indicate a realism and independence and a critical and mature judgment, remarkable in a first assembly conducted along democratic lines."

Acknowledging that no aspect of the program was "fully representative" of Catholic opinion, the prelate stressed that "no one claimed that it should be."

Yet, he said, the results of the entire process "represent a tremendous investment of time, energy, and intelligence on the part of a great number of our Catholic people and witness to their deep commitment to the Church."

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