

1976... A Time to Grow

My dear People:

In our Bicentennial year, we recognize both the greatness of our nation and its shortcomings. We do this with a renewed determination to right the wrongs, to break the bonds of injustice and oppression, and to GROW as a people. It seems that our clearer awareness of those who have been hurt or excluded has led us to new purpose, new resolve and new hope. We will make a better tomorrow if, together, we truly believe that justice and dignity for all humankind will make a richer life for all of us. The Campaign for Human Development is, indeed, a courageous idea which is working.

The idea behind the Campaign for Human Development is powerful, direct and profoundly Christlike. Begun in 1970, the Campaign is the United States Bishops' action/education program to attack the root causes of poverty in our society. With perhaps 40 million people caught in the vicious cycle of poverty, it is a courageous idea which is working.

This year has been a difficult one for many people in our 12-county diocese. Long-term unemployment has become a grim reality for many people. Unfortunately, many unemployed and poor people are not the recipients of any public assistance and so, they turn to us in their need. An adult should have the right to earn enough to raise a family, live in a decent home and share in the hopes and struggles of our society.

Through the great generosity of the American Catholic people, the Campaign for Human Development has been able to fund nationally over 1,000 self-help projects for the poor. With the gifts received from good people like yourselves throughout our entire diocese, our local Campaign for Human Development program was able to fund 14 poverty groups last year.

We must continue the good work done each year by the Campaign for Human Development. May I count on you to be generous in your gift to the Campaign for Human Development collection which will be received in your church next weekend.

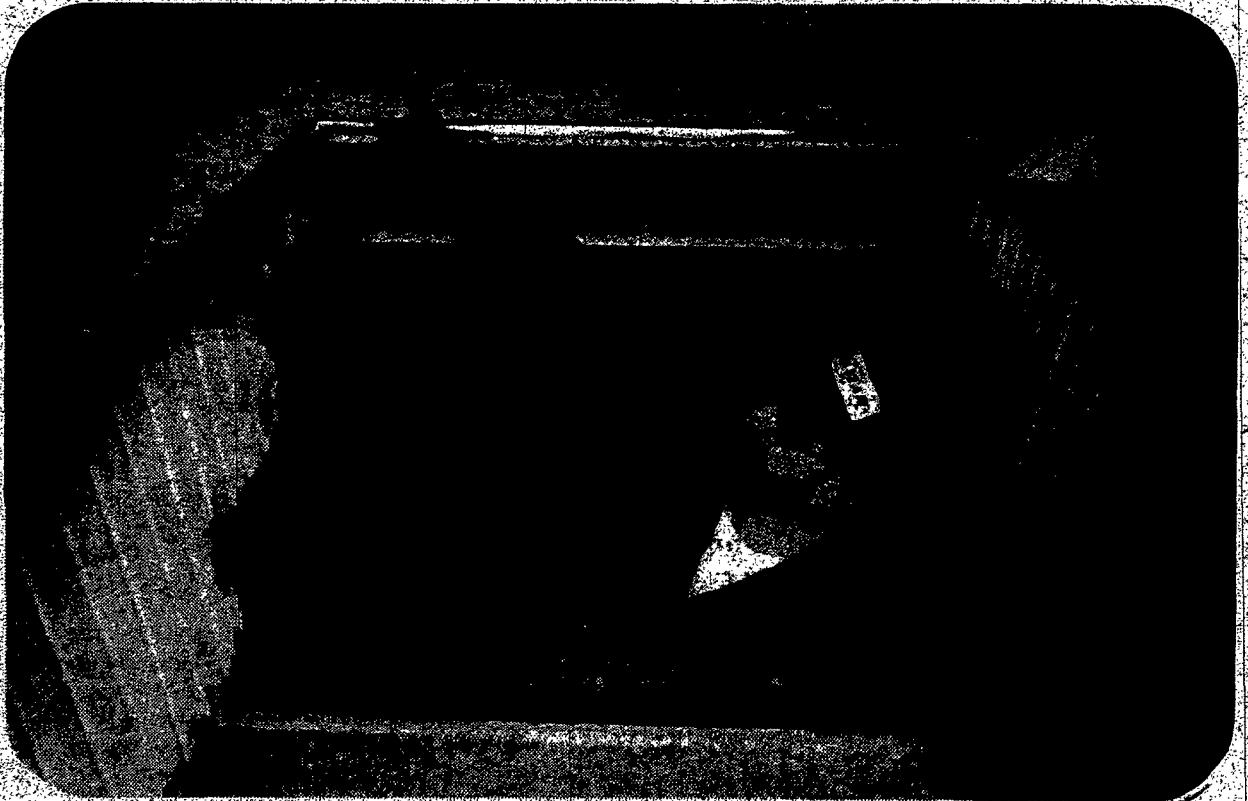
With a word of personal thanks and a blessing, I remain

Gratefully yours in Christ,

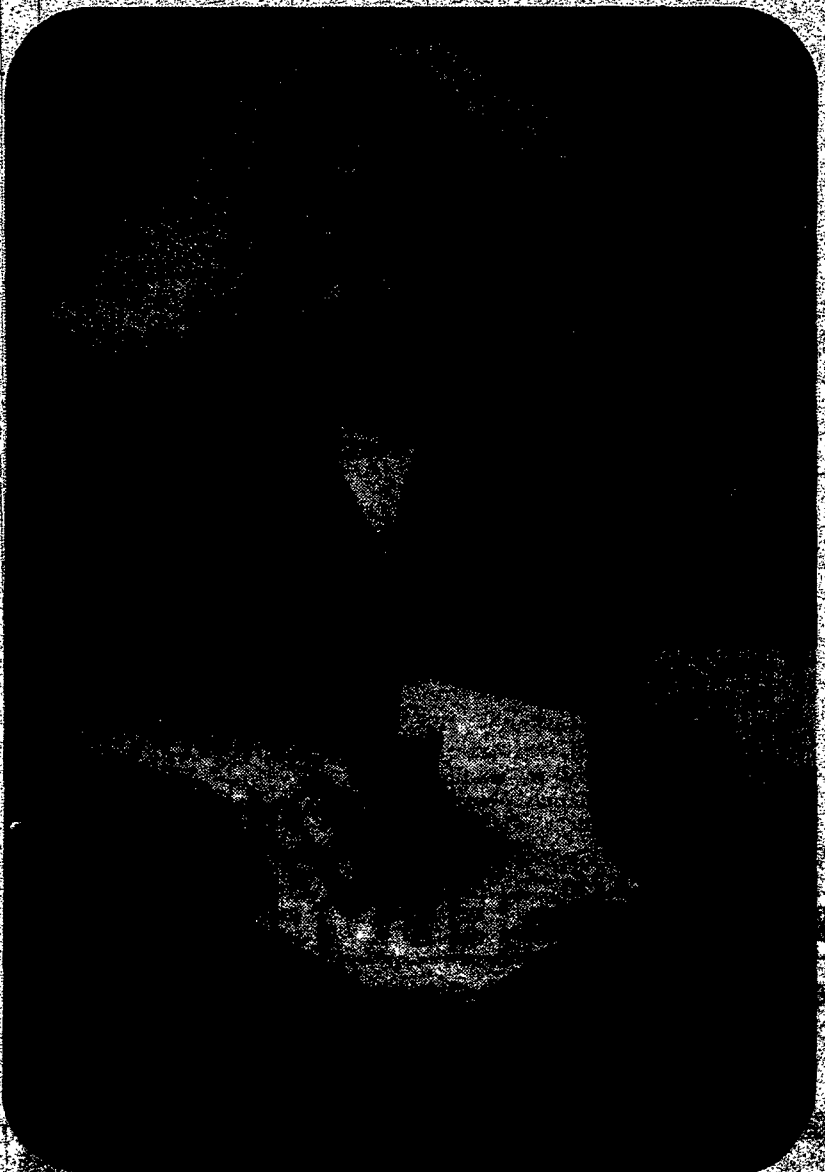
Joseph L. Hogan
+ Most Reverend Joseph L. Hogan, D.D.
Bishop of Rochester



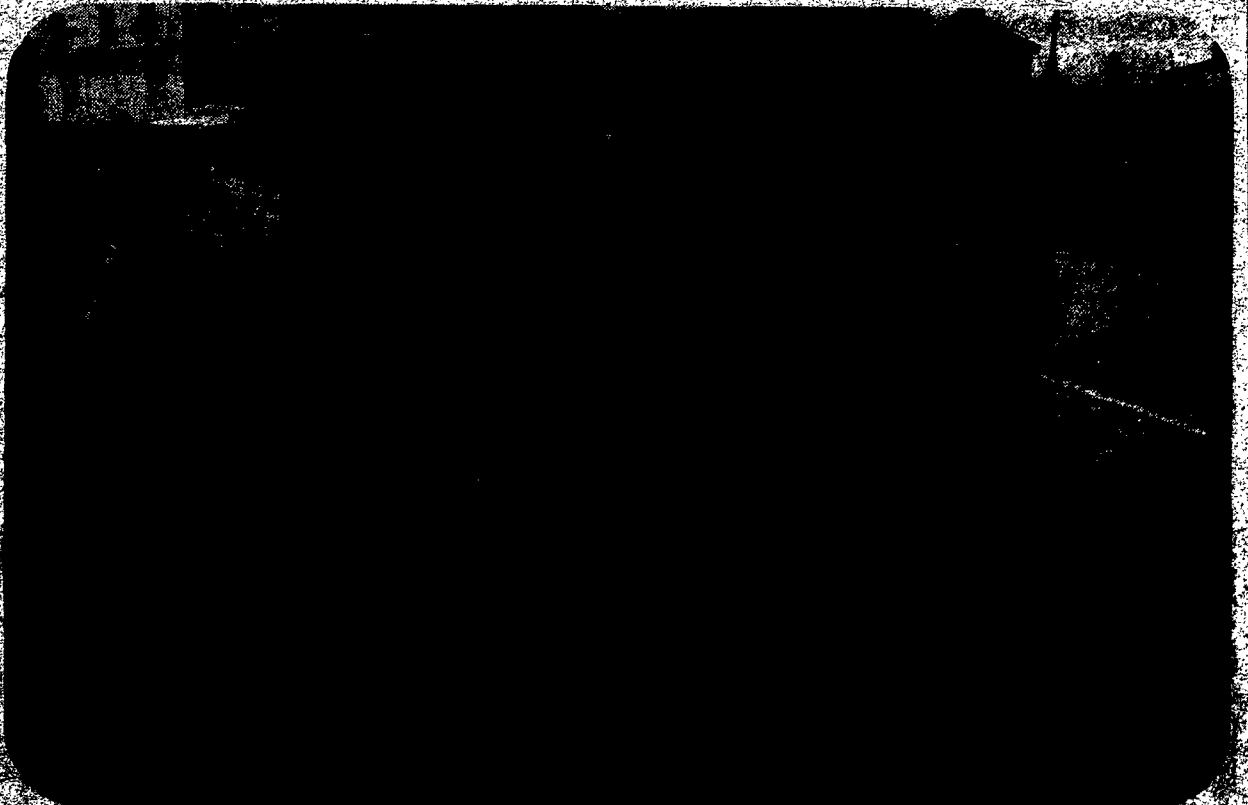
Sister Alice McLaughlin, Yates-Ontario-Wayne Human Development, arranges "low cost" clothing at the Center, located in Lyons.



Father Wiant prepares to store canned food in the center's basement.



Father George Wiant, Wayne County Human Development, reviews a handbook prepared for Social Service recipients at the Wayne County Self-Development Center.



Sister Alice unloading food donated by St. Dominic's, E. Rochester, for the Wayne County poor.