

Charities Focus on Funds

New York (RNS) — Government funds are the greatest source of support for the work of agencies serving Catholic Charities. In 1976 federal and state grants totaled \$142,428,954, or 45 per cent of total receipts, according to reports received last week during the annual meeting of the National Conference of Catholic Charities.

Total expenditures last year exceeded \$336 million, 20 per cent of which — \$62.8 million — was provided by churches, United Funds, foundation grants and "other" sources provided the balance.

The new president of the conference, Father Donald F. Dunn of Denver, commented on the report that a pressing problem is "how to keep our Catholic identity when we are proprietors of government funds." The report itself stated that "we do not yet know at what level government, or any other funds, begin to impede autonomy."

In the course of several days, the 300 delegates approved resolutions and documents dealing with issues that often generated heated debate. A major policy statement called upon member agencies to function as "advocates of the family," using persuasion, education and pressure on legislative bodies. The agencies were urged to build up the family "as giver as well as consumer of service, especially in parish outreach programs and in other neighborhood and community groups."

Another document

overwhelmingly approved at the 63rd annual meeting was entitled Distributive Justice and Taxation. It defined "distributive justice" as "fair and proportionate assignment of the burdens and benefits of the community to its members," and called for a revision of the tax system to provide more equitable distribution of the nation's wealth.

A much amended statement asked the federal government for a "bold new national urban policy" that would take account also of needs of the rural population. The statement spoke of the conference's own responsibilities in combatting urban blight, and said the agencies could "help develop an awareness among church personnel of the impact that church-related decisions may have on communities."

Archbishop Ignatius J. Strecker of Kansas City, Kan., pleaded for acknowledgement of rural America's problems, and the statement was amended to encompass these.

"Rural America is ravaged — its people wounded by injustices," the archbishop declared. "By nearly every standard, rural America is disproportionately lacking in the services which urban people take for granted," he said, and he listed medical care, legal assistance and public transportation among the deficiencies.

The statement includes an amendment favoring public assistance for "undocumented aliens" pending determination of

their status and urges a comprehensive national health insurance policy.

The conference made a special point of reaffirming its opposition to abortion by calling for a pro-life amendment to the Constitution.

The most controversial of all the resolutions it adopted embodied a petition to the U.S. bishops to admit women to the permanent diaconate of the Church. Opponents termed the issue "a matter of theology," proponents called it a matter of "service."

The Archdiocese of St. Paul-Minneapolis presented this resolution and another successful one that called for ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment.

Two resolutions concerning the labor-management conflict at J. P. Stevens textile mills were passed. One supported a national boycott of Stevens products and the other acclaimed the efforts of Southern bishops to mediate the dispute, centered in North Carolina. Both affirmed a Catholic tradition of social justice recognizing "the right of workers to organize for collective bargaining."

Right to Life Marks Anniversary

The New York State Right to Life organization will mark its tenth anniversary at their 1977 convention on Saturday, Oct. 1 at the Turf Inn in Albany. Professor Robert M. Byrn, a legal spokesman for the right to life movement will be the keynote speaker.

Also featured at the convention will be guest speaker Mildred F. Jefferson, M.D., the three-term president of the national Right to Life Committee. Dr. Jack Willke, executive vice-president of NRLC and Dr. Carolyn Gerster, chairman of the board, will also attend.

New York State Right to Life members will attend workshops dealing with state and federal legislation, euthanasia, family life, fund raising, health systems agency, youth group activities, political action and community involvement.

For further information interested persons may call or write to New York State Right to Life Committee, Inc., 41 State St., Albany, N.Y. 12207, 518 434-1293, or 342 Madison Ave., Suite 721 New York 10017, 212 490-1051

FATIMA MARCH

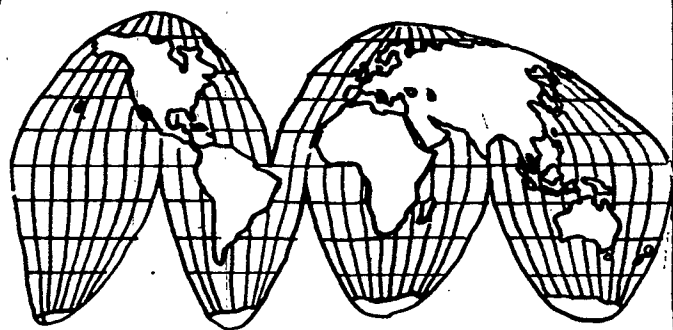
The 60th anniversary of Our Lady's apparition at Fatima, Portugal will be marked Oct. 9 in downtown Rochester by a Rosary March from the Liberty Pole to Old St. Mary's Church. The 3 p.m. celebration is one of many sponsored nationwide by the National Rosary Committee. Locally, it is supported by the Blue Army and a number of priests



Carter Meets with Bishops

President Carter is shown greeting Archbishop Joseph Bernardin, of Cincinnati, Ohio, president of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops (NCCB), left, and Bishop Thomas Kelly, OP, NCCB general secretary, at a White House meeting on Sept. 12. The Catholic leaders were assured by Mr. Carter that his emphasis on human rights represents "a very staunch commitment" and that the inability to implement the administration's policy uniformly "does not signal any backing away." (RNS)

the nation and . . .



. . . the world

St. Januarius's blood liquified Sept. 19, the saint's feast day, before a crowd of more than 5,000 cheering witnesses in Naples, Italy. Colorful rites surround the liquefaction which occurs, usually, three times a year. Failure of blood to liquefy portends some ominous consequences to the City of Naples. But when the phenomenon did not take place last year on the Saturday before the first Sunday in May, nothing bad happened to Naples

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Cardinal Bernard Alfrink, Archbishop of Utrecht, the Netherlands, decrying the arms race, has called on Christians to develop the "principles of non-violence" and endeavor to find "models of security independent of the military model." "One should realize," he said, "that non-violence is not a utopian ideal, but that it is really proof of a realistic view of the real situation." . . . Rhodesia has expelled as a "prohibited immigrant" Sister Teresa Corby, an Irish-born Catholic nun-physician who has been treating sick blacks in Rhodesia for the past three years. . . Poland's bishops, in a strongly-worded pastoral letter, have scored abuses of the communications media by the Communist regime. The bishops deplored the "spiritual, moral and material damage" which they said films, radio, television and the press, "concentrated in the hands of men dominated by evil and by the unworthy desire for profit," can bring to bear "not only on individuals but on entire communities."

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Catholics United for the Faith (CUF) has slated a conference at the end of next month in Houston, Tex. which will focus on the moral teaching of the Church. Four bishops will be among 12 speakers for the event. The outgoing Abbot-Primate of the world-wide federation of Benedictine monks, Abbott Rembert Weakland, OSB, has been named by Pope Paul to succeed the retiring Archbishop William Cousins of Milwaukee. The 50-year-old archbishop-designate was born the same year Archbishop Cousins was ordained

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