



# COURIER-JOURNAL

NEWSPAPER OF THE DIOCESE OF ROCHESTER

24 Pages

Wednesday, October 24, 1979

OUR 96th YEAR

25 Cents

## 'They Are Down But They're Beautiful People'

### Bishop Clark Takes Tour Through Rural Tioga County

By Martin Toombs  
Southern Tier Editor

"They're beautiful people," said Bishop Matthew H. Clark following a tour of rural Tioga County with the two sisters who work there.

On Oct. 17, Sister Mary Kruckow and Sister Sheila Geraghty, staff of the Tioga Rural Ministry Project, took Bishop Clark, Father Charles Latus and Father Douglas Hoffman on a tour of the county, and to three homes.

That evening at the regional town meeting in Dryden, Bishop Clark reported that it was "a strong experience," to "meet

that kind of poverty in the midst of a country that is, relatively, 'rolling in it'."

After visiting people living in the area, and seeing some of the poor housing conditions there, he observed that "the people here ought to know about these people."

They "are down," he said to those at the Dryden meeting, but "they're beautiful people."

At the completion of the tour, he asked the sisters if the families he visited were typical of those they assisted, and they said they were. He also asked if they were always so cheerful. Sister Mary responded, "Yes, they have love."

Leaving from Owego, the sisters took the bishop east through the hills along the Pennsylvania border into Nichols, and then north through Tioga Center and into Newark Valley.

The first stop was at the Nichols home of Mary and Tony Rossi, an elderly couple. Mrs. Rossi suffers from a back ailment that makes it impossible for her to straighten her body. The pair were in high spirits when their visitors arrived. They joined in prayerfully when it was time for a prayer, the bishop's blessing, and Communion.

Mrs. Rossi happily told the bishop about her three daughters and four sons,



Mrs. Rossi receives Communion.

even telling how the girls' names were selected.

The next stop was the home of Mary Graham, her daughter Helen Roper and

her four children, who had just returned from school in Tioga Center. The Ropers live in a trailer behind Mrs. Graham's house while they build a house next to it, on a dirt road high in the hills.

Mrs. Graham responded to a question by Bishop Clark by stating that she came to Tioga Center in 1926, from Iowa. Near the

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## Asian Auschwitz

The two-year-old Cambodian child pictured above in his mother's arms was photographed Oct. 1 at a refugee camp in Thailand. He had not eaten in five days and was unable to move. Catholic Relief Services and Oxfam have managed to distribute some food among people flocking to the Thailand border, to the consternation of Cambodia's Heng Samrin government, and a worldwide campaign for massive assistance is underway, spurred by the United Nations Children's Fund and the International Red Cross, among others. Observers believe that the Cambodian government, installed by Soviet-supported Vietnamese forces, deliberately is inflicting starvation on areas where its control is contested — about 80 per cent of the country, they say. The Vietnamese now are permitting Western aid, but only under their supervision. A bill before Congress would increase the American contribution to the international rescue effort to \$30 million.



## Humility a Mark Of Nobel Winner

(See Editorial, Page 4)

Calcutta, India — Mother Teresa received the news last week of her Nobel Peace Prize with the modesty which has characterized her work for the past three decades. "I am going to hide somewhere," she said to reporters who descended on her mission following the news of the award.

The nun who has been called a saint even in secular journalism, said "Thank God for his gift for the poor. God's blessings will be with the people who have given the prize. I hope it will be a real means of bringing peace and happiness in the world of today."

Of the award, she said, "personally I feel unworthy; but more aware of the condition of the poor."

Born Agnes Gonxha Bojaxhiu in what is now Yugoslavia, Mother Teresa dedicated her life, at the age of 36, to helping the destitute of Calcutta, especially the dying.

She was first recognized more than a decade ago for her work when Pope Paul VI bestowed the Pope John XXIII Award on her. At

that time she said that her's was "God's work, not mine."

Mother Teresa opened her first convent for the Missionaries of Charity, in Calcutta, in 1948. Two years later, her organization gained official approbation from Rome. Today, the sisters in her congregation number 1,800 with 120,000 co-workers in 158 branches around the world, including the U.S.

Mother Teresa plans to use the \$190,000 prize money to build more homes for the destitute, "especially for the lepers."



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