



Photo by Terrance J. Brennan

Maurice Tierney, chief of Rochester's Catholic Charities, center, shares a laugh with Bovaird and Msgr. Corcoran.

Charities Expects 2,000 Delegates

By John Dash

Representatives of Catholic Charities across the country met in Rochester last week for a two-day session of planning for the National Conference of Catholic Charities annual convention to be held here in the fall.

It is expected that more than 2,000 persons engaged in Charities' work will attend the gathering.

According to Jack Bovaird, chairman of the planning group, and associate director of Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of New Orleans, the conference will focus on three major concerns: the national economy, the family, and the role of parish ministry in delivering Catholic Charities services.

He said last week that the aim of the planning group is to "attempt to bring all service areas together in the program," for the national convention. He also stated that he feels "we have most of the bases covered, so we can be 'all things to all people.'"

Also present at the gathering was Msgr.

Lawrence Corcoran, executive director of the National Catholic Charities office in Washington, D.C.

Msgr. Corcoran spelled out last week in the light of both the U.S. bishops' Year (and Decade) of the Family, and the up-coming White House Conference on Families, the on-going role the NCCC plays.

"We undertook very early on to petition for the White House Conference on Families," he said, and subsequently, to work together with and support the efforts of the White House Conference planning groups.

In addition, he said, the NCCC is working through diocesan structures for family programs, both on the religious and civil level.

He pointed out that Charities in some dioceses, have assumed the functions of Family Life offices where no such structure exists, and on a national scale, is working with the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate (CARA) in gathering "baseline data" for future family ministry programs.

Deaths

Clare Logan

The Mass of Christian burial was celebrated for Clare E. Logan on Jan. 15 at St. Boniface Church. Mrs. Logan, who lately had lived at Pinnacle Place, died Jan. 13, 1980.

Mrs. Logan was born and educated in Rochester. She was married in 1934 to James Logan, who died in 1941. They lived in Flint, Mich. until his death, when Mrs. Logan brought her three young sons to Rochester to live with her parents. The sons

are Patrick Logan, who lives in England but was with his mother for the two weeks preceding her death; Paul Logan of Rochester, and John (Tim) of Dayton, O., who was here during the Christmas holidays.

Other survivors are her sisters, Dorothy (Mrs. John W.) Costello, and Sister M. Florian, SSJ; five grand-children, an aunt in Florida, a niece and two nephews.

Father Winfried Kellner, pastor of St. Boniface, celebrated the funeral Mass with Fathers Joseph Brennan

Word for Sunday

By Father Albert Shamon

The Gift Above All Others

Sunday's Readings: (R2) 1 Cor. 12:31-13:13. (R3) Lk. 4:18-19. (R1) Jer. 1:4-5, 17-19.

In the past two Sundays, we have seen what the spiritual gifts of the Holy Spirit are and why they were given so abundantly to the Church at Corinth. We also saw how these very gifts, meant to confirm Paul's preaching and to build up the church were paradoxically tearing it apart. It was in this context that Paul wrote his unparalleled, lyrical passage on love, which is next Sunday's second reading.

"Knowledge puffeth up," Paul told his Corinthians. The spiritual gifts, especially knowledge, were leading them to pride; and pride, to divisions; and a divided house cannot stand. Worse still, division is the mark of sin, as it was at Babel. The Greeks called their god of the underworld Dis, for he fathers discord. Unity is the hallmark of God, as it was on Pentecost. For God is love. And love is the bond of unity. Love is the soul of the church body, as the soul is the life of the human body. Without the soul, the human body disintegrates: without love, the gifts divide the ecclesial body.

Therefore Paul told the gift-laden Corinthians, "I will show you the way which surpasses all others." The way of love! The greatest gift is not a charisma, but a virtue: the theological virtue of love! This is the gift above all other gifts which everybody must seek.

"If I speak with human tongues (that is, if I have the gift of wisdom in discourse) and angelic (that is, if I have even prayer tongues), but do not have love, I am a noisy gong, a clanging cymbal."

"If I have the gift of prophecy and a knowledge that can comprehend all mysteries, if I have faith great enough to do something even greater than

Deadline

The deadline for submitting news to the Courier-Journal is noon on Thursday, preceding the following Wednesday's publication.

healings and miracles, namely, to move mountains, but have not love, I am nothing."

"No matter what else I do — feed the poor or die a martyr at the stake — but have not love, I gain nothing."

Love is not a feeling — a feeling good and warm inside as though one had swallowed the noonday sun. Christian love is **agape** — a will-act, a decision to love the unlovable. It is a reaching out to others — a

social virtue.

It means being patient with and being kind to others — less gifted.

It means not being snobbish or rude to others, because they do not have what we may have — one of the spiritual gifts. It means not to be self-seeking — seeking the gift for our own ends. Nor to be angry with those who do not understand what it all means to be a turned-on Christian — turned on by the spiritual gifts of the Spirit.

One of the flaws in some pre-Vatican spirituality, I think, was the tendency to concentrate on a particular

virtue as a goal, for instance, on patience, and then to try and reach this goal mainly by human resolve and effort. "I'm working on patience, or on kindness" used to be an oft-heard remark made by those "striving" for perfection.

The flaw lies in this: we were liable to put too much stress on our own effort. Better it would be should we focus more on building up a closer relationship with the Spirit of Love — the Holy Spirit — and then patience and kindness and all the other irradiations of love would follow as the dawn the sunrise. Paul achieved through the Spirit what he had failed to do on his own.

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