

Food Stamps May Run Out Group Presses Drive for Funds

By John Dash

Geneva — An ad hoc group representing religious and social service concerns for a five-county area in the diocese last week said that, unless Congress acts immediately, there will be no food stamps after June 1.

Sister Anne Urquhart of the rural Office of Human Development said at a news conference in the Senior Citizens' Center here that, in addition, there would be a 10 per cent reduction in the federal budget for school breakfast and lunch programs.

Sister Anne heads the ad hoc coalition which includes Elaine Espencheid, executive attorney of Legal Assistance of the Finger Lakes; Bert Craft, Asian-American Coalition; Ken Decker, Wayne CASH; Mary Lucille White, Welfare Rights Association; and Ferristine Richardson.

The counties they represent are Wayne, Ontario, Yates, Seneca and Cayuga.

The group is asking for a massive letter-writing campaign indicating support of Senate Bill 1309, without amendments, which would ensure continuation of the food stamp program throughout the summer.

In addition the group is urging general opposition to any cutbacks in food and nutrition programs in the 1981 federal budget.

According to Espencheid more than 16,000 persons in the five-county area are receiving food stamps.



Photo by John Dash

Presenting their case are (left to right) White, Decker, Sister Anne, Espencheid and Craft.

"The money has run out of the food stamp budget," she said, "because they did not anticipate inflation." She stated that on May 1, the present food stamp recipients may have received their last allotment.

She also said that Rep. Gary Lee has told her that S1309 is not scheduled for discussion in the House. She described it as "an extremely serious situation because time is running out."

The group has said that funds must be voted on by May 15.

In a statement issued at the press conference, the group also noted that food stamp cutbacks "will also have a serious impact on the local economy as small grocery stores and supermarkets lose food stamp income."

"A poll of several Wayne County communities revealed that approximately \$29,000 per month is taken in by eight grocery stores and supermarkets. A major Auburn supermarket takes in \$10,000 per month from food stamp customers; a Geneva supermarket takes in \$14,000 the first week of each month in food stamp coupons."

According to Craft, "Food stamp dollars are 'high velocity' dollars. They must be used immediately and locally."

He said the curtailment of such income into a community would aggravate "the most serious economic decline since the Depression."

The statement also read, "What's happening with food stamps is just the beginning. Child nutrition programs are about to be cut back severely — by as much as 10 per cent."

"The budget must be passed with all \$551.1 million child nutrition cuts restored," the group stated.

Anniversaries

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Msgr. Quinn's observance of the anniversary will be a quiet one.

Msgr. Quinn's education has taken place at Immaculate Conception School, Aquinas Institute, St. Andrew's Seminary and St. Bernard's Seminary. He has, in addition, done graduate work at Canisius College, where he earned an MA, the University of Ottawa and Columbia University. His first priestly assignments were to the New Jersey parishes of St. Cecilia in Rockaway, St. Mary's in Denville, and St. Nicholas in Passaic. He also served as spiritual director of Pius XII Memorial High School in Passaic. He was appointed a professor at St. Andrew's Seminary here in 1945. In 1956 he was named rector of the school. Msgr. Quinn has been pastor of Our Lady of Perpetual Help since 1967.

Father Shamon is an Auburn native. He attended St. Aloysius School and Auburn Academic High School before entering St. Andrew's and St. Bernard's seminaries. He took a masters in history from Canisius College, and has done theological studies at the Dominican House of Studies in Chicago, and the Maryknoll House of Studies. He has served as curate at St. Thomas the Apostle and St. Mary's in Rochester. He was named a teacher at Aquinas Institute in 1946 and at St. Andrew's Seminary in 1950. He was

named pastor of St. Patrick's, Victor, in 1961. In 1967 Father Shamon was named diocesan vicar for education, a post he held four years until his present assignment as pastor of St. Mary's. He is widely known through his column, "Word for Sunday," in the Courier-Journal, and is the author of several books including, "First Steps to Sanctity," "Treasure Untold," and "Behind the Mass." He is also widely published on the subject of catechetics.

Father Wood will open his celebration with a concelebrated high Mass at 12:30 on Sunday, May 18. Msgr. Richard Burns will preach. At 4:30 p.m. parishioners and well-wishers will gather at the Mapledale Party House. Dinner will be served there at 5:30 p.m. and Auxiliary Bishop Dennis W. Hickey will be guest speaker.

Father Wood is a graduate of St. Augustine's School and Aquinas Institute. He studied for the priesthood at St. Andrew's and St. Bernard's seminaries. He has served as assistant at Immaculate Conception Parish, as associate and later as director of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith. He has been pastor of Our Mother of Sorrows since 1961, during which tenure he has constructed the new church complex. In addition, Father Wood is a co-founder of the School of the Holy Childhood and

serves as chaplain to its parents group; is chaplain to the county Ancient Order of Hibernians, the Knights of St. John, and the Fraternal Order of Eagles. He is well known as an expert on finance and is a member of the Priests Finance Committee, the Cardinal Mooney Finance Executive Committee and the St. Bernard's Seminary Finance Committee.

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Business In Diocese

Katherine E. McCarney has been appointed assistant new products manager for the professional products group of Norwich-Eaton Pharmaceuticals. She will identify new product possibilities and plan the integration of new products into the Norwich-Eaton line.

McCarney is a 1970 graduate of St. Agnes High School. She has a master's degree in industrial administration and one in public health. McCarney received her bachelor's degree in biology from the University of Rochester in 1974. She lives in the city of Norwich, N.Y.

Charismatic Mass

Father James Connolly, SJ, will celebrate a charismatic Mass at 7:45 p.m. Friday, May 16, in St. Jerome's Church, 207 S. Garfield, East Rochester. All are welcome.

Pope In Africa

Pope John Paul II canceled some of his activities in Zaire last week after nine persons were killed in a human stampede to attend an open-air Mass in Kinshasa. A reported 1.5 million were at the Mass.

The Courier-Journal will have extensive coverage of his 10-day trip to Africa in next week's edition.

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