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OUR 97th YEAR

25 Cents

1,600 Expected at Charities Convention

By John Dash

The first of more than 1,600 delegates are now arriving in Rochester for the National Conference of Catholic Charities, hosted this year by the diocesan Catholic Charities office.

Chief among the delegates'

concerns will be the effect that Charities has on parish ministerial staffs and the role that Charities can play in the development of parish social outreach.

The convention, slated to open tomorrow, will be held at the Genesee Crossroads Plaza

and the Americans Hotel, downtown.

In addition to the major conference, two ancillary events are also slated: the convention of the Association of Ladies of Charity of the United States (ALCUS) and Youth Day, an event sponsored by the Catholic

Youth Organization. Youth Day will be held at Monroe Community College, Saturday, Sept. 20.

Youth Day, being conducted with the assistance of the Diocesan Department of Religious Education, will be open to both young people and adults, and will feature

workshops on questions of concern to teenagers including sexuality, jobs, and the draft.

The NCCC gathering will hear from Bishop Joseph McCarthy and Hazel Henderson. Bishop McCarthy is auxiliary of Galveston, Houston. Ms. Henderson is a futurist who will discuss

probabilities in Charities work for the next decade. The NCCC conference will feature a number of workshops, all of which are open to interested diocesans.

Further information is available from Catholic Charities, (716) 546-4894.

Collection to Help Work of Seminaries



St. Bernard's seminarians.

The annual collection for St. Bernard's Seminary and Becket Hall has been scheduled for the weekend of Sept. 27-28.

Last year's collection raised more than \$148,000 for the diocesan seminaries.

St. Bernard's Seminary offers theological degree programs for religious and laity. It serves the diocesan program for the permanent diaconate, provides continuing education opportunities for priests and sisters, and offers workshops and seminars for interested lay men and women.

But, seminary officials point out, it is more than an academic institution. As one seminarian put it, "I am learning about myself and what it means to be of service." Another said, "I have met a lot of different people at St. Bernard's and each person I have met has been walking with the Lord."

Bishop Matthew H. Clark, who authorized the collection, said, "Those who serve us in so many ways are prepared for ministry

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Keeping Schools on the Go

Some pupils at St. Ambrose ponder the marathon to raise funds for Catholic schools on Saturday, Oct. 25. The marathon can be biked, hiked, skated or jogged, according to officials. Lisa Monile, Kevin Consul, Karen Schindler, and David Osipovitch are the pupils. Complete story is on Page 15.

Bishop: Catechists Need Support

See centerfold.

My dear Sisters and Brothers:

On Sept. 20, we observe Catechetical Sunday whose theme this year is The Parish Community: Servant of the Word.

It is a time for all of us to remember the critical importance of the catechetical ministry. By it our young people are trained in the faith and its mysteries. Moreover, they are taught by word and example to live faithfully the implications of our heritage in Christ. They are brought to greater life in the faith by the beauty of the lived faith they experience in their families and parish communities.

Parents, of course, are the first catechists of their children. By example, they communicate to their young their love for Christ and His Church.

More than 5,000 men and women in our diocese — in Schools of Religion and Catholic Schools — generously

and with inspiring dedication work to foster the growth in faith in our young people.

The importance of their ministry cannot be exaggerated. Nor must we overlook the difficulty of the task.

All catechists — parents and those who supplement their efforts — need our support in service and in prayer.

On this Sunday, I encourage all to pray for this effort. Together, we are part of the catechetical ministry; may the Lord strengthen us to contribute to it according to our abilities.

Your brother in Christ,

Matthew H. Clark

Most Rev. Matthew H. Clark, DD
Bishop of Rochester

Vocations Team Plans Agenda

By Terrance J. Brennan

Sue Staropoli of the Family Life Office, among others.

The Diocesan Vocations Office, directed by Father Thomas Valenti, has announced that a series of events, designed to increase the public's awareness of the office, has been scheduled over the next few weeks.

Father Valenti will represent the vocations team at Youth Day festivities this Saturday, Sept. 20, when a panel discussion will be presented. Also represented on the panel will be Frank and

Next Wednesday, Sept. 24, a meeting of representatives from various religious communities will take place at the pastoral office to explain vocations and perhaps expand the team.

In expanding the team, Father Valenti emphasized, "We're not looking for a good number of team members, but rather a more representative number; team members who

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