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OUR 97th YEAR

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Bishop Clark explains to his priests his reasons for pursuing an annual fund drive. Seated are Father Peter Bayer (center) and Father Marvin.

Bishop Gives Impetus To Financial Drive

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By John Dash

Acknowledging that his decision to launch a campaign this Fall to finance diocesan administration has put him on the spot, Bishop Matthew H. Clark, nevertheless, has promised his priests that he will be in the front lines when the drive is conducted.

He told about 150 priests last week at the first of three meetings introducing the new program that he would neither be "in the bushes" nor "just a front man" for the campaign.

The drive will do away with the current system of taxing parishes to fund administrative operations by making direct appeal to the laity.

The appeal will be conducted in all parishes this November.

The bishop said he considers the drive to be a "positive and creative move we are making as a diocese." He said the principal reason for abandoning the tax system is that "it does nothing to awaken people to who we are as Church."

He said he based his decision on the belief that "to move creatively and confidently in the future we need

funds; but, more importantly, I think the story of our life is a very beautiful one . . . People want to serve; but, I am convinced, people do not realize what the diocese does — and they have a right to that knowledge."

"I hope it will be a vehicle," he said, "to bring us together."

The meeting, at St. Thomas More Parish, March 23, was chaired by Father James Marvin, pastor of St. Ambrose Church, and chairman of a committee which developed the appeal.

Father Marvin outlined for the priests several "firm" aspects of the drive over which there could be no question:

Each parish must conduct the campaign according to a general model. Individual programs will be tailored to meet the needs of specific parishes.

Each parish must meet its assigned quota. The quotas will be assigned according to formulae now being developed by a special committee.

Each parish will receive back 80 percent of any monies raised in excess of its quota.

Each parish now paying its assessment will continue to do so through Nov. 1.

Parishes with established campaigns may "piggy-back" the diocesan appeal with those campaigns.

There are to be no major new parish campaigns this year.

Norman McGowan, a private consultant for the development of the appeal, said he expects that the machinery for the drive will be in place by Sept. 1, special workshops to begin in mid-September, two preliminary phases of the campaign to be conducted Nov. 1 and Nov. 7 and 8, and the general appeal to be conducted Sunday, Nov. 15.

WANTED: Families, Parishes To Sponsor Refugees

Rochester is one of ten places across the nation chosen by the U.S. State Department for systematic resettlement of some 10,000 Cambodian refugees scheduled to arrive in this country by the end of this month.

Diocesan sponsors to assist in the resettlement of 50 families, numbering between 200 and 250 individuals, are urgently needed, according to a pastoral letter from Bishop Matthew H. Clark.

Bishop Clark's letter noted that "many parishes . . . have in past years reached out to displaced and desperate families," and added, "I am bringing this need for sponsors to your attention, asking our parishes to respond favorably when a representative from Catholic Family Center's Refugee Program calls . . . since this need is urgent, may I suggest prompt discussion and the appointment of a contact person to relate to the Catholic Family Center."

The bishop asked interested parishes to contact the Catholic Family Center at 546-7220.

Anna Humaydan, resettlement coordinator for the Catholic Family Center, said that two other religious agencies, Church World Service and Lutheran Immigration, also have agreed to promote sponsorships, raising the total of resettlement families to more than 100 here.

The State Department
Continued on Page 2

Bishop's Letter

My dear People:

Since 1975, many compassionate people in our diocese have opened their hearts to the victims of war in Southeast Asia. Sixty parishes have sponsored refugees from Vietnam or Laos. I am impressed with your generosity.

Catholic Family Center, our Refugee Resettlement Office, is again in need of your help. Within the next few months they will need sponsors for a number of Cambodian families that have been targeted for resettlement in the Rochester area.

We have all heard and been shocked by the accounts of forced labor and starvation in Cambodia. Hundreds of thousands of Cambodians escaped into Thailand and many countries rallied to their aid by contributing food, clothing and medical care. Since 1978 these people have been living in crowded camps in Thailand, many hoping that conditions in their own country would improve and they would return to Cambodia. However, this hope has not materialized and it has become necessary for other countries, including the United States, to accept some of these homeless people.

Many parishes throughout the Rochester diocese have in past years reached out to displaced and desperate families in search of freedom. Their outreach exemplified Christ's teachings of humanity and culture between refugees and their sponsors. Parish communities experienced a new sense of closeness and found that they received more than they gave.

I am bringing this need for sponsors to your attention, asking our parishes to respond favorably when a representative from Catholic Family Center's Refugee Program calls. These families will begin to arrive in late April. Since this need is urgent, may I suggest prompt discussion and the appointment of a contact person to relate to the Catholic Family Center. You will soon be receiving further information from them. If your parish will sponsor a family, please call Catholic Family Center as soon as possible.

Let us continue to proclaim Christ's teachings and reach out to our brothers and sisters in need.

Your brother in Christ,

Most Reverend Matthew H. Clark, DD
Bishop of Rochester

'Mother of the Year' Draws Wide Response

Young people across the diocese are responding to the Courier-Journal's Mother of the Year Contest by writing stories about or by drawing pictures of their mothers.

The contest, which began last week and which will close April 15, is open to all young people under 18. Children under 8 may submit a drawing of the person they would like chosen mother of the year.

The grand prize in the contest is a dinner for the entire family, limousine service, theater tickets, flowers, candy and a trip to a beauty shop.

In addition, there will be others named runnersup who will be treated to a dinner for two.

The Courier-Journal Mother of the Year will be named in the May 6 edition.

The rules:

1. On one side of a sheet of paper, each entrant must print or type name, age, address and telephone number.
2. Entrants name the person they think should be chosen mother of the year and write a story telling why; children eight and younger may draw a picture to explain why.
3. Entries must be postmarked no later than April 15 to:

Courier-Journal
Mother of the Year
114 S. Union St.
Rochester, N.Y. 14607

An outside panel of judges will select the best entry, and the panel's decision will be final. The winning mother will have her picture published in the Courier-Journal along with the winning entry.

Employees of the Courier-Journal and their families are ineligible.