COURIER-JOURNAL

Bishop Suggests 3 Steps to Assist Needy in Diocese

My dear brother priests,

As your Bishop I share with you a ministerial responsibility for an attentive pastoral response to the needs of people for whom daily life is a question of constant economic struggle. For the past four months there has been a national debate about the need for cutbacks with regard to human services and new methods of funding and structuring programs to help those who have a legitimate demand for economic or program support. The exact cuts are not clear yet, but we can conclude that their effects will be deep. The federal budget restrictions will be followed by cutbacks in service at the state and local levels. Many people of all ages may be hurt and need new help from our parishes or diocesan agencies.

I am hopeful that we can prepare carefully to offer whatever help we are capable of. Certainly some parishes may be strained to their limits by persons who now must turn to us for assistance. Collectively we should examine ways, perhaps very small, that we can provide effective help after the example of the Good Samaritan. Specifically, I want to suggest three steps which I think will promote a special alertness during the coming year.

First, I would ask that parish staffs, human development committees, and parish councils reflect on ways in which the local Church might offer some response to new needs. Discussion with neighborhood agencies, other churches, and informed leadership may be helpful in this process. I have asked that our diocesan agencies be prepared to support you in this type of discussion. As a hopeful people, we need creative thinking and planning so that we can fulfill our vocation to bring the practical love of Christ to new social situations.

Second, I am concerned about the new support that certain parish staffs may need. Urban and rural parishes may face a sharp increase in requests for help. Other more affluent parishes may be able to mobilize special resources in response. All need to be well informed about the services that the Diocese or social agencies have organized to help. As pastor, consider delegating a person or persons for the period of one year to promote appropriate ways of responding to immediate needs or sharing resources with poorer parishes. I will make my staff available to support these people.

Third, I note that all levels of leadership profess a genuine concern for the real needs of people. Pastors and lay leaders of a parish have a unique knowledge of genuine needs. For the sake of our Church and for the sake of our Nation, please reflect on the proper role of the Church in dialoguing with our political leaders about these needs.

I make these requests to stimulate creative thinking and adequate preparation. It is important that we prepare now for future needs. Anxious waiting followed by surprise at the demands that come to us does not fulfill our call to stewardship. I appreciate your concern and your support in this effort. I have listed below staff members whom I have asked to assume particular responsibility for this effort. I have chosen to share this letter with pastors and also in the Courier-Journal so that all will be informed.

Your Brother in Christ,

Rochester Telephone

Bertoncini, guitar; Mike Moore, double bass. 8 p.m.,

Thursday, June 25, Kilbourn Hall. Free.

Marin Most Reverend Matthew H. Clark, DD Bishop of Rochester The following are names and addresses of staff members

Rexville Church

Wednesday, June 17, 1981

Built in 1877 at a cost of

\$9,000, the 100-foot-long

church sat 700 persons. It

replaced a church which had

burned after only three years'

use. A parish hall which stood

across the street from the

church also was lost to fire in

1943. The building, once a school, was an indication of

the parish's past," when the

church actually was too small.

Leonard said that his father,

as a boy, had to sit in the aisle

for Mass, as there wasn't

Now about 300 persons

attend one of two weekend

Masses at the church, Father

Thomas Burr, pastor, said.

The church's size has been a

vexing problem for the parish,

as the universal agreement

that it cost too much to heat

was met with a stronger

commitment never to change

what everyone describes as a

Father Burr called the fire a

like

He also noted the recent

improvements to the church,

estimating that more than

\$20.000 has been spent on the

building during the past 10

A parish council meeting

was called for Wednesday evening to talk about the

parish's next step. It is ex-

pected that weekend Masses will be offered in the fire hall.

Father Burr stated the

conviction that was general

among those at the scene:

'We'll rebuild.'

parishioners, his "state of

thing,'

manv

beautiful church.

"heart-breaking

noting,

shock.'

vears.

enough room in the pews.

Continued from Page 1 night was through, parishioners removed anything they could through the church's side entrances. The stations, statues, and anything that wasn't attached was taken to the rectory.

The church's new oak altar wouldn't fit through the side door. The following day parishioners related what occurred with wonderment and gratitude. Two firemen, they said, grabbed the altar and ran it down the main aisle and out the front door, right through the fire.

Kevin O'Brien, parish council president and one of those who helped remove what they could, commented the next morning that it was a "short night last night," as they had had a meeting the previous night until 10:30 p.m., planning the parish's annual first-Sunday-of-August fund-raising event.

He praised the help they received, and recounted the frustration at seeing the problems the fire departments had, which included a pump failure very early. When the fire got into the space between the roof and ceiling, it spread rapidly.

O'Brien glanced toward the hulk and said, " It was one of the prettiest churches I've ever been in ... it certainly has a lot of history . . .'

As for the future, he said: "We can't be without a church."



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COURIER-JOURNAL Bishop Matthew H. Clark President

Anthony J. Costello

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course, "Character Building," is taught. Grades in the quarter

credit course are not used in determining honor roll status, nor are they recorded in the district's student records.

Sister Roberta Tierney, SSND, diocesan director of Education, last week offered the opinion that released time religious courses deserve to be given academic credit because the courses are academic in nature.

"There is academic content in them. They are not ex-

periential. 'conversion-type' sessions. They involve instruction and research. structured learning," she said. She opined that "academic credit ought to be given for instruction that is of an academic nature.'

PEARL membership includes the Genesee Lodge B'nai B'rith, the Genesee Valley Presbytery, the Genesee Valley Civil Liberties Organization, the Community Jewish Federation, Rochester United for Separation of Church and State and the Rochester Chapter of the Council of Jewish Women.



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asked by Bishop Clark to assume responsibility for this program. In Monroe and Livingston Counties: Ms. Carol Schwartz, Tim McGowan, 750 W. Main St., Rochester, N.Y. 14611, (716) 328-6400.

In Seneca, Cayuga, Yates, Ontario, Wayne Counties: Father William Spilly, Sister Anne Urguhart, 4 Palmyra St., Shortsville, N.Y. 14548, (716) 289-3050.

In the Southern Tier: Father Neil Miller, Ms. Giovina Caroscio, 160 High St., Elmira, N.Y. 14901, (607) 734-9784.



CLASSIC FILMS - "Top Hat," 2 and 8 p.m., Tuesday, June 23, Rochester Museum & Science Center, 657 East Ave.

Publisher & General Manager

Carmen J. Viglucci Editor

Rev. Louis J. Hohman Episcopal Advisor

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