

# Human Life Commission Awards \$21,000 in Grants

Birthright of Rochester, Inc. received \$6,000 this year from the Human Life Commission according to information released by the Department of Justice and Peace.

It is one of 15 organizations that received a total of more than \$21,000 in 1983 from the commission.

Other organizations and the amounts received are Melita House, \$3,400; Puzzle Project, \$1,850; Rochester Area Right To Life Education Fund, \$1,500; Hornell Area Right To Life Group, \$500; Birthright of Seneca County, \$900; Avon Respect For Life, \$395; Birthright of Ithaca, \$1,000; and Birthright of Owego, New York, Inc., \$900.

Also, Wayne County Right To Life, \$300; Got A Friend, \$1,000; Puzzle Project of Elmira, \$1,200; Southern Tier Office of Social Ministry, \$2,000; Birthright of Canandaigua, \$1,200; and Geneva Right To Life, \$22.

The Human Life Commission was established in the diocese as a response to the Bishop's Pastoral Plan for Pro-Life Activities issued in 1975.

It called for a three-pronged effort in facing the issues concerning abortion, euthanasia, poverty, the death penalty, the elderly, and the handicapped — through education, legislative efforts and pastoral care.

Since the protection and advocacy of human life is a social justice issue, the Human Life Commission was made a component of the Department of Justice and Peace, which in turn is in the

The Human Life Commission is funded by:



Division of Social Ministry, directly under the Bishop.

The commission has a board of 15 members, a coordinator, secretary and six task forces.

The Educational Task Force is charged with developing educational programs designed to change attitudes which, although popular, contribute to the isolation and devaluation of people.

The Legislative Task Force works toward bringing specific legislative bills and proposals to the attention of legislators for action on these social justice issues.

Pastoral Care, another main task force, is involved diocese-wide in the organizations and activities that foster and support the resources of the community to give direct care and counseling to pregnant women and to women who have had abortions and are in need of inner healing.

The Euthanasia/Handicapped Task Force asks the question, "Are we promoting an atmosphere of appreciation and concern to our frail elderly and terminally ill, or are we creating within them a sense of being a burden?" Also, what are the problems surrounding the severely handicapped newborn and the family?

To keep on-going communication between the community and the commission, the Parish Contact Task Force has been formed with each parish identifying one person to be the liaison. At present there are 179 parish contacts, and 11 regional coordinators to facilitate this exchange of information and to provide quick alerts to the community when legislative action (letter writing) is needed.

All task force people are volunteers, dedicated to advocating and protecting the value of life.

The commission, at one time funded by the Respect Life Sunday appeal and coordinated by the Respect Life Task Force, is now funded by the Bishop's Thanks Giving Appeal.

Fifty percent of the money allocated is retained by the commission for operating expenses which includes salaries for a full-time coordinator and part-time secretary. Forty-five percent is appropriated for direct pastoral care services and five percent of the money is given to groups dealing primarily with education.

The commission will provide speakers to schools, clubs, churches, etc. on the sacredness of life at every stage. Also available are films, tapes, books and pamphlets.

For further information, please contact the Human Life Commission, 750 West Main St., Rochester, 14611; or phone 716/328-6400.

Fr. Albert Shamon



Word for Sunday

## A Time Of Grace

Sunday's Readings: (R3) Lk. 14/1, 7-14. (R2) Sir. 3/17-18, 20, 28029. (R2) Heb. 12/18-19, 22-24.

As everyone knows this is a Holy Year: a year to commemorate the 1950th anniversary of the Redemption of our Lord.

What is unique about this Holy Year is the fact that to gain the jubilee indulgence, it is not necessary to make a pilgrimage to Rome. It suffices to pilgrimage to the cathedral or another church designated by our bishop.

Our Liturgy Office has issued a splendid leaflet on the jubilee year, "Make the Ordinary Extraordinary." It is worth our study.

At St. Mary's in Waterloo we are celebrating the jubilee year by consecration to Mary, the five First Saturdays, and prayers for the holy father. Our bishop has graciously approved this celebration. He did ask, however, that we focus on the spirit of reconciliation called for by the holy father, especially through the sacrament of reconciliation.

A jubilee year is a time of grace. It is a call to repentance and conversion.

Repentance means turning away from sin, breaking with a sinful way of life with a determination and resolve strong as steel. St. Paul called it dying to sin, so that sin no longer is alive and well in one's life.

Each day each of us

leaves home. But we generally intend to return home sometime later in the day. Repentance is not like that — leaving sin, but intending more or less to return to it later. That is not even the sorrow for sin necessary for a good confession.

Suppose, however, we have a moving van come to our house, and suppose we put all our furnishings into the van and move away. The intention is clear, is it not, that we are leaving that home, never to return to it? Repentance is like that — leaving old sinful ways with the intention of never going back to them.

However, repentance will follow only after conversion. A conversion is a change of heart. Only after the prodigal son "came to his senses at last," did he repent and return to his father's house. Suppose you are driving on the wrong road, but you think it is the right road. You will stay on it until you are converted, until someone convinces you that you are on the wrong road. So with our life. If we are on the wrong road, we shall stay on it, until we are convinced otherwise. Such conviction generally comes from someone else, especially the Holy Spirit. "He will prove the world wrong about sin" (Jn. 16/8).

So, to effect the conversion of heart that leads to repentance for sin, the Holy Year has to be for us a time of intense prayer, especially to the Holy Spirit, and a time of soul-searching.

Repeatedly, the holy fa-

ther has urged that this be sought through going to confession frequently. As our diocesan leaflet put it: how often of late have we humbly confessed our sins to a priest? how often of late have we frankly examined our consciences? The best way to enter into the Holy Year is by confession.

Then we should strive to rediscover the sacramentals of the Church. We hear, more often than we like, of Catholics joining fundamentalist groups. I think this is happening because some have fallen into the trap of puritanism — denuding our churches of so many paraliturgical devotions and things: the rosary, the stations, the 40 hours, statues, candles, novenas and so on. Some of our people need these. For them Sunday Mass, great as it is, alone is not enough. The wisdom of our Mother Mary! In her call for world peace, she has stressed the sacramentals and sacraments of the Church: the daily rosary, the wearing of the scapular, private confession and so on.

The holy father is calling for a similar response this Holy Year — for a religion of the heart!

## Legion Retreat Planned

The Legion of Mary has planned its annual retreat for Friday through Sunday, Sept. 9-11, at the Cenacle Renewal Center. It will be directed by Father John P. O'Malley.

For reservations or details, contact Legion Chairperson Mrs. Bernardine Begley, 1418 Latta Rd., Rochester 14612; or call 663-8722. You may also contact the Cenacle Ministry Office, 693 East Ave., Rochester 14607; phone 271-8755.



## Youth Retreat Draws 60

Some 60 Wayne County teenagers participated in an Antioch retreat, Friday through Sunday, July 22-24, at St. Michael's Parish, Newark. The purpose of the retreat is for the teens to develop a better self-image through the forming of Christian community; helping develop and foster their relationship with Christ. The participants were between the ages of 15-19, and joined in various group discussions, a penance service on Saturday night, and Mass on Sunday which culminated the weekend.



SINCE 1850

# Palmer

## Fish 'N' Seafood

**NEW AT PALMERS**

**SAVE 40¢ LB**

**CLAMBAKE SPECIAL**

**Fresh, Pasturized JUMBO LUMP BLUE CRAB MEAT** 8-ounce can only **\$7.99**

Delivered fresh from the Carolinas. Jumbo lump pieces are ideal for crab cocktails. Supplies limited.

**Fresh FLOUNDER FILLET** only **\$2.79 lb.**

Similar in taste and appearance to sole but at special savings.

**Fresh Maine Mahogany CLAMS** 10-Dozen Bag only **\$17.99**

Similar to hardshell littleneck clams but at substantial savings. Delicious steamed or prepared casino style.

All offers good through August 27, 1983.

PERINTON HILLS MALL  
ROUTES 30 and 250 • 223-5900

GENESEE REGIONAL MARKET  
900 JEFFERSON ROAD • 424-3210