

# CRS



Father Fitzpatrick distributes food to the children of Ethiopia.

## Priest Brings Thanks, Assurance and Hope

By John Dash  
Father Thomas Fitzpatrick, SJ, program director for Catholic Relief Services in Ethiopia, visited his hometown of Rochester recently to thank both dioceses and the general taxpayers for their help in alleviating starvation in that nation, and to assure both groups that "everything given to us reaches the final destination."

"We know there are a lot of rumors about food being diverted," he said. But those rumors are simply untrue, he stated.

He said the CRS Ethiopia program distributes food to 120,000 in one area, 60,000 in another, and 250,000 in a third.

And he also brought a word of hope: that starvation and malnutrition, particularly among Ethiopian children, is on a marked decline.

Father Fitzpatrick, an

Aquinas graduate and former vice president and treasurer of the University of Manila, has been working in Ethiopia for the past year and a half.

CRS initially went into Ethiopia in 1958, and stayed a decade, providing food. The service has been back in Ethiopia since 1974, the year the region was stricken with its phenomenal drought and subsequent famine.

"Actually now, we're working on a year-to-year basis," the priest said, "hoping the next harvest will contribute something toward the solution of the national problem: However, the real solution is much longer ranging, and would get into such things as better agricultural methods and irrigation and reforestation."

Toward those longer-range solutions, he said, CRS is funding 10 or 12 projects, ranging from road building, digging wells, constructing food warehouses and devel-

opment of food and nutrition centers.

CRS, Father Fitzpatrick said, is particularly concerned "to assist families improve their food consumption, primarily by the most vulnerable household members."

On that point, he said, "The hopeful thing is, if we can keep operating, the children's status will improve. When a child is malnourished, the effects are felt for generations. The human brain is more vulnerable, particularly in children," to malnourishment.

Father Fitzpatrick has statistics that indicate the numbers of malnourished children are declining in Ethiopia.

The diocesan representative of Catholic Relief Services is Lourdes Perez-Albuerno. Further information on the organization is available from her, (716) 328-6400.

## Renewal Groups Link To Aid Ithaca Parish

Ithaca — Leaders of renewal groups at Immaculate Conception Church here, have linked up to promote parish renewal, to describe their groups to staff and parish council members, and to plan an event in conjunction with Bishop Matthew H. Clark's "Harvest a Hundredfold" evangelization program.

The groups include Agape

Prayer Group, Cursillo and Marriage Encounter.

Part of the effort included publishing a common brochure, now displayed at the church entrances. In addition, the parish held an Information Sunday on renewal which included special homilies, special prayer, and informal discussion and refreshments.

Other activities on the

agenda include a Healing Mass, a prayer vigil, a study of lay spirituality, a parish renewal experience, and continued communication with staff, parish council members and parishioners.

The effort was initiated with the help of Father Lewis Brown and Anthony P. Mugavero of the parish.

Further information on the program is available from the rectory, (607) 273-6121.

## St. Rita's Plans Festivities Noting Church Dedication

Webster — Parishioners of St. Rita's Church here are planning a number of festivities this month to celebrate the opening of their new church.

A parish dinner-dance is set for 7:30 p.m., Saturday, May 19, in the Webster Columbus Center on Barrett Drive.

Tickets to the event are \$11 and reservations are made by calling Mike Sciolino 671-4024; or the rectory, 671-1100.

An open house in the new Church will be held 2-4 p.m., Sunday, May 20. A letter has been sent to all Webster churches inviting pastors and members of the congregations.

Bishop Matthew H. Clark

will join the community for a dedication Mass, 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, May 22. A number of clergymen will also attend and invitations have been sent to all Sisters who have taught in the school. The

public is invited to the Mass.

The parish youths have been invited to participate in a special Liturgy, 5 p.m., Saturday, May 26. A pizza party will follow immediately in the Barn.

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**CRS Steps Up Food to Cambodia**  
The Catholic Relief Services (CRS) program is providing food and medicine to the people of Cambodia. The program is a result of the generosity of the people of Rochester and the surrounding area. The program is a result of the generosity of the people of Rochester and the surrounding area.



**SENIOR MATINEE** - "Birth of the Blues" starring Bing Crosby, Mary Martin, 1:30 p.m., Thursday, May 10, George Eastman House.  
**MEETING** - United Cancer Council's Breast Cancer Support Group, 7:30 p.m., Wednesday, May 9, Asbury Methodist Church, 1050 East Avenue. For more information call 473-8230.  
**LECTURE** - 1984 Distinguished Scholars Series, "Tomorrow's Robots," by Dr. Warren P. Seering, Professor of Mechanical Engineering, MIT, 8 p.m., Monday, May 14, Eisenhart Auditorium, Rochester Museum and Science Center.  
**DANCE** - Modern, ethnic and ballet dance by The Bucket Dance Theatre 8:30 p.m., Thursday, May 10; 7

p.m., Friday and Saturday, May 11-12. Tickets: \$10.50; \$8.50 for students.

**TRAVELOGUE** - "The Great World Cruise of the Queen Elizabeth 2," narrated by filmmaker Doug Jones, 2 p.m., Sunday, May 13, Rochester Museum and Science Center. Tickets \$5, \$4.50 for RMSC members.

**TOUR** - Memorial Art Gallery, 2 p.m., Sunday, May 13; free to members, free to non-members with gallery admission.  
**NFP** - Session sponsored by Natural Family Planning Education, 7:30-9 p.m., Lakeside Hospital, room A & B, Brockport, N.Y.

**SHOW** - Decorator Showhouse IV, sponsored by The Junior League of Rochester, Inc., May 5-27, 165 West Avenue. Tickets \$6 at door, \$5 in advance. For further information call 232-7040.

**ART** - Graduate Student Art Show 9 a.m. - 9 p.m., weekdays, noon - 5 p.m., Saturday and Sunday, now through May 28, Foyer

Gallery, Nazareth Arts Center. Free.

**EXHIBITIONS** - 1984 Rochester-Finger Lakes Exhibit now through June 3, Grand Gallery; Master Prints and Drawings: Gifts from a Private Collector, now through May 20; The Reflected Image, now through May 27, The Gallery Store. All at Rochester Memorial Art Gallery.

**OUT AT NAZARETH** - Multi-faith baccalaureate service, 4:30 p.m., Saturday, May 12, east lawn; Commencement, noon, Sunday, May 13, east lawn, Nazareth College.

### Parish Deadline

Parish correspondents are advised that the deadline for submissions to At Your Parish is noon on Thursday, preceding Wednesday publication. The Courier-Journal address is 114 S. Union St., Rochester, N.Y. 14607.

### Deacon Loses Ministry over 'Apparitions'

Lafayette, La. (NC) -- Bishop Gerard L. Frey of Lafayette has taken away ministerial faculties of a permanent deacon who refused to stop promoting alleged apparitions of Mary which the bishop asked Catholics not to believe.

The deacon, Paul Breaux, recently quit his job as a salesman to work full time for Genevieve Comeaux of Cankton, La., foundress of the "Knotted Cord of Love Rosary Mission." Mrs. Comeaux claims to have received numerous apparitions and messages from Mary.

In mid-April, Bishop Frey warned Catholics to "withhold belief in the apparitions and messages." He said an examination by the diocese uncovered no evidence to warrant Mrs. Comeaux's claims of supernatural visions.

Msgr. H. Alexander Larroque, vicar general of the Lafayette diocese, said the bishop gave Breaux a choice of stopping his work for Mrs. Comeaux or having his faculties to work as a deacon in the diocese withdrawn.

Breaux "completely accepts the allegations of" Mrs. Comeaux and refused to stop working for her, Msgr. Larroque said.

Mrs. Comeaux claims that Mary began appearing to her in May 1982. In statements to local media since Bishop Frey's warning, she has also claimed that Mary has transported her to various Marian shrines around the world, such as those in Lourdes and Fatima, said Msgr. Larroque.

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