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ETHIOPIA



An Ethiopian mother gives her child precious and scarce food at a Catholic Relief Services feeding center, staving off the starvation that has already claimed the lives of millions of children and adults in East Africa's worst drought and famine in modern history. The enormity of the drought-caused famine in Ethiopia has caused many individuals and organizations in the diocese to want to help. To this end, Dr. Alan Norton, chairperson of the International Justice and Peace Commission, and Father Robert Bradler, diocesan missions director, have established a special fund for the people of Ethiopia. A contribution from Bishop Matthew H. Clark began the fund. Parishes, groups or individuals who wish to contribute should send donations to Catholic Relief Services-Ethiopia, care of Diocesan Missions Office, 123 East Ave., Rochester, N.Y. 14604. All contributions will be used for hunger relief in Ethiopia. More details and relief efforts, Page 5.

All Deacon Candidates Rejected in Evansville

Evansville, Ind. (NC) -- The permanent deacon board of the Evansville Diocese rejected all 10 of this year's applicants and called for a moratorium on accepting new applicants.

"The permanent deacon board, on the basis of the profiles developed from the various selection tools we used, has decided that the profile we now have of what is a 'deacon' and the gifts and talents needed for this image is not present in any of this year's applicants," Don Lahay, co-director of the program, said Oct. 27.

The statement was made following a unanimous decision by the nine board members to call a moratorium on accepting new applicants until there has been time to study and re-educate the diocese on "what is a deacon," Lahay said.

Applicants said they were shocked when they found that the entire class would not be accepted. Some expressed bitterness at being allowed to start formation classes in September before the decision was made.

At the time the classes began, applicants were told

they had not yet been officially accepted.

One applicant said, "They are looking for perfection. For the sake of safeguarding the integrity of the program, they have let the pendulum swing too far. I feel I've been dropped before I had a chance to try."

The U.S. church began ordaining permanent deacons in 1971 and the Evansville program is 10 years old. Two years ago the board decided to start a deacon class every three years.

"As new applicants came
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'Economic Democracy' Urged in Document Prepared for Bishops

Washington (NC) -- An explosive draft document written for the U.S. Catholic bishops calls for "a new American experiment" in "economic democracy," one possibly as revolutionary as the nation's 200-year-old experiment in political democracy.

The document, a proposed pastoral letter on the U.S. economy, calls for guarantees of economic rights for all, just as America now guarantees civil and political rights. It declares that "fulfillment of the basic needs of the poor" is "the highest priority" facing the nation.

So long as any person lacks necessities, no other person has a moral right to have more than he needs, it says.

Inequality of income or wealth can be morally acceptable only when the basic human needs of all have been met, it adds.

The 144-page, 58,000-word document is the first draft of a national pastoral letter on Catholic social teaching and the American economy. It was unveiled Nov. 11 as the nation's bishops began gathering in Washington for their annual fall meeting Nov. 12-15.

The economic revolution "must begin with the formation of a new cultural consensus that all persons really

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do have rights in the economic sphere and that society has a moral obligation to take the necessary steps to ensure that no one among us is hungry, homeless, unemployed, or otherwise denied what is necessary to live with dignity," the pastoral draft declares.

Like the controversial war and peace pastoral issued by the U.S. bishops in 1983, the draft of the economic pastoral seeks to spell out Catholic social teaching and apply it to specific issues. Its judgments on a wide range of public

policy issues facing the nation are intended to be moral in character, not political in any partisan sense of that term.

In light of President Reagan's landslide reelection just five days before the draft document was released, however, the most heated controversies are almost certain to arise over major policy directions of his administration that the document disagrees with and in some cases quite explicitly

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Diocese Plans Wide Consultation

Bishop Matthew H. Clark has announced plans for a broad-based consultation on the U.S. bishops' pastoral letter on the U.S. economy now under consideration by the National Conference of Catholic Bishops in Washington, D.C.

Bishop Clark and Auxiliary Bishop Dennis W. Hickey are at the conference.

Bishop Hickey and Mary Heidkamp, director of the diocesan Office of Justice

and Peace, will conduct a press conference on the proposed pastoral letter on Bishop Hickey's return at 4 p.m., Thursday, Nov. 15, at the Monroe County Airport. Bishop Clark is remaining in Washington for committee work on the bishop's pastoral letter on women.

The first draft of the economic pastoral letter was released Sunday. During the next year, it will be discussed and redrafted according to input and critique offered through the nation's bishops.

Bishop Clark said he would like the draft discussed widely and seeks input from diocesans.

"In the process of writing the peace letter ('The Challenge of Peace: God's Promise and Our Response'), the value of inviting people to participate in shaping the letter was very evident," the bishop said. "This time, we also have the benefit of the experience gained from discussion of the peace pastoral and I look forward to putting that experience to use in engaging people in discussion of the pastoral letter on the economy. I have asked Mary Heidkamp to offer staff leadership for this process."

Comments must be sent to the bishops by Feb. 15 and the bishop has prepared a four-part consultation plan to meet that deadline.

First, a special process will be established to seek comment on certain issues addressed, such as poverty, employment and international questions. Diocesan staff members will lead sessions in various locations throughout the diocese. The bishop also will ask that diocesan Latin American missionaries offer input from their perspective.

Second, parish councils
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Generations and Traditions

Mrs. Mai Thi Hien, clad in the garb of her homeland, with her two grandchildren, Lan Truong (in arms) and Sang Truong, in the garb of the West. The Truongs present an unusual study in family life, Page 6.

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