

# COURIER-JOURNAL

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## Christmas Fund Goal: \$90,000

The goal for the 1984-85 Courier-Journal/Catholic Charities' Christmas Appeal has been set at \$90,000.

The effort raises funds for the poor, distributed mainly as food vouchers at Christmas time.

This year's goal is the same as last year.

The appeal traditionally begins during Thanksgiving week. However, it actually began last Friday with the mailing of a letter by Anthony J. Costello, publisher of the Courier-Journal, and Maurice J. Tierney, diocesan director of Catholic Charities, to past contributors to the fund.

"Christmas is just a few weeks away, and we suspect everyone's anticipation of His arrival is mounting," the Costello-Tierney letter said.

"But many persons in our diocese find it difficult to sense His presence because the wages of poverty make it difficult for them to fully realize His presence. Many are hungry and cold; others sick and unable to go to their doctor or buy necessary medicines; others lonesome and isolated because of time," they wrote.

"Your gift will provide love and hope to persons throughout the diocese so they too can anticipate and enjoy His coming," they said.



A feature of the drive is the publication, in the Courier-Journal, of the true stories of "100 Neediest Cases," a four-week recounting of poverty in the diocese.

Contributors are asked to send donations to Catholic Charities, 50 Chestnut St., Rochester, N.Y. 14604.

The distribution formula for the funds allows Catholic Family Center to use \$32,000 at Christmas time and \$9,000 for emergencies year round; Finger Lakes Office of Social Ministry, \$675 at Christmas and \$5,450 year round; Southern Tier Office of Social Ministry, \$3,000 at Christmas and \$6,200 year round; and Urban Ministry \$10,500 at Christmas. In addition, \$20,000 is allocated for small grants.

## Ethiopia Fund \$1.7 Million

By NC News Service  
From classrooms to boardrooms, American Catholics and non-Catholics alike have flooded Catholic Relief Services with donations for its efforts in Ethiopia, where an estimated 6 million people face starvation.

CRS spokeswoman Beth Griffin said Nov. 14 that the relief agency received \$1.7 million from 20,000 donors between Oct. 29 and Nov. 9. The agency has been receiving more money weekly than it normally receives in a month, she said.

"This is truly overwhelming," Ms. Griffin said.

(The diocesan Missions Office reports that \$3,061 had been received as of Thursday Nov. 15. Anyone wishing to contribute should send donations to Catholic Relief Services-Ethiopia, care of Diocesan Missions Office, 123 East Ave., Rochester, N.Y. 14610.)

But much more will still be

needed, according to the relief agency. Lawrence Pezzullo, CRS executive director, told National Catholic News Service Nov. 14 that his group estimates it will need about \$40 million for its emergency and development efforts in Ethiopia. If donations spurt and then drop dramatically, "the whole thing will flare up again," he said.

Chase Manhattan Bank, another New York donor, contributed \$100,000 for CRS efforts in Ethiopia.

"Our donation represents Chase's concern for perhaps the most pressing humanitarian issue facing the U.S. and the world today," said Thomas G. Labrecque, Chase president, in a Nov. 2 press release.

Non-Catholics also sent checks to CRS after seeing television reports.

One viewer gave CRS the \$100 he had just received for his bar mitzvah.

## U.S. Economy Heads List Of Wide Bishops' Agenda

Washington (NC) -- National public policy issues of the economy, the Equal Rights Amendment and abortion evoked lively discussion by the U.S. bishops as they met in Washington Nov. 12-15.

Nearly all the actual decisions that the assembled prelates made, however, were on more strictly religious matters -- various in-church rules, liturgical documents, national guidelines for permanent deacons and for continuing education of priests, an ecumenical evaluation and decisions on mission activity.

A major exception on the action side was a nearly unanimous decision by the bishops to raise \$4 million over the next three years, to help the bishops of Thailand maintain aid programs for some 200,000 Asian refugees in their country.

The chief focus of popular interest at the four-day meeting was the unveiling of the first draft of a pastoral letter on Catholic social teaching and the U.S. economy.

The draft document calls for a national policy of "full employment," major reforms in the "woefully inadequate" welfare system, and substantial redistribution of wealth to correct the "gross

inequalities" that exist today. It also calls for significant changes in U.S. aid and trade policies toward the Third World.

"We hope we will affect policy," Archbishop Rembert Weakland of Milwaukee, chairman of the five-bishop committee drafting the pastoral, told journalists Nov. 11 as he released the draft at a press conference.

At the same time he described the sections on ethical principles and on the rights of all to participate in shaping the economy as the central parts of the document.

In a floor discussion Nov. 14, all 13 bishops who had a chance to speak expressed enthusiasm about the document, although each also offered suggestions for improving one or another area within it.

Archbishop James Hickey of Washington called it "a strong, sophisticated statement" and "a faithful reflection of 100 years of Catholic social teaching" which "challenges all ideologies."

Cardinal Joseph Bernardin of Chicago said the document could become an im-

Continued on Page 18

## Call to Awareness, Bishop Hickey Says

Auxiliary Bishop Dennis W. Hickey, immediately on his return from the national bishops' meeting in Washington, D.C., last week, said he hoped the development of the forthcoming pastoral letter on the U.S. economy would spark a "deeper awareness" of the existence of poverty in this country.

At the press conference, Bishop Hickey was flanked by diocesan staffers James Lund and Mary Heidkamp.

He called the development of the letter a "consciousness-raising" effort. He said that there is a general "lack of action for the poor," in the U.S., not due to hostility, but because "some are not aware of the problem."

And that attitude, he opined, "is fairly widespread."

In working on the letter, due to be published in its final form next November, the bishops see their role as imitative of Jesus, Bishop Hickey said. Jesus, he said, was "moved with compassion" for the poor, both teaching them and feeding them.

The bishops see their effort as for the "total well-being of people on this planet," he said.

While the actual development of the letter only began four years ago, Bishop

Hickey said that the original push for such activity began with the Second Vatican Council and its call for "the renewal of the whole temporal order."

To date, he said, the letter writers have heard testimony from more than 125 experts.

He said that the bishops hoped their "reflections will be shared by those not of our faith," though the primary audience would be the Roman Catholic community.

In an aside on that point, Bishop Hickey observed that the letter is also addressed to "all people of good will," and with its emphasis on the Old Testament's theology, the letter would be, he hoped, hailed particularly by Jews.

Chief among the points in that theology, he said, is that we are indeed "our brother's keeper."

The primary thrust of the letter will be encouragement of outreach to the poor, Bishop Hickey said.

In addition, a great concern is felt among the bishops not only for the poor but for the marginally poor, Bishop Hickey noted.

He noted that the public will receive the letter more easily than some commentators had originally thought.

To bolster his point, he noted the "amazing response to Ethiopia" which has risen within the past few days. The

## ... At a Glance

Washington (NC) -- At their Nov. 12-15 general meeting in Washington the U.S. bishops:

-- Held their first discussions on the first draft of a proposed pastoral letter on Catholic social teaching and the U.S. economy, but took no formal action. The second draft is due next spring.

-- Approved new guidelines for the continuing education of priests and for the permanent diaconate.

-- Rejected a proposed version of the Psalms -- the Grail Psalter -- revised to eliminate masculine words like "him" when they refer to women as well as men. Some bishops questioned whether the new version obscured the meaning of some Psalms that prophesied the coming of the Messiah.

-- Decided to leave up to each diocese the age for administering the sacrament of confirmation rather than recommend a preferred age nationwide.

-- Received a recommendation from a special committee studying the implications of the proposed Equal Rights Amendment that the bishops not change their position of being officially neutral on the ERA.

-- Heard a brief report on the progress of a Vatican-mandated study of religious orders in the United States.

-- Approved giving the bishops of Thailand \$4 million over the next three years for refugee camps there.

-- Had pulled from the agenda by their liturgy committee a proposed new eucharistic prayer that would have been added to the four eucharistic prayers now in use at Mass. The new prayer, the first to be written in English rather than translated from Latin, was removed from the agenda after the liturgy committee decided to wait until other English-speaking countries commented on the proposal.

-- Authorized the preparation of a new statement on the scheduled for 1986.

-- Elected Bishop John R. McGinn of Rockville Centre, N.Y., their new treasurer, succeeding Archbishop Edmund C. Szoka of Detroit.



Bishop Hickey fields questions.

response was generated, he said, directly from the public's perception of the problem. "No formal appeal has been made by us at all," he said.

He also said that U.S. Catholic response to the refugee situation in Thailand is another indicator of the natural generosity of the letter's audience.

The letter now goes for broad-based consultation. Responses to the first draft will be filed by February; and a second draft will be pre-

pared to the bishops' next June. Following further discussion, the final letter will be presented for vote and publication in November.

A consultation process has been established in the Diocese of Rochester:

• Diocesan staff members will lead discussions at various locations on specific issues raised in the draft, including poverty, unemployment and international questions.

Continued on Page 18