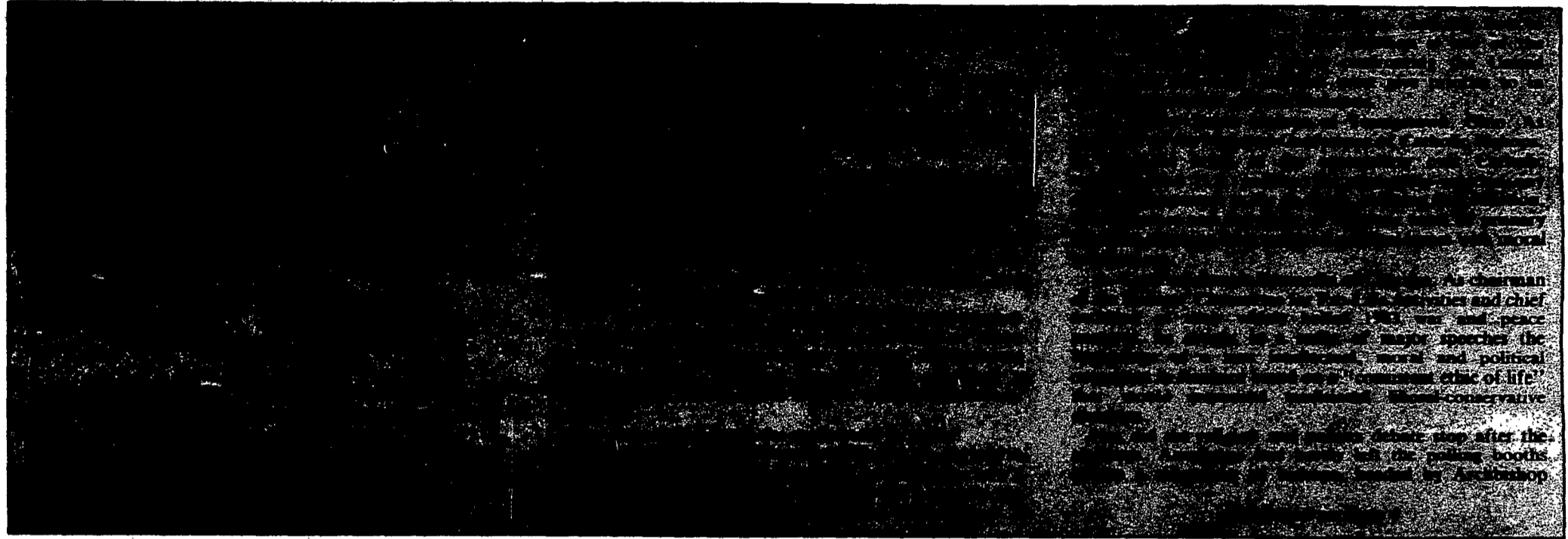


COURIER-JOURNAL

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Legends Meet

Noted theologian Father Joseph Jankowiak, pastor of St. Mary Our Mother in Horseheads, clutching a candy cane, tells Santa Claus what he wants for Christmas when the latter stopped by to greet more than 400 parishioners on a recent Sunday morning. During the Claus visit, the school children turned the tables and presented him with a gift, a figure of Santa kneeling at the manger of the Christ Child.

Vatican to Abortion Signers: Recant or Leave

Washington (NC) — The Vatican has ordered U.S. Religious who signed a statement claiming diverse Catholic views on abortion to either recant the statement or face expulsion from religious life.

The Vatican's decision was confirmed in Rome by Archbishop Jerome Hamer, prefect of the Vatican Congregation for Religious and Secular Institutes, which issued the order, by a spokesman for the National Conference of Catholic Bishops in Washington, and by some superiors of Religious who signed the statement.

At least 26 nuns, religious priests and brothers signed the "Catholic Statement on Pluralism and Abortion," published as an advertisement in The New York Times

Oct. 7. It was prepared by the Catholic Committee on Pluralism and Abortion, an affiliate of Catholics for a Free Choice, a group backing legal abortion.

Archbishop Hamer told National Catholic News Service in Rome Dec. 17 that his congregation had sent a letter to the superiors of the Religious involved demanding that the signers either retract the statement or face dismissal from religious life. He declined to elaborate but the Vatican press office Dec. 18 issued a written verification of the congregation's action.

According to the Vatican press office, Archbishop Hamer's congregation had "invited the major superiors of the institutions involved to request of every single

member who signed the mentioned statement a public retraction." The press office added that the congregation also noted "the obligation to proceed, in case of refusal, in accordance with the actions provided by the code of canon law, including the threat of expulsion in case of obstinate disobedience."

A Vatican press spokesman said the canons pertinent in the case apply only to Religious and do not cover diocesan clergy. At least one priest, from the Archdiocese of Baltimore, signed the abortion-pluralism statement.

Russell Shaw, NCCB secretary for public affairs, said the Vatican "cites as the basis for its action the constant authoritative teaching of the church on abortion."

Bishop to Conduct Hearing on Pastoral

Bishop Matthew H. Clark will hold a hearing on the first draft of the U.S. bishops' pastoral letter on economics, 7 p.m., Jan. 22 at Good Shepherd School gymnasium, 3286 E. Henrietta Road.

Community leaders and persons who wish to speak about the draft of the pastoral letter are invited to testify, following a specific procedure:

- Those wishing to testify must submit a written request to Ms. Lourdes Perez-Albuerné at the Department of Justice and Peace, 750 W. Main St., Rochester, N.Y. 14611. The deadline for requests is Jan. 11.

- Requests will be honored on a first-come, first-served basis.

- Testimony at the hearing is limited to three minutes per person.

- Testifiers are asked to bring a written copy of their remarks to the hearing.

- Testifiers will be given "focus questions" to use when preparing their testimony.

- It has been stressed that testifiers are to limit their remarks to the text of the draft of the pastoral letter.

Bishop Clark has personally invited some community leaders to testify. A schedule of testifiers will be available a week prior to the hearing. A list of the focus questions and the complete draft of the pastoral letter are available from the Department of Justice and Peace for \$1.

Similar hearings will be held in other parts of the diocese. Bishop Clark will officiate at the Good Shepherd hearing only.

Focus questions include:

- What are the bishops saying regarding their role in speaking out on this issue? Do you agree or disagree?

- The pastoral tries to root itself in the different documents regarding the church's teaching on economic justice. Do you think it does an adequate job? If not, what would you suggest be changed?

- The pastoral tries to make recommendations re-

garding very concrete situations of our economic policies. (For example, food and agriculture, poverty, etc.) Is there a specific area that has been left out or that should not be part of the pastoral?

- Is there any specific area in the pastoral in which you have personal experience and which you would like to share with Bishop Clark?

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Christmas Appeal
Give Generously

Diocesans have contributed more than \$71,550 to the Courier-Journal/Catholic Charities Christmas Appeal, and, at press time, donations were still being received at the appeal office, 50 Chestnut St., Rochester, N.Y., 14604. This is the 15th annual drive which raises money to help the poor, especially during the Christmas season. This year's goal is \$90,000.

According to a National Catholic News Service report, more than \$20 million has been donated to Catholic Relief Services to help feed the estimated 10 million Ethiopians in immediate danger of starvation.

The Rochester diocesan Missions Office reports that as of last Wednesday \$76,134 has been donated here. Contributions should be sent to Catholic Relief Services-Ethiopia, care of Missions Office, 123 East Ave., Rochester, N.Y. 14604.

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