

COURIER-JOURNAL

Newspaper of the Diocese of Rochester

Wednesday, March 20, 1985

20 Pages 35 Cents

Bishop Urges Help

Dear Friends,

The Campaign for Human Development is the major education/action program for justice sponsored by the National Conference of Catholic Bishops. Since 1970, the generosity of United States Catholics has made it possible to fund more than 2,000 self-help projects dedicated to eliminating the causes of poverty by offering a hand-up, not a hand-out.

The recent economic trends show the needs grow unheeded. Current Census Bureau statistics indicate that 15 percent of the population, over 35 million Americans, live below the poverty level — the highest number since 1965. Consequently, a year ago, the U.S. bishops voted to advocate social change that advances a preferential option for the poor. One of our best instruments for carrying out these objectives is surely the Campaign for Human Development.

Our Holy Father stated that "efforts aimed at establishing self-help projects deserve praise and encouragement for in this way an effective contribution is made to removing the causes and not merely the evil effects of injustice." He went on to say that "this campaign has been a witness to the Church's living presence in the world among the most needy, and to her commitment to continuing the mission of Christ."

Last year, American Catholics contributed a record-breaking \$1.3 million to CHD. Our own diocese raised \$108,066.31, with one fourth of that remaining here in the diocese for local grants. This past year we helped 11 organizations and a national grant was awarded to the Spanish Action Coalition.

To focus attention on CHD, I am designating the week of April 21 to April 28 as "CHD Week" in our diocese. Parish priests will be explaining CHD and the Church's work for justice on April 21 and the collection will be on April 28.

Your generous support is urgently needed and is most sincerely appreciated.

Your brother in Christ,

Matthew H. Clark

Matthew H. Clark
Bishop of Rochester



If you want peace, work for justice.

POPE PAUL VI

The national poster for the Campaign for Human Development illustrates the need for solidarity among all segments of society to work together for justice.

CHD Drive April 21

National Picture, Page 4

The diocesan Campaign for Human Development will open this year the week of April 21-28.

Last May's campaign here totaled more than \$108,000. During the current funding year 1984/85, the Spanish Action Coalition of Rochester has been awarded a national grant for \$24,000. Eleven projects throughout the diocese have received grants from the diocesan share of the collection in the amount of \$31,996. This gives the diocese a total of \$55,996 in Campaign for Human Development funds being used throughout our regions.

CHD funding requests sent to the National Office in Washington, D.C., are reviewed by diocesan and national staffs and by a 40 member national committee comprised mostly of lay

persons. Final funding decisions are made by a committee of 12 bishops representing the various regions of the country.

Grants are made to projects that enable low-income people of all races, creeds, and geographical regions to work together for solutions to the causes of poverty and injustice. Grants are awarded in the following categories: economic and social development, legal aid, housing, health, communications and education.

The Spanish Action Coalition (SAC), is a grassroots community organization with city-wide membership. SAC is committed to self-determination for Hispanics in Rochester and to the participation of the poor in

decisions which directly affect their lives. Since its inception in 1978, SAC has provided planning, community organization, leadership training and advocacy to the Hispanic community. This year funds are being used to address issues associated with education, housing and the implementation of recommendations made by the United Way Hispanic Services Task Force.

Locally, the four regional allocations advisory committees of the diocese, comprised of persons from the community, review grant proposals from their respective areas and recommend funding. The Diocesan Allocations Advisory Committee reviews Wild Card proposals and makes recom-

mendations. Final funding decisions are made by Bishop Matthew H. Clark. This year the following self-help organizations have been awarded local CHD funds:

Seneca County House of Concern, Inc., \$1,861.70; Wayne County Action Program, \$6,737.77; Banker's Meadows Corporation, \$2,201.56;

Coalition of Northeast Association, Inc., \$3,680; Rochester Area Unemployment Council, \$3,115; Elder Craft Shoppe, \$2,235.20;

Tompkins County Unemployment Council, \$2,041.48; Greater Elmira Unemployment Council, \$2,041.48; Southside Community Center, \$2,041.48;

North East Block Club Alliance, \$4,000; Ithaca Community Gardens, \$2,000.

Bishop Clark Response on Pastoral Draft

Extensive consultation on the first draft of "Catholic Social Teaching and the U.S. Economy," has provided me with a critical perspective on the pastoral letter. It has aided me, first of all, in appreciating the substantial work which Archbishop Rembert Weakland's drafting committee has offered to the Roman Catholic Church in the United States. The subject possesses an awesome complexity, and the committee has provided the United States Catholic Church with a good starting point to consider the moral dimensions of the U.S. economy. Secondly, the consultation has illuminated shortcomings in this first draft whose redress in subsequent drafts will strengthen this teaching.

The recommendations that I offer to the ad hoc committee come from the Church of Rochester. They represent my perspective on the pastoral letter, but my views have been shaped by the many people in the Diocese of Rochester who have participated in the consultative process.

As will be apparent, these recommendations are broad in nature. During the consultation process, many specific suggestions and criticisms were offered, and some of these could enhance the pastoral letter if they were included. Respectful of the wishes of the committee regarding the input offered to it, however, I have kept my comments generic.

Recommendation #1: The emphasis on the economically poor is important and necessary; maintain it and strengthen it.

The solicitude for the poor demonstrated in the pastoral letter speaks an important word to our nation at a time when the concerns of the poor are receiving insufficient attention from policy makers. It is particularly important, consequently, that there be no question that our Catholic tradition calls our faith community to stand with the poor, and to lend our voice on their behalf. I affirm this direction.

When the first draft of the pastoral letter "Catholic Social Teaching and the U.S. Economy" was issued last November, we began a consultation process here in the Diocese of Rochester that involved a wide cross-section of our people.

From November to the end of January, I heard from business people and the unemployed, from professors of theology, economics and political science and missionaries in Brazil and Mexico, from suburban parish councils and urban pastors, from struggling farm families and affluent entrepreneurs. The varied perspectives presented on the issue raised in the pastoral letter offered me a critical and valuable perspective on this first draft. It was from my listening and reflection upon what I heard that I shaped the following recommendations.

These recommendations, which were sent last month to the committee drafting the letter, include the thoughts of many of the participants in the consultation process. I hope that those who participated in this will recognize the influence that they had in the shaping of this input.

I thank everyone who took the time to reflect upon, and offer comments about the first draft of this pastoral letter. In the months ahead I hope that more people will have the opportunity to read and study it. I look forward to the months ahead as the discussion continues.

People may disagree widely on some of the contents of the letter, but it is apparent to me that all who studied it have grown in their understanding of our Catholic social teaching. As such, they have been challenged to grow in their faith in Jesus Christ. May that faith continue to grow.

Recommendation #2: Major revision of the issues section is needed.

I suggest a need first to reconceptualize the manner of presenting the issues, and second, to revise content in these chapters.

In reconceptualizing, I first recommend the fuller integration of the theological principles and ethical norms into these chapters. It is insufficient to state these in Part I alone, and to fail to relate them as fully as possible to the issues that are covered. Only in Chapter VII does an attempt at such an integration occur.

The second point concerns the level of specificity found in the policy suggestions. In this I caution against the embracing of specific suggestions that may lead to legitimate charges of a hidden ideological bias, and that may also date the pastoral too quickly.

Content revisions are particularly needed in the chapters on Employment and The New American Experiment. I have received a strong criticism from our consultative panel that the content in these two chapters fails to address adequately the topic areas. I consequently urge the committee to consider this critique, and work to revise and strengthen these chapters.

Regarding the chapter on Employment, I suggest that the topics include job creation, and justice in the workplace. The virtually total omission of the latter in the first draft requires remedy. Also, either in that chapter or in The New American Experiment, I suggest that a more thorough dealing with the subject of worker ownership and workplace democracy be included.

Recommendation #3: The role of the Church needs elaboration.

While some particular implications which the pastoral holds for the Church are indicated in the last paragraphs of Chapter II, more needs to be said. Our credibility in the issues we are raising shall be determined in large measure by our willingness to hold ourselves accountable to the principles and norms we

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