

# Bishop Urges Aid to Campaign for Human Development

My Dear Friends,

This Sunday, you will be asked to contribute to the Campaign for Human Development. The people who benefit from this collection are members of self-help groups of low-income persons in our diocese. You helped 12 such groups last year. The Spanish Action Coalition, recipient of a national CHD grant, works on issues of housing, education, employment and training with the large Hispanic community of Rochester. Our diocesan regional grants included:

- a cooperative business run by ElderCrafters;
- three neighborhood and community improvement efforts;
- three employment councils; and
- four projects of food production and distribution.

What you give helps people help themselves — it is a hand up, not a hand out. It is clear that the economic recovery of 1984 did not reach everyone. The needs of the poor increase. Consider with me a few facts about American poverty:

- The elderly, disabled and children under 16 constitute more than 90 percent of the poor. America's poor are mothers of young children and underpaid workers. This includes some 2 million people who work full-time, but earn less than the poverty level.

## If you want peace, work for justice.

Pope Paul VI

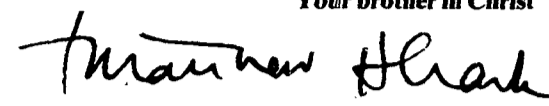
- One child in five in America is poor today. One black child in two is poor.
- Social scientists have found that increases in unemployment lead to increases in infant mortality, child abuse, alcoholism, suicide, heart disease and most crimes, including murder.

These social consequences of poverty are sobering. As one of my brother bishops has testified: "Shelters and soup kitchens are no match for economic and social forces which are forcing more and more families and individuals below the poverty line."

When the U.S. bishops set their priorities for 1985-87, among their primary objectives were: (1) education on justice and peace issues, and (2) working for "structural reform in society with a preferential option for the poor."

The Campaign for Human Development continues to help achieve these objectives. I ask you to join me in exercising this option for the poor by your generous support for the Campaign for Human Development.

Your brother in Christ



+ Matthew H. Clark  
Bishop of Rochester

# COURIER-JOURNAL

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## 'Northeast Quadrant Plan' Outlines Parish Clustering

A plan for reorganization of the parishes in the northeast quadrant of the Diocese of Rochester, an area including portions of Cayuga and Wayne counties, will call for the closing of St. John Fisher Church in East Bay and St. Michael's Church, Montezuma.

"The Northeast Quadrant Plan" calls for combining the eight parishes in the region — St. Mary Magdalen, Wolcott;

St. John Fisher, East Bay; St. Patrick, Cato; St. Thomas the Apostle, Red Creek; St. Jude, Fairhaven; St. Michael, Montezuma; St. John, Port Byron; and St. Joseph, Weedsport — into two "clusters."

The plan, approved by Bishop Matthew H. Clark on Saturday, April 20, was developed and recommended to him by a joint planning group of area parishioners,

the respective parish councils and pastors, the Priests' Personnel Board, and the diocesan Planning Department.

According to a statement on the plan released Monday, April 22, the parishes in the quadrant began a study of their needs more than a year ago at the invitation of Bishop Clark. The plan was recommended by the study group "in light of the limited

number of priest personnel, the changing needs of parish communities, and the need to develop new lay/religious ministries."

In addition to closing the facilities of St. John Fisher and St. Michael's by June of this year, the plan also calls for a reorganization of pastoral staff within the new clusters.

Cluster 1 — which encompasses the parishioners

of St. Thomas the Apostle, St. Jude, St. Mary Magdalen and St. John Fisher — will be served by one priest, a summer priest assistant during the period between Memorial Day and Labor Day, and "ancillary staff to be developed."

Cluster 2 — St. Michael, St. John, St. Joseph and St. Patrick — will be served by a "cooperative ministry" including two priests with "pastoral assistant and re-

ligious education ancillary staff, to be developed."

The plan will take effect June 25. In the statement, Bishop Clark asked for "the support and patience of all as new teams are formed and new Mass schedules are established for each cluster." He further indicated that this plan "is reflective of similar clustering efforts elsewhere in our diocese and in our sister churches around the United States."

# The Nicaraguan Conflict

## Papal Endorsement of Military Aid?

### Reagan Claims Pope's Support; Vatican Embassy Denies Statement

By Jerry Filteau  
Washington (NC) — President Reagan said April 17 that Pope John Paul II "has been most supportive of all our activities in Central America." But the Vatican Embassy in Washington denied that the pope had endorsed Reagan's proposal for \$14 million in military aid to rebels fighting Nicaragua's Sandinista government.

Reagan's comment, answering a reporter's question during a picture-taking session at the White House, came shortly after White House spokesman Larry Speakes had said a papal message to Reagan did not imply endorsement of specific U.S. policies in Central America.

Controversy over what the pope may have said in a diplomatic message — which was not made public — began shortly after Reagan told a conference on religious liberty April 16 that "I just had a verbal message delivered to me from the pope urging us to continue our efforts in Central America."

The next morning, Archbishop James A. Hickey, representing the U.S. Catholic Conference in testimony before Congress, was asked about the message. Archbishop Hickey said that "what is clearly a very general statement" should not be interpreted as direct papal support for specific policies of the administration.

A statement issued in the name of the apostolic nunciature in Washington later April 17 denied "the possibility of his (the pope's) support or endorsement of any concrete plan dealing, in particular, with military aspects."

Speakes took the same approach when reporters asked him at a press briefing whether the papal message meant that the pope supports U.S. efforts to back the "contras," counterrevolutionary forces fighting Nicaragua's Sandinista government.

"I wouldn't read that into it," Speakes answered. "I don't think the Vatican gets that involved in U.S. policy."

The White House spokesman also commented that he "would not construe" the papal message as "an endorsement" of the aid package for the Nicaraguan rebels.

Shortly afterward, however, during a picture-taking session in the Oval Office, reporters asked Reagan the same question about the papal message.

The president answered, "You know, I am not supposed to answer questions here, but he (the pope) has been most supportive of all our activities in Central America."

Pressed specifically on whether this support applied to the contra aid, he added, "I'm not going into detail, but all our activities." He declined to say anything more about the issue.

Reagan's original reference the previous day to the papal message came during an address at the White House to participants in a two-day conference on religious liberty. He was talking about religious conditions in Nicaragua and defending the administration's request for aid to the contras.

Archbishop Hickey of Washington, speaking before a subcommittee of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, was asked April 17 by Rep. Michael Barnes, D-Md., what he thought of the papal message.

Noting that the message itself had not been released, Archbishop Hickey said, "I have no way of commenting on it directly."

But he added, "I think it is inappropriate to read a particular application into what is clearly a very general statement."

He noted that the pope has called repeatedly for dialogue and a just peace in Central America. He would understand the papal message as a reaffirmation of those

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## Archbishop Says 'Immoral,' 'Illegal':

### U.S. Catholic Conference Opposes Military Assistance to Contra Forces

By Liz S. Armstrong  
Washington (NC) — The U.S. Catholic Conference opposes as "immoral" and "illegal" any U.S. military aid to the "contras" or "to any party to the conflict in Nicaragua," Archbishop James A. Hickey of Washington told a congressional panel April 17.

"We oppose military aid from the United States, the Soviet Union, or any other country to any party to the conflict in Nicaragua, whether the Nicaraguan government or any irregular military force in conflict with the government," Archbishop Hickey said.

"Direct military aid to any force attempting to overthrow a government with which we are not at war and with which we maintain diplomatic relations is illegal and, in our judgment, immoral, and therefore cannot merit our support."

The testimony was to have been delivered by Archbishop John J. O'Connor of New York, who was ill. Archbishop Hickey substituted for Archbishop O'Connor, chairman of the USCC Committee on Social Development and World Peace, at a hearing of the House subcommittee on Western hemispheric affairs, part of the House Foreign Affairs Committee.

Congress was scheduled to begin voting April 23 on President Reagan's request for \$14 million in aid to the contras, counterrevolutionaries fighting a bloody civil war against the Marxist-oriented Sandinista government of Nicaragua.

The testimony and Archbishop Hickey's later remarks sparked heated and bitter questioning from Reps. Henry Hyde, R-Ill., John S. McCain, R-Ariz., and Michael DeWine, R-Ohio.

The archbishop said that he doubted a message which Reagan said was sent to the White House by Pope John Paul II "urging us to continue our efforts in Central

America" was specifically geared to Nicaragua.

Reagan earlier had sent Senate Majority Leader Robert Dole, R-Kan., to Rome with a letter for the pope on Central America and arms control. Reagan's call for \$14 million in aid to the contras includes a proposal for mediation by the Nicaraguan bishops of the fighting between the Sandinista government and the U.S.-backed guerrillas.

"I have no way of commenting on it directly," Archbishop Hickey said of Reagan's report of a papal message. However, he added, "I think it is inappropriate to read a particular application into what is clearly a very general statement."

He said the pontiff has often called for peace and dialogue and that "I would understand his remarks" to Reagan to be more such encouragement for such efforts.

The archbishop said he backed the Reagan proposal for dialogue but does not support aid for military purposes and therefore has reservations about the president's plan.

McCain told the archbishop that the call for dialogue "happens to be a major piece of the president's peace proposal" and is endorsed by the Nicaraguan bishops as well.

"Despite your reading" of the pontiff's message to Reagan, the president's plan regarding Nicaragua "has received the support of the pope," McCain said. "I'd hope you'd support the Holy Father."

"I shall never support the putting of a gun to anybody's head," Archbishop Hickey answered. "I think that's wrong."

"I think we made a serious mistake when we began to fund the contras," he said.

The Washington archbishop was a member of a delegation of U.S. bishops, led by Archbishop O'Connor, who visited

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