

# Rain Didn't Dampen Spirit of 3,000 CROP Walkers

Despite rainy weather, the CROP Walk for Hunger, Sunday afternoon, May 5, is estimated to have drawn some 3,000 participants, raising a preliminary total of \$91,230, according to Debra Rivera, Monroe County coordinator.

This year's countywide goal is \$100,000, with three more events still scheduled.

"I think we did really well considering the weather," said Rivera. "The people who probably stayed away because of weather were young children and the elderly, but generally the walk tends to attract many young adults and young families."

Rivera also noted that people seemed to be more generous this year, referring to an apparent increase in average pledges per walker. The actual amount raised will depend on the percentage of pledges collected.

Prior to the event, Rivera and other organizers at the Genesee Ecumenical Ministry offices noticed increasing interest in the CROP Walk.

"We had a lot of phone calls asking 'what is a CROP walk?'" noted Rivera. She cites the African famine as one reason for the growth of interest in hunger issues.

"It has caused people to have a sense of

responsibility for hunger, worldwide as well as in our own community," she added.

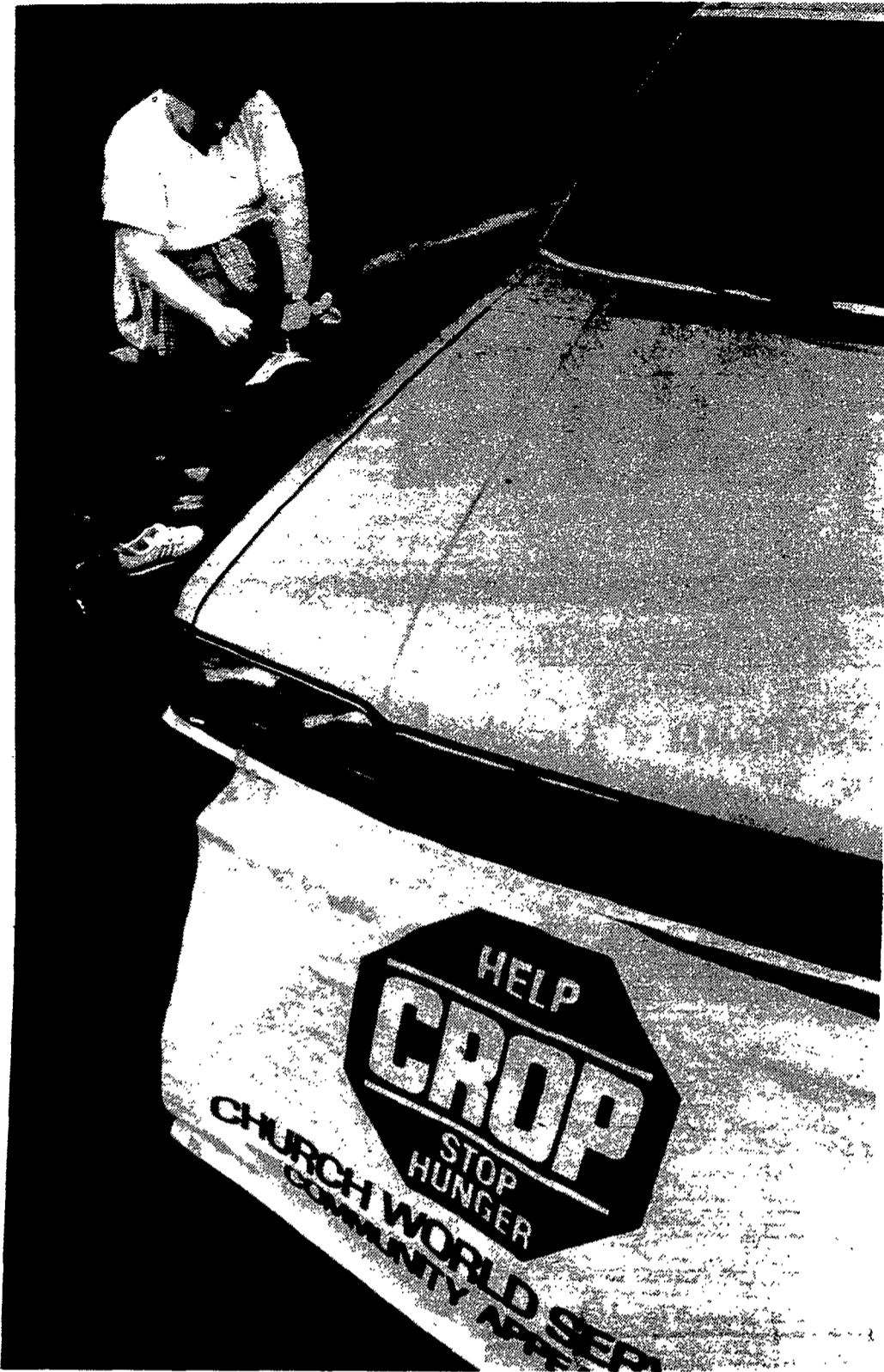
Sister Marie Brown, one of the organizers of St. Martin's Place, a soup kitchen which opened on the city's north side last year, has also noticed a tremendous growth of interest in social justice issues in general, and concern for hunger specifically.

"This has really been our year," she said in regard to the response to St. Martin's has received so far.

St. Pius the Tenth Church in Chili was responsible for one of the largest increases in CROP Walk participants this year. Sister Anne Michelle, pastoral assistant at St. Pius, attributed the parish's turnout of more than 61 walkers to sponsorship by the Human Development committee.

"We have a very large and active Human Development committee which is motivated to really get money for the hungry of the world," said Sister Anne Michelle.

The event was promoted in the church bulletin and registrations were held after every Mass for three weeks prior to the event, according to Sister Anne Michelle. A CROP Walk film was also shown to encourage participation, and candidates for confirmation were urged to take part.



Jeff Goulding/Courier-Journal  
Linda Gilman of The First Baptist Church in Chili changes out of her rain shoes to more comfortable sneakers halfway through her walk to stop hunger, once the weather decided to clear.



Jeff Goulding/Courier-Journal  
Danielle DeChalais, Ellen Frederick, and Ann Frederick (left to right) of St. Pius X are wired for sound as they head for the finish line during the Sunday, May 5, CROP walk.



Jeff Goulding/Courier-Journal  
During the fourth annual CROP Walk, participants found refreshments at the Lighthouse residence on Fenton Road.



Joel Kilthau  
Bikers take a final rest at St. Ambrose before pressing on to the finish line at Laurelton Presbyterian Church.

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Joel Kilthau  
Lawrence and Pauline Pace of St. Ambrose start out into the inclement weather with their 16-month-old son, Brian.