

Appeal Funds at Work Division of Social Ministry



"So intimate is the bonding between love of God and love of neighbor that to think poorly of one's sister or brother is to think poorly of God."

Jesus' tender love and hospitality for all directs the service of the Division of Social Ministry.

The pastoral work of Social Ministry through its delivery of human services, ministry to individuals in institutions, and action for justice and peace proclaims this God-given dignity of the human person."

God has, from the beginning of time, had a story for His people. It is a story of love and acceptance. It is a story that has been made most real to all of us through the person of Jesus Christ of Nazareth who by his own life and example has invited us to make the Father's story our own personal story.

The pastoral work carried on by the Division of Social Ministry is an important link in the Church of Rochester's response to Jesus' invitation.

Social Ministry is concerned with the human needs of the diocesan church community and of society.

Father John Firpo, Division Director, points to three vital dimensions of this pastoral effort: delivery of human services; ministry to people in institutions; and action for justice and peace.

Father Firpo says, "Jesus showed his love for his people by welcoming them through his presence. The Division of Social Ministry through its pastoral work offers this sense of welcome and hospitality to the people of the diocese by promoting the dignity of the human person."

Father Firpo said, "We share this gospel value of welcome with the church community and with the wider community."

Numerous programs have been designed to assist the Social Ministry Division in carrying on this pastoral effort.

One such program provides shelter for the homeless street people of Rochester. Several inner city parishes have opened their facilities to house these people on winter nights.

The Bishop Sheen Ecumenical Housing Foundation offers grants and low interest loans to people who otherwise might be denied adequate housing facilities.

The Division of Social Ministry through LILAC provides volunteer helpers to psychiatric and developmental institutions.

The Division also provides chaplains for the hospitals throughout the diocese and volunteers who work with inmates in correctional facilities.

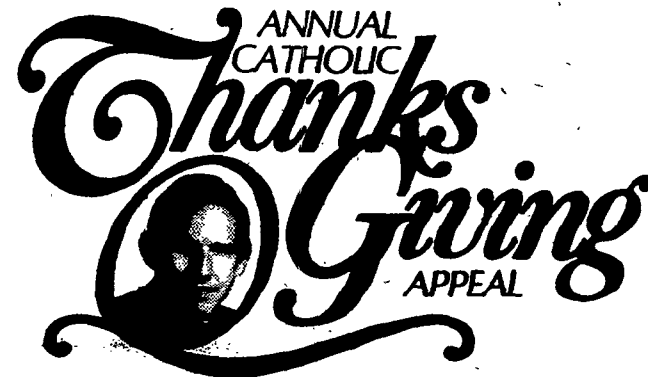
A key element in the Division's efforts on behalf of peace and justice is its parish education program on social ministry.

The vital question of a consistent ethic of life is being addressed through a parish network of contacts that has been created by the Social Ministry Division to support human life legislation.

Other programs under the Division of Social Ministry's auspices are many and varied. They include a program for Marriage Preparation, a Family Life program, programs that offer support to the divorced and separated and that provide educational opportunities for the physically disabled.

The Division also offers residential programs for emotionally disturbed, mentally impaired and developmentally disabled persons.

The missionary work carried on in our sister diocese in Tobasco, Mexico is yet another way in which the Division of Social Ministry tries to carry out the Church's pastoral work of proclaiming God's love and concern for His people.



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