

Preliminary figures indicate appeal is 'on the right track'

By Karen M. Franz

Although the final-report figures are still being tabulated, diocesan leaders believe those figures will put the 1986 Thanks Giving Appeal at or very near the goal of \$3.45 million.

As of the December 9 third report, 85 percent of the goal — or \$2,947,565 — had been pledged by 49,003 donors.

Based on the revenue brought in by previous years' final reports and the fact that 11 parishes have not yet reported any figures, Father James Moynihan, appeal chairman, predicts that an additional \$350,000 to \$400,000 will be raised.

"If that prediction is right, we would be over the parish goal and under the diocesan goal," Father Moynihan said. "But we have good reason to believe that we will do better in that fourth report than we have done in other years."

In addition to those positive indications, appeal principals — especially Bishop Matthew H. Clark — are pleased that the number of donors so far this year exceeds the number of donors by about 5,000 — nearly half the number lost last year.

"One of our goals this year was to increase the number of donors by inviting back those who didn't participate last year," the bishop noted.

"People are taking ownership and making a commitment to the community," Bishop Clark added. "I'm delighted that we're rebounded from last year. The key was going back to a local approach."

Appeal co-chairman Thomas Schoenwetter concurred. Both the pledge records and conversations he has had with people throughout the diocese indicate that "we're back on the right track this year."

Father Peter T. Bayer, diocesan chancellor, attributed some of the 1986 campaign's success to a renewal of participation by the laity, on both diocesan and parish appeal committees.

Another factor was the number of options offered to pastors and parish staffs. "An interesting dimension of this — and I'll be interested to see what we can learn from it — was the added flexibility available to parishes in conducting the appeal locally," Bishop Clark remarked.

Father Moynihan explained that most parishes opted for in-hall solicitation

For news of the Foundation of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Rochester, Inc., see story on page 9.

conducting the initial segment of the appeal. Yet parishes used a variety of methods — letters, phone calls, door-to-door visits, etc. — to follow up on parishioners who had not responded to the in-hall appeal.

One innovative approach was the videotape Father Conrad Sundholm, pastor of Auburn's Holy Family/St. Aloysius Parish, made on the workings of various diocesan departments. According to Father Bayer, another parish conducted an advance-gifts phase by visiting the homes of half its parishioners. Moreover, about 50 parishes throughout the diocese took Pastoral Center staffers up on their offer to talk about TGA-funded programs at Sunday Masses.

"The pastors seemed very pleased with the flexibility this year," Father Bayer said.

As a result of these efforts, by December 9, 63 parishes had already exceeded their quotas. "Some have had more donors this year than ever before," Father Moynihan noted.

Yet success in this year's appeal will not turn back the clock to restore programs that were eliminated as a result of the 1985 TGA shortfall. The goal for the 1986 was computed on the basis of the diocesan budget that emerged after two waves of 7-percent cuts.

But, as Schoenwetter hastened to add, success this year will insure against further cuts during this fiscal year.

"If program increases do come about," Bishop Clark explained, "they won't come from the appeal. We will look to the Catholic foundation (see related story) for any program increases."

Father Bayer noted that as appeal goals are set for the next few years, increases will be based only on cost-of-living or inflationary factors. "There is a clear indication that some of the parish communities are under serious constraints and budgetary restrictions," he said. "It wouldn't be fair to introduce new (TGA-funded) programs while parishes are cutting back."



Bishop Matthew H. Clark

Along the Way

There were 12 members in the newly formed bell choir. As people gathered for the Eucharistic liturgy, the choir played some familiar hymns. Their faces and the faces of those gathered made clear their common delight at this experience. There was something prayerful about it all, and I had a sense that achievement and gratitude came together here in a singular manner.

The bell choir is composed of residents of St. Anne's Home and the Heritage. Of the 12 members of the group, now all well advanced in years, none had ever performed with a bell choir before this one was formed some months ago. Now the creativity of the residents and the support of staff converge, so that the community at Saint Ann's and the Heritage have a new source of joy among them.

As I look back on the experience, I realize why it has stayed with me through the weekend. It is because the moment spoke to me about new potential unrealized and the continuity of hope. People who had never done such a thing before — who perhaps had never dreamed of it — were willing to take a crack at something new, to be part of a greater whole and make their contribution to its development. Now they experience delight in their own work; they share in the joy of the group; they have the satisfaction of being a source of pleasure to many other persons.

My own pleasure at the event came from thinking about the stories of the 12 who formed the choir. I wanted to know about them and how God had shaped them through the years and led them to this moment. How had they been tested by suffering? Who taught them most about life? What had God asked of them

that, at the time, seemed far beyond their capacities to respond? What difficult experiences turned out to be sources of new life for them? What goals pursued and achieved finally didn't mean much at all?

Reflecting on our journey is so important. What are the sources of lasting joy in your life? What do you look forward to tomorrow? What one piece of life's wisdom would you most like to share with those who follow you? How can we support one another in a more fruitful manner?

Such questions can help us get in touch with the themes of our Advent-Christmas celebrations. They invite us to be in touch with the reality of God loving us and acting in our own human stories. They call us to anticipate with joyful hope the time when God will bring to completion all of the good and beautiful things He has begun in us.

In the meantime, it is important for all of us to be attentive to the way in which God leads us through the events and encounters of ordinary life. What is the deeper truth being opened to me here? What is the more loving service to which I am called? Am I looking at this with my own limited vision or am I seeing with the eyes of God? What new possibilities are available to me in this situation? How can I open new doors for my sister or brother?

We come closer to the Christmas season and the realization that, in Christ, a whole new life of reconciliation and grace is open to us. It is important for us to realize that we are possibilities within us and to bring them to light.

Peace to all.

Museum sets showing of 'Miracle of Fatima'

A presentation of the "Miracle of Fatima" will be shown in the Eisenhart Auditorium of the Rochester Museum and Science Center on Tuesday, December 23, at 2 p.m. and

again at 8 p.m.

There is no charge to members of the museum, and a nominal fee to non-members.

Christmas Candle Arrangement

Greens, PomPoms and Candle

\$15.00

ROSES

\$18⁰⁰

DOZEN

Large Selection of
Christmas Gift Items
Poinsettias • Plants

Not exactly as pictured

Flowers by Fedele

OPEN DAILY UNTIL 6 P.M.

1418 Ridge Road E. (Opposite Tops) 342-5481

TOWNE CLUB BEVERAGES

BEER SPECIALS

OLD VIENNA

24-11 1/2 oz. bottles

Reg. or Light

\$8.99

PIELS 24-12 oz. bottles	\$5.49
TUBORG 24-12 oz. bottles	\$8.59
OLD MILWAUKEE 24-12 oz. bottles	\$6.99
GENESSEE 24-12 oz. bottles	\$7.99
LABATTS 24-12 oz. bottles	\$9.99
BUDWEISER 24-12 oz. bottles	\$10.79

For Savings & Quality Visit the Towne Club Nearest You

<p>HENRIETTA</p> <p>3019 E. Henrietta Rd</p> <p>SPENCERPORT</p> <p>162 So. Center St.</p> <p>FAIRPORT</p> <p>154 N. Main St</p>	<p>GATES</p> <p>1800 Lyell Ave</p> <p>GREECE</p> <p>564 Stone Rd</p> <p>PENFIELD</p> <p>1698 Penfield Rd</p>	<p>CANANDAIGUA</p> <p>490 N. Main St</p> <p>ONTARIO</p> <p>2020 Rte. 104</p> <p>ROCHESTER</p> <p>1314 Hudson Ave</p>
--	---	---

Where Can I Get It?

DON'T KNOW WHAT TO GIVE?...A GIFT CERTIFICATE from DAN'S is something anyone in the family can use.

- Latch Hook Kits
- Doll House Kits
- Doll House Furniture and Accessories
- Yarn
- Flower Supplies
- Train Sets - L.G.B. Lionel H.O. & N.
- Woodburning Tools
- Wooden Ship Kits
- Balsa Airplane Kits
- Rock Tumbler
- Wood Cut-Outs
- Pre-Cut Stencils
- Paints & Brushes
- Frames and Ready-cut Mats
- X-Acto Knife Sets
- Stitchery Kits
- Airbrush Sets
- Craft & Hobby Tools
- How-to-Craft Books
- Plastic Models
- Model Rockets
- Dremel Power Tools
- Radio Controlled Planes, Cars & Boats
- Over 22,000 Items to choose from

Rochester's Got It, Get It at Dan's

DAN'S CRAFTS & THINGS

352 Empire Blvd. Between 590 N. and Culver Road

Mon. - Wed. 10:00-6:00
 Tues. - Thurs. 10:00-8:00
 Saturday 10:00-5:00
 SUNDAY thru Christmas 12:00-5:00