

Vatican asks diocese to increase donations



By Lee Strong
Staff writer

Faced with increasing debts, the Vatican is urging dioceses across the world to increase their voluntary financial support to the Holy See through the Peter's Pence Collection.

Last year, the \$51 million raised through the Peter's Pence Collection — also called the Annual Collection for the Holy Father — helped close a \$63 million dollar deficit in the Vatican budget.

This year, however, the Holy See faces a potential \$78.2 million shortfall, and Rome has urged greater fundraising efforts on the parts of dioceses throughout the world. Unless contributions to the collection — as well as other revenues — increase dramatically, the Vatican faces the possibility of having to sell off properties and investments to raise the cash.

In the Diocese of Rochester, efforts to increase contributions to the Peter's Pence Collection, scheduled for the weekend of June 24 and 25, include a letter from Bishop Matthew H. Clark to the people of the diocese and, for the second year in a row, advertisements in the *Catholic Courier*.

Last year, the diocese raised \$98,613.10 through the collection — up from \$90,622.99 in 1987. Throughout the nation, approximately \$13 million was raised in 1988.

Dan Juday of the National Catholic Conference's Office of Publishing and Promotion Services, acknowledged that the Vatican is so concerned about the projected deficit that it has been putting added emphasis on this year's collection. On April 17, 1989, the Vatican appointed a special assistant for Peter's Pence, Father Arturo Martin Menoya.

In the United States, Juday said, "The American bishops have expressed concern and increased commitment to the Peter's Pence." In 1981, the National Conference of Catholic Bishops created the Ad Hoc Committee for the Economic Concerns of the Holy See, headed by Bishop John McCarthy of Austin, Texas, to oversee efforts to raise money for the Holy See, including the Peter's Pence. Meanwhile, more dioceses are appointing coordinators

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SSJs to offer nature retreat on motherhouse grounds

The Sisters of St. Joseph of Rochester are hosting a nature retreat Saturday, July 8, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on the motherhouse property, 4095 East Ave., Rochester. Women of all ages and backgrounds are invited to participate in the retreat, entitled "A Day Rejoicing in the Stream of Life: The Mystery of God, Nature and You."

Participants are asked to dress casually for the retreat, which will be led by Sisters Rosalie Muschal Reinhardt and Maria Elena Mariani, SSJ. The cost is \$8, which includes lunch. Reservations are asked for by July 3.

Call Sisters Marilyn Pray, SSJ, 716/232-3262; Barbara Lum, SSJ, 232-7363; or the motherhouse, 586-1000, ext. 28 for information.

Homosexuality seminar set

St. Michael's Rectory, which is located at 424 W. 34th St. in New York City, will host a national workshop on homosexuality August 11-13.

The workshop, which is intended to explore contemporary psychological thought on homosexuality in light of church teaching, will be presented by Father John F. Harvey, OSFS, Dr. Elizabeth Moberly, Dr. Joseph Nicolosi and Dr. Maria Valdes.

The fee for the workshop is \$120, which includes two nights' stay and meals at the retreat house. Call 212/421-0426 for information.

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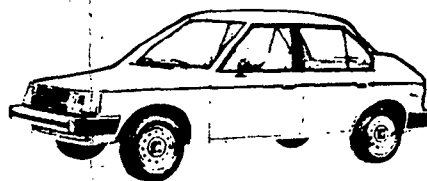
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