

Diocese divests stocks tied to South Africa

By Lee Strong
Staff writer

In a process that took approximately a year-and-a-half to complete, the Diocese of Rochester, at the direction of the Diocesan Finance Council, has divested diocesan portfolios of all securities of firms that have direct investment or employees in South Africa.

That process, completed in June, 1989, involved selling off approximately \$500,000 in shares of four companies: Hewlett-Packard, Pepsico, Mobil and Bristol-Meyers. The \$500,000, which represents 6.9 percent of the \$7,278,032 invested in diocesan portfolios, was reinvested in other securities.

In addition, the finance council has re-

quested that all parishes and affiliated Catholic institutions, such as St. Bernard's Institute and the Catholic high schools in the diocese, divest any such investments they might have. In a memo about the action sent to pastors and diocesan-affiliated organizations on June 28, the council included lists of companies with employees or investments in South Africa.

Father John Mulligan, moderator of the pastoral office, noted that "The church's teaching is daily contradicted by apartheid. While we have a moral and legal responsibility to ensure an adequate return on investment for the support of the work of the church, our faith also demands that we consider broader moral concerns."

Income from the four portfolios involved

in the divestment decision is used to help meet general operating expenses of the diocese, as well as for seminary education, clergy sabbaticals and the permanent diaconate program.

According to Father Peter Bayer, chancellor of the diocese, the Diocesan Finance Council made the recommendation to divest in January, 1988, following 12-18 months of study. Guiding that study were recommendations by the National Council of Catholic Bishops and the U.S. Catholic bishops' 1986 pastoral letter, *Justice for All: Catholic Social Teaching and the U.S. Economy*. "It wasn't a decision that came out of the blue," Father Bayer explained. "It was set in the context of *Economic Justice for All*."

As a follow-up to the diocesan divestment, the council recommended that Bishop Matthew H. Clark write to the chief

executive officers of the four companies to explain the diocese's action. The June 28 memo recommended that any other group that chooses to divest should also write to the companies, since "divestment of and by itself does not make a statement."

When the council recommended divestment, it also suggested that the diocese do so cautiously, taking current market conditions in mind. The original target date for divestment was Dec. 31, 1988, but the actual process took longer. Neither Father Bayer nor Jack Trickey, director of the diocesan Department of Financial Services, offered an explanation for the delay.

Father Bayer said that since the memo's release, the diocese had received several phone calls from parishes asking for more information. He suggested that some parishes who have such investments might have to delay action until their finance committees meet.

Diocesan Appointments

The diocesan Department of Personnel Services has announced that the following ministers have been appointed by the parishes of the diocese:

Pastoral Assistants

Sister Diane Branch SSJ, St. Paul, Webster.

Sister Clare Brown SSJ, Holy Family, Rochester.

Mary Kate Davidson, St. Catherine of Siena, Ithaca.

Nancy Giordano, St. Ambrose, Rochester.

Sister Kay Heverin SSJ, Sacred Heart, Rochester.

Sister Margaret Kunder SSJ, Cayuga Team Ministry.

Sister Doretta Rhodes, SSJ, St. Francis of Assisi, Rochester.

Parish Visitor

Sister Ruth Busshaus RSM, St. Salome, Rochester.

Sister Madeline Cox SSJ, St. Michael, Rochester.

Catechetical Leaders

Barbara Carroll, St. Francis de Sales, Geneva.

Ann Daly, St. John the Evangelist, Newark Valley.

Catherine Fechter, Holy Ghost, Rochester.

Sister Anne Marie Fehrenbach SSJ, St. Rita, Webster.

Sister Patricia Flass SSJ, Cayuga Team Ministry.

Irene Goodwin, Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Brockport.

Beverly Guerrie, St. Francis de Sales, Geneva.

Deborah Housel, St. Michael's, Newark.

Margaret Johnson, St. Ignatius, Hornell.

Mary Anne Liddle, St. Charles Borromeo, Rochester.

Marianne Logan, St. Ann, Hornell.

Monette Mahoney, St. Columba/St. Patrick, Caledonia.

Sister Ruth Maier SSJ, St. Mary, Scottsville.

Cheryl McElhatten, St. Charles Borromeo, Rochester.

Sister Marlene McQueeney RSM, Sacred Heart, Auburn.

Catherine Moore, St. Stephen, Geneva.

Scott Rutan, St. Paul's, Webster.

Anne Sawyco, Our Mother of Sorrows, Rochester.

Sister Beverly Schleider SSMN, St. Mary/St. Joachim, Rexville/Canisteo.

Marie Venaglia, St. Alphonsus, Auburn.

Cathy Zsomboky, St. John the Evangelist, Humbolt St., Rochester.

Campus Ministry

Mary Theresa Roty, Newman Campus, SUNY Brockport.

Youth Ministers

Nora Bradbury-Haehl, St. Joseph, Penfield.

Ann Marie Capone, St. Margaret Mary, Rochester.

Christopher J. Potter, Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Rochester.

Carmen Quinones, St. Louis, Pittsford.

Thomas Tanchick, St. Christopher, Chili.

Mercy chapter approves establishment of AIDS hospice, task force on homeless

During the final session of their 1989 Chapter meeting June 30-July 3, the Sisters of Mercy of Rochester voted to pursue the establishment of a hospice for terminally ill AIDS patients and to create a Homelessness and Housing Task Force.

The chapter meeting, which took place at the Mercy motherhouse on Blossom Road, considered the work of two congregational task forces — Community Life and Mission/Witness — as the 32 chapter delegates mapped out the congregation's for the 1990s.

The Sisters of Mercy convene their chapter — the highest authority in the congregation while in session — every four years to clarify and renew their objectives, and determine priorities.

Among the Community Life Task Force recommendations to be adopted by the

chapter were: that the study paper "Life: Shared and Given" be accepted; that the Mercy Prayer Center publish reflection questions on integrating contemplation and action; that the congregation's leadership implement at least two workshops to assist sisters and Mercy associates in their prayer, community and relationships with one another; that each local community-plan ways to implement a spirit of hospitality and examine their capacity to offer hospitality to the needy; and that each local community set aside time for in-depth conversation with the lay women in the Associate Program.

Among Mission and Witness Task Force recommendations to be approved were: to pursue the establishment of a home for terminally ill AIDS patients under the aus-

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