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Bishop Clark announces \$4,059,417 goal for TGA

By Lee Strong Staff writer

ROCHESTER — The Diocese of Rochester has announced a goal of \$4,059,417 for its 1989 Thanks Giving Appeal.

That figure represents 73 percent of the diocese's 1989/90 operating budget of \$5,586,628. The remaining 27 percent of the budget — \$1,527,211 —will come from fees charged for diocesan services, proceeds on investments, the local share of national collections mandated by the National Conference of Catholic Bishops, and carryover surplus from the 1988/89 fiscal year.

The 1989 appeal goal is six percent higher than the 1988 target of \$3,850,000.

In announcing the appeal goal, Bishop Matthew H. Clark said that much of the increase will provide for wage and benefit adjustments for diocesan employees. In addition, the budget includes enhanced spending for several programs, among them an increase of \$56,405 for school market research, and monies for reorganization of the vocations office.

Charles Hetterich, president of Widmer Wine Cellars, will be the general chairman of the appeal, and Father Daniel Holland, pastor of St. Patrick's Church, Elmira, will serve as chairman of the Priests' Advisory Committee. For the third year in a row, the appeal will make use of a videotape, the second produced exclusively for the TGA.

Information about the diocesan budget, which went into effect July 1, was delayed until the release of the TGA goal at the request of Mark Seeberg, director of the the diocesan Development Office. "We could have released the budget back in May," he acknowledged, "(but) we needed time to reconfigure it or it would have undercut changes in the TGA."

Those changes include emphasizing diocesan services paid for by the appeal. The budget is normally shown broken down to correspond to the diocese's seven administrative divisions — Bishop's Office; Support Ministries; Social Ministry; Personnel, Staffing and Development; Education; Pastoral Ministries; and Urban Services. This year, however, the budget is being presented thematically, with expenditures for related programs combined across divisional lines.

According to Father John Mulligan, moderator of the pastoral office, the new format is intended "to present the (budget) in such a way as it could be better understood by people who are not familiar with the organization and structure of the pastoral office. In a sense, it's presented from a user's perspective rather than from a provider's perspective, which we hope will help (people) better understand how their monies are used to provide services.' The new budget reveals spending in such categories as parish services (\$1,288,832), education, (\$1,144,264) and diocesan management and support (\$1,156,351). The parish-services category, for example, embraces programs located in several divisions, including Urban Services, Special Pastoral Services, Support Ministries, Education, and the Bishop's Office. A second reason for delaying release of the diocesan budget was the expected report of the Commission on Reorganization of Catholic Schools, which was presented to Bishop Clark in August. "We didn't know what impact the school commission's final report would have" on the budget or the TGA, Seeberg said. Even with the delay, one item in that report - an additional \$100,000 to be provided to assist needy students and schools in disadvantaged areas - has not been factored into the TGA goal or the budget.

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years, the appeal goal was set by a TGA committee, and the diocesan budget was developed in line with the projected increase.

This year, however, a diocesan budget committee, which serves as a subcommittee of the Diocesan Finance Council, developed the budget first, and the TGA goal was based on that budget. "What we're trying to do is instead of having the TGA drive programming, we're trying to have programming drive the TGA," Father Mulligan explained.

Changes in the budgeting process were among recommendations contained in the Five Year Financial Planning Process Task Force Report of April, 1987, and the Diocesan Oversight Task Force Report, released in June, 1988. In Nov., 1988, a budget revision task force was formed to suggest ways to improve the budget process.

The task force recommended that a budget committee be created to oversee the budgeting process. Among key changes implemented this year, diocesan departments and divisions were asked to set their spending priorities in light of their mission statements and stated goals.

Division budgets, broken down by program needs, were then submitted to the budget committee. Father Mulligan, who heads the committee, said that if all the programs had been funded at the levels suggested by the divisions, the TGA would have increased 43 percent. Instead, the divisions were asked to revise their budget projections to bring the overall increase down to six percent.

In previous budgets, "divisions were more or less allocated an amount in line with what they had received the previous year (and) in line with general wage increases approved by Bishop Clark," observed Jack Trickey, director of the diocesan Department of Financial Services.

"That is no longer the case. You (now)



Source: Diocesan Development Office

have to make a strong case for how you're going to spend funds by demonstrating how your plans fit in with division goals and the diocesan and pastoral center mission," he said.

This new process is necessitated by fiscal reality, Trickey noted. "There is a finite amount of funds we can draw on from our parishes," he said. "Given that, we must, as diocesan leaders, ... utilize those funds in the most efficient way possible."

Revising the budgeting process will be a three- to four-year project, Father Mulligan predicted. In conjunction with that effort, some diocesan administrative personnel will undergo a staff-development program this fall, emphasizing "team building, prioritization of objectives and goals, and developing targets," he said.

In addition, the Winters Group is currently conducting a marketing survey of the diocese to discover how people view the diocese and what services they would like the diocese to provide, Father Mulligan



Lorraine Hennessey/Catholic Courier

noted. The results of that survey, which will be presented to Bishop Clark in November, will help with developing the 1990/91 budget, he said.

Among other TGA changes, the volunteer structure is being revised and several volunteer committees have been eliminated. The development office will take over more of the appeal work, including such tasks as preparing literature and providing advice to the parishes.

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The changes in 1989 TGA and the 1989/90 diocesan budget reflect a revised diocesan budgeting process. In previous



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