

TGA officials predict 1989 goal will be met

By Lee Strong
Staff writer

ROCHESTER — One month after the end of the Thanks Giving Appeal's parish-operated phase, the total of 1989 TGA pledges was just over \$23,000 short of the campaign's goal.

But appeal officials were confident that the goal of \$4,061,000 would be met.

As of Jan. 9, 1990, the diocesan Development Office had recorded \$4,037,702 in pledges for the 1989 appeal — the Diocese of Rochester's chief source of income.

In contrast, as of Jan. 6, 1989, the office had recorded \$4,023,671 in pledges to the 1988 TGA — exceeding that year's goal of \$3,850,000.

Diocesan officials' optimism about reaching this year's quota was based on the fact that some pledges had not yet been entered into the diocesan computers, and the tally was not complete.

In addition, from now until the TGA's official close on June 30, 1990, the diocesan Development Office will be contacting individuals who have not yet made pledges to the campaign. In previous years, parishes handled all of the follow-up work

on the campaign.

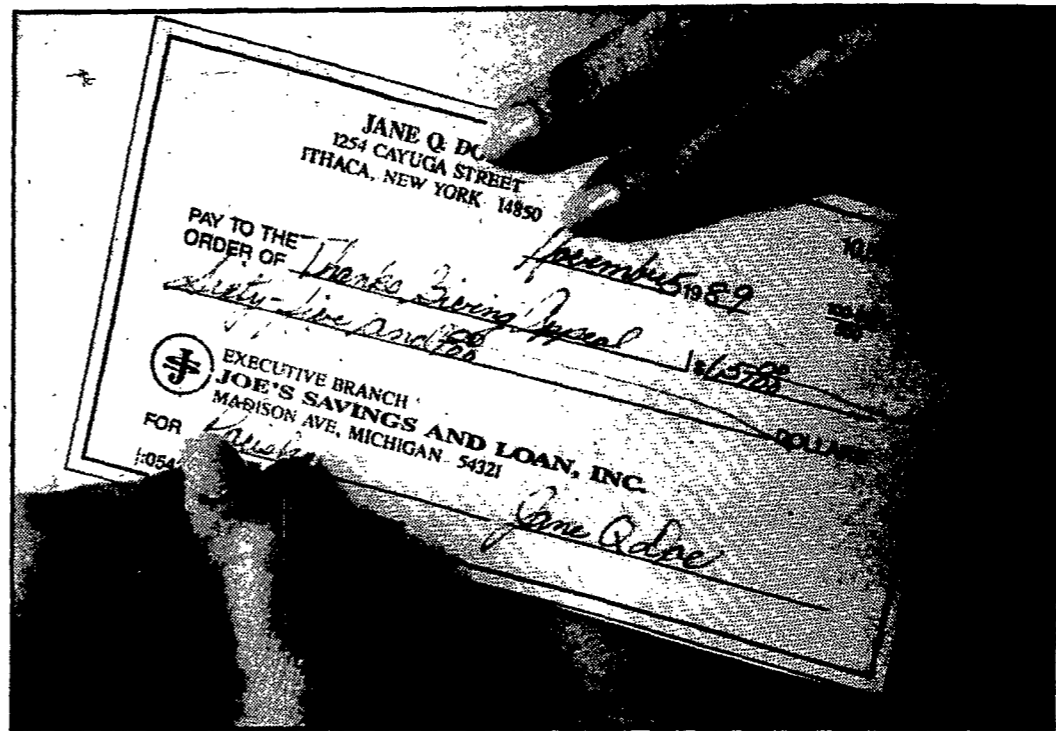
"The most important thing is we're going to make it," noted Charles Hetterich, diocesan chairman for the 1989 appeal. "We're going to make the goal, and people are not going to face budget cuts."

A shortfall to the 1985 TGA resulted in program cutbacks and forced the diocese to leave some vacant positions unfilled.

Concerns were raised about the possibility of a shortfall this year as a result of boycott threats from individuals angered by the closing of Cardinal Mooney High School — although the diocese did not make that decision — and the reorganization of the Catholic school system in Monroe County.

Although calls for a boycott may have affected the 1989 TGA, the evidence does not indicate that the effect was extensive, according to Mark Seeborg, director of the Development Office.

Seeborg noted that 49 percent of parishes have contributed to the TGA this year — the same percentage as last year. One hundred and ten parishes have exceeded their quotas thus far, the same number as at a comparable point in last



year's appeal.

In addition, Seeborg said, the Development Office has charted those parishes falling short of their quotas. The charts display no discernible pattern that might indicate a boycott. Parishes that failed to meet their 1989 quotas were frequently bounded by parishes where TGA goals were met or exceeded, he pointed out.

Parishes that have not reached their TGA goals so far, Seeborg added, tend to be the same communities that have fallen short in previous years.

Nevertheless, some parishes are newcomers to this year's shortfall list. St. Thomas the Apostle, Rochester, for example, is approximately \$4,500 under its \$61,000 goal. The parish, which made its quota last year, is considering a second collection to fill the funding gap.

Another parish that has failed to meet its goal for the first time is Holy Trinity, Webster. The parish is still \$4,000-\$5,000 shy of its quota of more than \$59,000, according to estimates from the pastor,

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Pro-life activists prepare for march on Washington

Both local and national pro-life activists will have two chances to show politicians — and the nation — what they think in this election year with two major Washington demonstrations, the annual March for Life Jan. 22 and a separate Rally for Life April 28.

In the Rochester diocese, most organizers of bus trips to the annual Washington march cite registration numbers typical to those of previous marches.

"We're running about the same as last year, we have half of the bus filled," said John Maurer, who — with his wife Mary Jo — chairs a pro-life group at St. Thomas the Apostle Parish. For the second consecutive year, the Irondequoit parish will be sending its own bus down to the march, which commemorates the Supreme Court's Jan. 22, 1973, legalization of abortion nationwide.

As local and national organizers of the March for Life finalized details of their annual trek from the White House to Capitol Hill, the National Right to Life Committee was organizing a separate "Rally for Life 1990" near the Washington Monument in April.

Although some abortion opponents said the two Washington events were not in conflict, others used such terms as "rival" and "intolerable" to describe the January



Thousands of anti-abortion demonstrators gathered in front of the U.S. Supreme Court on the 1989 anniversary of the Roe v. Wade decision. File photo

Abortion dialogue set for Jan. 24

ROCHESTER — Activists on both sides of the abortion debate will meet later this month to begin a dialogue on the heated issue.

The one-hour meeting will take place Wednesday, Jan. 24, at the diocesan Pastoral Center, 1150 Buffalo Road, according to Lourdes Perez-Albuerne, associate director of justice and peace for the diocesan Division of Social Ministry. Perez-Albuerne will be joined at the meeting by Father John A. Firpo, diocesan director of the Division of Social Ministry.

Dr. Eric Schaff, a Rochester pediatrician who has targeted a Gates priest for his pro-life activity, will represent the pro-choice side.

"This is a preliminary meeting to start the dialogue," said Perez-Albuerne, who arranged the meeting after two telephone conversations with Schaff last week. "It will be a one-hour

exploratory meeting ... to start seeing what they need."

Schaff and approximately 50 other pro-choice activists have gathered outside St. Theodore's Church in Rochester the past two Sundays to protest Father Anthony P. Mugavero's participation in "rescue missions," demonstrations in which pro-life activists occupy the offices in which doctors perform abortions.

Father Mugavero and seven other pro-life activists were arrested by Rochester police on Dec. 28 after they blocked the entrance of Dr. David Gandell's office at 1400 Mt. Hope Ave.

Father Mugavero has participated in several rescues both inside and outside of Rochester. Schaff is reportedly upset with the diocese's approval of the tactics used by pro-life activists involved in rescues.

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march and the April rally, which organizers say is a response to widespread abortion-rights activism in 1989.

Previously, the March for Life has prompted hundreds of thousands of pro-lifers — including numerous Catholic groups — to travel to Washington in buses and cars for a rally near the White House and a march through the Capitol's streets.

Now the National Right to Life Committee is also seeking bus coordinators, local promoters and church and parish participation.

"We want to demonstrate to the nation, Congress, the administration, judges, and to the media that a majority of citizens want legal protection for our nation's greatest treasure, our unborn children," wrote Dr. J.C. Willke, president, in the *National Right to Life News*. "The rally should be a dramatic demonstration of the unity of the pro-life movement."

"Jack Willke decided to have his rival rally," but the latter "is going to pull people away" from the March for Life, said Joseph Scheidler, director of the Chicago-based Pro-Life Action League.

"It is going to divide the troops up. With

politicians waffling and falling like pillars of Jell-O," it's more important to get a big turnout in January, Scheidler said. "That's what they're going to judge us by."

"We haven't been pushing the April (rally)," said Don Peters, who is organizing the effort in the Geneva/Waterloo areas. "We have 35 or so (registered) ... We have about 10 seats left, so we're ahead of last year's numbers at this time."

Judie Brown, president of the American Life League, called the scheduling of the April rally "a tragedy."

"We are not even acknowledging" the April rally, said Brown, whose organization has often clashed with the National Right to Life Committee over tactics. "This is just a tragedy, what they've done." After 17 years "and all these dead babies, I just find this kind of thing intolerable," Brown said.

"I don't see the purpose" of the April rally, said Jack Fowler, spokesman for the Ad Hoc Committee in Defense of Life Inc., who follows abortion issues and policies in Washington.

He suggested pro-lifers could do more

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