

Catholics

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partly due to rapidly increased costs in such areas as maintenance for old structures and health insurance for personnel.

But he said the archdiocese was now getting into a more formal planning process that would enable it to identify and handle problems at an earlier stage.

Benware called for more accounting to the laity on financial matters, and said this was more important than the corruption issue mentioned by Father Greeley.

George T. Holloway, director of the National Catholic Development Conference, said Catholics had never been educated to understand that "it takes more than a nickel in the basket to put a new roof on the church."

The response is better, he said, when church leaders tell the people what is needed and then give an accounting of what is done with the money.

"The people have to be part of the process," Holloway said.

The Rev. Ronald Vallet, an American Baptist who directs the Stewardship Commission of the National Council of Churches, joined other panelists in stressing the value of giving teaching on stewardship a theological basis.

In addition to the traditional talk of giving "tithes, talents and time," he said, there should be emphasis on a "stewardship of the Gospel" and the human stewardship of all creation.

The panelists agreed that church leaders should ask members to volunteer more time as well as give more money, and that the two were interrelated. Members who

get more involved personally in the work of the church will more likely give significant percentages of their income, panelists said.

Among the questions from listening groups was one from Frank Doyle of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops, who asked for suggestions for a pastoral letter on giving that the bishops are preparing.

Monsignor Bennett said the pastoral

should start with Jesus and the Scriptures. Holloway said it should take the Gospels as its starting point, and move from there to deal with the current situation.

The Rev. Vallet, who has been among those making presentations to the pastoral-drafting committee, predicted the letter would help all churches because of the high visibility a pastoral would give to stewardship.

Terry

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sternation within the pro-life community, but it's done far more good than harm."

He denied that Vermont is the target of stepped-up Operation Rescue efforts. Joseph Scheidler, executive director of the Chicago-based Pro-Life Action League, commenting on a potential overload of Vermont's judicial system by arrested pro-life demonstrators, had told the Burlington *Free Press* daily newspaper, "We'll see who breaks."

Terry also voiced support for a Protestant minister arrested on a felony charge for praying on a public sidewalk in front of the home of Matthew Katz, the judge in the Burlington Operation Rescue case.

"We have an ordained minister of the Gospel here who has been arrested for praying on a public sidewalk, and if the Christian community tolerates this type of oppression, then it is paving the way for further oppression," Terry said.

He blasted "blatant judicial tyranny" in the case, and disavowed anti-Semitism in the Operation Rescue movement. An anti-Semitic remark was alleged to have been made to Katz by a protester.

"An anti-Christian bigotry (exists) on the part of the press in Vermont," Terry charged. "He who frames the question wins the debate," he bitterly told one reporter.

Alluding to a poll indicating that Vermonters oppose Operation Rescue tactics, Terry said, "Your polls reflect what you people (the media) feed" the public.

Laghi

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main task here, which is working for the church, in the church and with the church," he said.

As an example, he cited an incident during the most intense Vatican-U.S. diplomatic exchanges of his time as pro-nuncio — after the U.S. invasion of Panama last December, when Gen. Manuel Noriega took refuge in the Vatican Embassy in Panama to avoid capture and extradition by U.S. troops.

"It was Christmas Eve, and they asked me to go down to the Department of State to receive a letter ... to the Holy See," he said. He said he replied that U.S. officials would have to deliver the urgent message to the nunciature because he did not have time to go down to the State Department. "I was preparing my homily" for a Christmas Eve Mass.

Archbishop Laghi described the 1970s and '80s as decades of a crisis in family life and moral values. "Those were difficult decades not only for the United States but for all of us," he said. "I think the world in general wanted to obtain some kind of

paradise on earth.... There was a wave over Christian civilization, a wave of secularism, of materialism, of hedonism and consumerism."

He said he sees the '90s as a period of "a revival in values.... We really have to consider what we can do and cannot do, what is wrong and what is right, what is good and what is evil."

In interviews several years earlier, Archbishop Laghi had described U.S. Catholics as "selective" in their carrying out of church renewal after Vatican II, with strong emphasis on the action-oriented teachings but not enough attention to the more basic doctrinal framework. But he said May 1 that he thought the U.S. church has moved in recent years to a fuller, more integrated implementation of "all the conciliar documents."

"I think that is due to the awareness of the people of God and the bishops and the priests that it is necessary to place the action of the church, the dynamic of the church, into that framework," he said.

"The implementation of Vatican II in the United States is taking place in a very serious way.... I think this church is really ahead (of most others) in that implementation."

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