

# Dioceses begin Peter's Pence collection

By Carl Eifert  
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON — The chairman of a committee of U.S. bishops formed to help finance Vatican activities has asked his fellow bishops to meet new diocesan goals for contributions to the 1990 Peter's Pence collection.

The 1990 collection will take place in the Diocese of Rochester on the weekend of June 23-24.

Bishop John E. McCarthy of Austin, Texas, chairman of the U.S. bishops' Committee on the Economic Concerns of the Holy See, also has asked that the bishops set parish goals, according to Thomas M. Flatley of Philadelphia, consultant to Bishop McCarthy's committee.

Flatley told Catholic News Service that it was the first time goals had been set for each of the dioceses.

The Vatican has had to use proceeds

from the Peter's Pence collection to help pay its deficit rather than using the collection for its intended purposes of charitable and missionary work, Flatley said. A deficit of some \$86 million was anticipated this year.

Flatley said the amounts suggested for each diocese were not "quotas" but goals which averaged about 13 percent higher than contributions in 1989, when the collection raised \$12.4 million in the United States.

Bishop McCarthy had received "replies from many bishops" that had been "very encouraging," Flatley said, noting that goals were set because of the "concern for the needs of the Holy Father."

Suggested increases varied for each U.S. diocese, Flatley said, based on three considerations — collections over the last five years, the size of the diocese, and "the economic parameters within the diocese."

Some dioceses have established individual goals for each of their parishes, he said.

On average, each parish would have to increase its collection by less than \$100 to reach the overall goal, said Flatley.

To indicate how easily he believed the overall goal could be reached to meet "the vast needs of the Holy Father in maintaining the Holy See," he said the collection needed only an average "increase of 16 cents per family over the last collection."

The goal was "so small," Flatley said, "the average pastor should have the increase in his wallet."

The Diocese of Rochester did not establish parish goals for the 1990 collection, according to Father Peter T. Bayer, diocesan chancellor. Collections in the diocese have risen in each of the past several years, from \$90,622.92 in 1987 to \$105,483.37 last year, he said.

Several U.S. dioceses did not receive suggested increases, Flatley said. Those included California's San Francisco, Oakland and San Jose, because of expenses incurred from last fall's earthquake, and the dioceses of Charleston, S.C., and Charlotte, N.C., because of Hurricane Hugo.

Nationally, he said, the Peter's Pence goal was \$1,677,900 more than the \$12,464,000 reported last Sept. 30 to the National Conference of Catholic Bishops by Archbishop Pio Laghi, then the Vati-

can's pro-nuncio to the United States. The papal pro-nuncio receives the monies collected, sends them to the Vatican and makes the report to the U.S. bishops.

Each bishop remits the Peter's Pence directly to the pro-nuncio rather than to the NCCB, the norm for other national collections.

Flatley said amounts raised in the United States in recent years for Peter's Pence were: \$12,451,000 in 1988; \$12,254,000 in 1987; \$10,225,000 in 1986; \$10,849,000 in 1985; \$10,038,000 in 1984; and \$9,051,000 in 1983.

Speaking of the need to increase the U.S. Peter's Pence collection, Flatley said the Vatican's budget "is less than most of our major archdioceses."

"The church is really running a tight ship," he said, but income is below expenditures "and they have to dig into Peter's Pence."

Recent figures showed that the Vatican's expenditures were about \$152 million a year, while the Archdiocese of Chicago, for example, was spending more than \$430 million.

The projected Vatican deficit for 1990 was \$86 million with income at only \$66.5 million. The 1989 worldwide Peter's Pence collection totaled \$48.4 million, down from nearly \$53 million the previous year.

## Pope appoints Buffalo auxiliary the new bishop of Erie diocese

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Pope John Paul II has appointed Bishop J. Keith Symons of Pensacola-Tallahassee, Fla., as the new bishop of Palm Beach, Fla., and Auxiliary Bishop Donald W. Trautmann of Buffalo, N.Y., as the new bishop of Erie, Pa.

The appointments were announced June 12 by Monsignor Rene Passigato, chargé d'affaires at the papal nunciature in Washington.

Bishop Symons succeeds Bishop Thomas V. Daily, who was appointed bishop of

Brooklyn, in February. Bishop Trautmann succeeds Bishop Michael W. Murphy, whose resignation has been accepted by Pope John Paul.

Bishop Trautmann, born in Buffalo in 1936, was ordained a priest in 1962, and was appointed an auxiliary bishop of the diocese in 1985. He is rector of Buffalo's Christ the King Seminary and the diocesan vicar general.

Bishop Symons was born in Champion, Mich., in 1932. He was ordained a priest of the Diocese of St. Augustine, Fla., in 1958, and became a priest of the Diocese of St. Petersburg, Fla., when it was established in 1968.

He was appointed auxiliary bishop of St. Petersburg in 1981 and was named bishop of Pensacola-Tallahassee in 1983.

Also on June 12, the pope appointed Monsignor Michael A. Saltarelli as auxiliary bishop for the Archdiocese of Newark, and accepted the resignation of Bishop Odore J. Gendron of Manchester, N.H. He appointed Coadjutor Bishop Leo E. O'Neil to succeed Bishop Gendron.

## Father Curran heading to Auburn

AUBURN, Ala. (CNS) — Father Charles E. Curran, whose license to teach moral theology was revoked in 1988, has been named to the Goodwin-Philpott Eminent Scholar Chair of Religion at Auburn University.

The appointment, which starts Sept. 16, will last for one academic year.

Father Curran will teach undergraduate classes in religious ethics and other courses in the religion department at Auburn, Alabama's largest state university.

"(Father) Curran's extensive experience in the areas of religious ethics and moral theology make him a true eminent scholar and we think his teaching at Auburn will be of benefit to our students," Auburn's

president, James E. Martin, said in a statement.

The chair to which Father Curran was appointed honors a former Auburn president and the man who endowed the chair.

Father Curran is the 1990 president of the American Theological Society, a group of 100 scholars who become members by invitation only. He is the only person to have served as president of the society, the Catholic Theological Society of America and the Society of Christian Ethics.

Since leaving CUA, Father Curran has held visiting professorships at Ithaca's Cornell University and the University of Southern California at Los Angeles.

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