

Bishop sets TGA goal at \$4.1 million for 1990

By Lee Strong
Staff writer

ROCHESTER — The goal for the 1990 Thanks Giving Appeal has been set at just over \$4.1 million, Bishop Matthew H. Clark announced during a press conference Monday, Oct. 15.

The chief source of funding for the Diocese of Rochester, appeal proceeds — anticipated at \$4,100,599 — represent 62 percent of the 1990-91 diocesan budget of \$6,597,705.

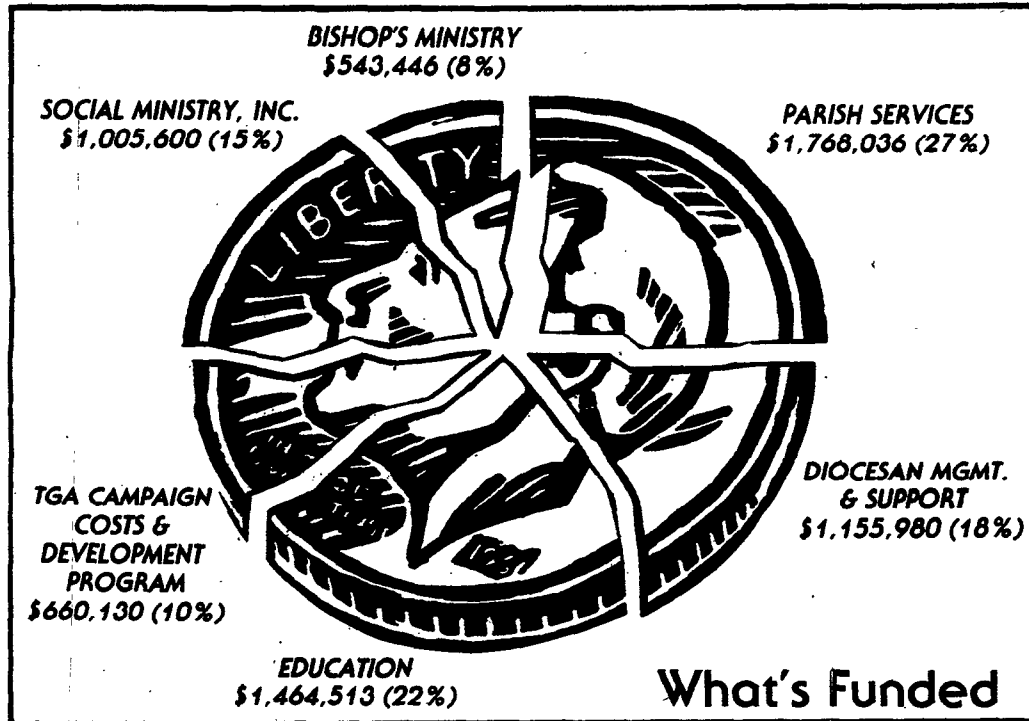
Bishop Clark also announced the establishment of a special-gifts phase of the appeal and changes in the parish quota system.

"By giving to the Thanks Giving Appeal, you help provide crucial assistance to families, individuals, schools and parishes to help them succeed in their mission," Bishop Clark remarked during the press conference, which took place at the diocesan Pastoral Center.

"A contribution to the TGA is an investment in the diocesan church, just as your weekly contribution is an investment in the local parish church," the bishop said.

In the diocese's 1990-91 budget, TGA monies will pay for a variety of diocesan services and ministries, ranging from tuition assistance for students in Catholic schools to support of diocesan vocations programs. The largest outlays in the 1990-91 budget go toward parish services (\$1,768,036 or 27 percent of the budget) and education (\$1,464,513 or 22 percent of the budget).

Yet reliance on TGA funds is decreasing as a percentage of the overall diocesan budget, diocesan officials noted. In the



1989/90 fiscal year, for example, the TGA goal of \$4,059,417 constituted 73 percent of the diocese's \$5,586,628 budget.

Mark Seeberg, diocesan director of development, said he hopes to see this downward trend continue.

"As an income source (for the diocese), the annual appeal is always going to be higher than (reliance on annual campaigns by) other not-for-profit organizations," he said. But Seeberg added that the portion of the budget currently based on the TGA is "still higher than is prudent."

The balance of funds anticipated in the 1990-91 budget will come from \$605,088 in fees (9 percent) and \$1,892,018 in interest and special-gift income (29 percent, an

increase over last year's figure of 19 percent).

Included in this sum is interest income from the diocesan portion of proceeds from the sale of the former Cardinal Mooney High School (designated for use in Monroe County Catholic schools), and a \$2 million bequest reserved for retirement funding for priests.

Among major changes in the 1990 campaign will be modification of the parish quota system.

In previous years, parishes were held responsible for raising 100 percent of their goals. Parishes failing to reach their goals were required to make up the difference out of their regular funds.

This year, however, parishes will be fiscally liable for meeting 85 percent of their assigned quotas.

Eventually, Bishop Clark said, the diocese intends to eliminate parish quotas altogether. "I want to phase out compulsory quotas as soon as possible, putting the annual appeal on a completely voluntary basis," he said.

In addition, the diocese has reduced the 1990 quotas for several parishes that had experienced problems meeting their goals in previous years, Seeberg noted. Those reductions, he explained, were worked out between the individual pastors and Father John Mulligan, moderator of the pastoral office.

The 1990 appeal also marks the elimination of the "overage" system whereby the diocese refunded to each parish a portion of all monies raised in excess of the parish's quota. Seeberg said the system was abolished because it had caused needless confusion about the appeal's objective, which is to fund diocesan — not parish — operations.

The special-gifts campaign is also new to the appeal this year. The effort was kicked off Oct. 8, when a group of 100 priests, and business and community leaders were charged with soliciting larger pledges from approximately 500 people who have contributed \$200 or more in previous appeals.

The special-gifts phase is being coordinated by Mary Consler, director of special gifts for the diocese, in conjunction with a special-gifts team chaired by Martin F. Birmingham, retired regional president of Marine Midland Bank.

This year's TGA will also be marked by expanded diocesan efforts to solicit pledges from individuals who fail to give during the in-hall portion of the appeal, which is

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Final schools plan to be released by Thanksgiving

ROCHESTER — Thanksgiving 1990 holds the promise of turkey on the table, family and friends by the hearth, and a final Catholic schools reorganization plan in the hands of diocesan educators in Monroe County's two southern quadrants.

According to John Crowe, vice chairman of the Commission on Reorganization of Catholic Schools, Nov. 22 — Thanksgiving Day — is the approximate timing for Bishop Matthew H. Clark's release of the final outline of grade reconfigurations for the southeast and southwest quadrants of the Monroe County Catholic school system.

The commission submitted its final recommendations on grade reconfigurations to Bishop Clark on Thursday, Oct. 11. Formed two years ago to review and study proposals for reorganizing Catholic schools in Monroe County, the commission has now completed its task, Crowe

noted, adding that the plan Bishop Clark will release in November "should be it."

The vice chairman declined to comment on any specifics regarding the recommended grade reconfigurations.

Crowe observed that when formed, the commission had hoped to complete its work by Oct. 1, 1990, and that its final meeting with Bishop Clark took place 10 days after the target date.

Since its inception, the commission has reviewed and released grade-reconfiguration recommendations for Catholic schools in the northeast, southeast and southwest quadrants, and financial and governing recommendations for all four quadrants, including the northwest.

Five schools in the northeast were closed, and a junior high opened this fall, following approval of the commission's recommendations by the bishop in 1989.

However, the commission withdrew its

grade-configuration recommendations for the southeast and southwest quadrants after parents and school officials expressed heavy opposition earlier this year. Once they obtain Bishop Clark's approval, the commission's revised recommendations are slated for implementation in the 1991-92 school year.

All four quadrants are already operating through finance and governance structures based on the commission's recommendations. Currently, each quadrant is governed by a representative board that oversees the quadrant's budget, which comprises the collective expenses of all of its schools.

— Rob Cullivan

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