Vatican debt

Continued from page 5

\$142.5 million in 1989 — slightly higher than in recent years and slightly more than anticipated in a 1989 estimate.

Income totaled \$87.8 million, also higher than estimated, leaving the \$54.7 million deficit — far less than the projected shortfall of \$78.2 million. It was \$11 million more than 1988, but less than the record \$63.8 million deficit posted in 1987.

Most of the 1989 deficit was made up by the worldwide Peter's Pence collection, a papal discretionary fund that has been applied to Vatican spending in recent years. In 1989, Peter's Pence totaled \$48.4 million — down nearly \$5 million from the previous year.

The remainder of the 1989 operating shortfall — \$6.3 million — came from the Vatican City State, which has a budget figured separately from the Holy See. The city state, which includes the Vatican Museums, Post Office and technical offices, had a \$12.4 million surplus in 1989, the

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U.S. Archbishop Paul Marcinkus is propresident of the Vatican City State.

The Vatican statement also reported that an additional \$15.2 million had been spent in 1989 to maintain its real estate holdings and to make up for the effect of inflation on other assets. Those expenses were covered separately, in part from other unspecified papal funds, a Vatican official said.

Attending the meeting were Cardinal Edmund Szoka, former archbishop of Detroit and now the Vatican's chief budget officer, Cardinal John J. O'Connor of New York, and 11 other cardinals.

Monsignor Luigi Sposito, secretary of the Vatican's budget office, said Oct. 18 that the decline of the dollar and the Persian Gulf crisis had darkened this year's economic picture at the Vatican.

"The decline of the dollar has greatly damaged Peter's Pence, and it will be much worse this year," he said. The U.S. church has traditionally been the biggest single contributor to the annual fund.

The effect of the Gulf crisis on world financial markets has hurt the Holy See along with everyone else, Monsignor Sposito said. When world markets decline, the Vatican's investments suffer just like those of others, he said.

The Vatican said in 1987 that it was following a spirit of austerity in its curial operations, but has never explained what specific steps have been taken to cut costs. The latest statement offered no breakdown

of income and expenses.

Over the last decade, the Vatican has struggled to stay ahead of its nagging budget problems. On several occasions, the Vatican has appealed for increased contributions from the faithful, warning that it would otherwise be forced to cut into its patrimony of investments and properties in order to cover operating expenses.

Canon law

Continued from page 6

department of Catholic University said, "I think we owe it to the NCCB, our colleagues in the profession and the members of the church to do a little more serious and thorough analysis of these issues."

Father Ralph Wiatrowski, chancellor of the Diocese of Cleveland, told the *Uni*verse Bulletin after the meeting, "The resolution was not a well-prepared one. There were questions which needed to be asked, for example, the whole question of Eastern rites in this country."

In Eastern-rite Catholic churches, a married man can be ordained to the diocesan priesthood, but a priest cannot marry after ordination. In the United States, Easternrite priests cannot marry.

Another resolution called for a study of the participation of the laity in the three offices of the church: the office of sanctifying, the office of teaching and the office of governing.

The measure was related to the inability of canon lawyers who are lay people and women religious to act independently as tribunal judges. Under current canon law, such judges must act in concert with a priest.

The resolution was criticized as ambiguous and otherwise unsatisfactory, and was killed in the society's women's caucus. The group did decide to attach a request to broaden the power of laymen, laywomen and nuns who work on tribunals to an upcoming canon law society report on women in the church.

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tice in New York City, Nathanson now speaks against abortion several times a week. He accepts no fees for his talks.

The Rochester breakfast meeting is jointly sponsored by the Greater Rochester Association of Evangelicals and the Crisis Pregnancy Center. The Evangelical's association is underwriting the cost of renting the convention center in order to keep ticket prices low.

"The two organizations decided that they wanted to do something creative that would make the evangelical position (against abortion) more widely known," said Dan Minchen, who along with his wife, Sandra, is co-chairing the breakfast.

In promoting the event, the two groups are urging parents to come with their

teenagers, Minchen said.

"Statistics show that the majority of abortion decisions are faced by teens," Minchen said. "We felt Dr. Nathanson had a compassionate message for teens, as well as a very truthful message."

Organizers of the event have already notified officials of the Rochester Police Department that the breakfast might be the target of pro-choice protests.

Trudy Benson, who heads Rochester Pro-Choice Action Committee, said could not say whether picketing or protests would take place. She did say, however, that "any time we get out, we try to be peaceful."

EDITORS' NOTE: Tickets for the breakfast — \$6.95 for adults and \$5 for students — may be obtained by calling the Crisis Pregnancy Center, 716/232-2350, or the agency's special events line at 383-2784.

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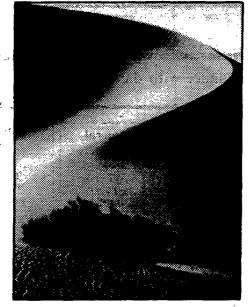
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