

## Foundation

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The foundation gets most of its referrals from other agencies, churches, and people the Sheen foundation has previously helped. The program spreads the word by distributing leaflets in public laundries and food cupboards and other "places where you would find people in need," Sister Mackie said.

And those who are in need often make a point of thanking the Sheen foundation by letter after receiving assistance, she remarked. One young Prattsburg couple living in a house with a leaky roof wrote the foundation: "We would like to thank the Bishop Sheen group for ... granting us the help in fixing our roof. After 10 years of pails setting in the attic and bedrooms it will be great to help fix the inside (so) that will help the house look better."

One individual can do a lot to make a house look better, given the fact that donations to the foundation are matched by grants from the federal and state governments and outside agencies. A statement from the Sheen foundation points out that potential donors to the Christmas Appeal should not be dissuaded from making contributions simply because they don't have enough money to make a large gift.

"A \$20 gift to the Christmas Appeal can be turned into a \$250 repair for a hot water heater," the statement read. "\$30 can turn a bathroom into a handicapped facility for handicapped/elderly families. \$100 could help repair a furnace or roof."

**EDITORS' NOTE** — For information on the Bishop Sheen Ecumenical Housing Foundation, call one of its two offices: 935 East Ave. in Rochester at 716/461-4263 or 92 Saltonstall St. in Canandaigua at 396-1880.

## Delegates

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conference. "You have been given much, and God did not give you these gifts to have you bury them in the ground," Father Clements said. "You must utilize them for those who are less fortunate, and if you don't you risk going to hell."

He told youth ministers that they would be insulted, ridiculed and scorned because of their risk taking, but he noted that taking chances is synonymous with the Gospel of Christ.

"Jesus Christ was the risk taker," he said.

In the conferences' keynote address, Archbishop Patrick F. Flores of San Antonio, Texas, challenged youth ministry coordinators "to be church."

The prelate noted that the challenge fac-



Babette G. Augustin/Staff photographer Susan Griffin (right) of Fort Worth was among the 1,100 people who attended the conference.

ing youth ministers today is to build up the church. Archbishop Flores told participants they should jump at the opportunity to help youths who are suffering today.

The archbishop told the story of a mother who had sacrificed her beauty to save her trapped son from a burning building. Guyther said the archbishop's story showed what it means to be Catholic and what it means to be church.

Other conference speakers included Cynthia Thero, former director of parish council services and associate vicar of education for the Archdiocese of Denver, and J. David Stone, chief executive officer of Youth Ministries Training Network.

In addition to general sessions, exhibits and social events, the conference offered 15 workshops focusing on such current youth-ministry topics as ethical and moral issues, creative programming and liabilities, according to Guyther.

A special workshop was presented Nov. 29 for new diocesan youth-ministry directors. More than 40 people attended the session, which encouraged directors to seek help from other dioceses if needed.

"They were told there will be headaches, but with prayer you can make it," Guyther said.

Patrick Fox, director of the Department of Youth Ministry for the Rochester diocese, said he noticed a high level of community, fellowship and spirit among the participants.

Guyther added that she was very pleased with the turnout for the conference and the enthusiasm among participants. The conference manager said she was especially grateful for the support and hard work offered from the Rochester diocese and the neighboring dioceses of Buffalo and Syracuse.

More than 150 volunteers from the Diocese of Rochester alone offered assistance during the event.

"Without them, the conference wouldn't have worked," she said.

The next conference on Catholic Youth Ministry will be held in Houston in 1992, Guyther said.

### Division director seeks help to resettle refugees

The diocesan Division of Social Ministry is urging every diocesan parish to commit itself to the resettlement of two or more refugee cases "during the near future," according to letter sent out to parishes on Nov. 6.

"Catholic Family Center is seeking parish-level sponsorship commitments for some of the remaining Amerasian refugees as well as for recently-released Vietnamese political prisoners and their immediate families in Vietnam," wrote Father John Firpo, director of the Division of Social Ministry.

Contact the Refugee Resettlement Program at 716/546-7220, ext. 659.



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