

Bishop Clark declares \$4.15 million TGA goal

By Lee Strong
Staff writer

ROCHESTER — The goal for the 1992-93 Thanks Giving Appeal has been set at \$4.145 million, Bishop Matthew H. Clark announced during a Monday, Oct. 26, press conference at the diocesan Pastoral Center, 1150 Buffalo Road.

Bishop Clark noted that the 1992-93 goal represents 61 percent of the Diocese of Rochester's overall budget of \$6,779,858.

Investment income and fees charged for certain diocesan services will account for the remaining \$2.635 million — or 39 percent — of the diocesan budget.

For the second consecutive year, Bishop Clark announced, the diocese has not established mandatory parish quotas for the appeal's parish phase, scheduled for the weekends of Oct. 31-Nov. 1, Nov. 7-8 and 14-15.

Up until the 1990-91 TGA, the diocese assessed each parish with a mandatory quota, which the parish was required to meet either from TGA receipts or from parish revenue.

And, for the first time in diocesan history, parishes will set their own voluntary targets for the 1992-93 campaign, Bishop Clark announced.

Appeal director Tom D'Agostino — who was hired Sept. 8, 1992 — explained that no parish will be forced to

make up a shortfall from the voluntary target it established.

Bishop Clark further revealed that the TGA, the Diocese of Rochester's chief source of income, had already received approximately \$1 million in commitments before the Oct. 31 kickoff of the appeal's parish phase.

Those commitments came from the "leadership" phase of the yearlong appeal. Beginning Sept. 9, TGA workers started contacting more than 6,000 individuals who had given \$200 or more to the TGA in the past. Those contacted — either in person or by telephone — had netted the \$1 million in pledges.

D'Agostino added that the leadership phase — which has been used for the past three years — was expanded for 1992-93. Volunteers have conducted a phonathon effort since mid-October, calling potential donors not only in Rochester, but also from such areas as Geneva, Seneca Falls, Corning and Elmira.

The expansion succeeded in doubling the \$500,000 raised through the leadership phase of the 1991-92 TGA, D'Agostino reported.

Despite the increased success of the leadership phase of the 1992-93 TGA campaign compared to the 1991-92 effort, the overall goal is lower than the 1991-92 TGA's target of \$4.345 million, which represented 64 percent of the diocese's projected \$6.762 million



Bebette G. Augustin/Photo editor
Tom D'Agostino, director of the 1992-93 Thanks Giving Appeal, works on mailings for the 'leadership' phase of the yearlong appeal. The diocese has already received \$1 million in pledges for this year's appeal.

1991-92 budget.

The 1991-92 TGA fell short of its goal, raising only \$4,070,000. That shortfall — coupled with other revenue losses and the restructuring of diocesan offices — led the diocese to eliminate more than 25 positions and to cut back on some services.

"It was a rough year all around the country for fundraising just because of the economy," D'Agostino observed. "A lot of campaigns were flat, or were down."

Bishop Clark acknowledged that the TGA has been hurt by such outside factors as the economy and anger over restructuring of the Catholic school system.

In terms of the economy, the current TGA goal "is modest in terms of our

recent goals," Bishop Clark said. "All we can ask is for people to do what they can do," he added.

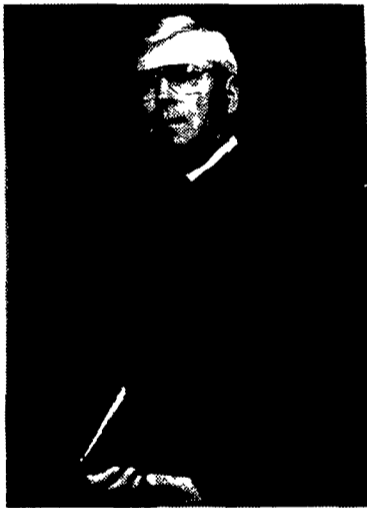
"This year's theme, 'A time to share,' is especially appropriate at this time," the bishop remarked. "The '90s have brought financial hardship to many people, people who find it increasingly difficult to live in dignity or who simply cannot survive without our help."

Bishop Clark noted that many members of the diocese are hurt when potential donors withhold their TGA contributions to protest such issues as school reorganization.

"It's not a very constructive way ... of protesting," he remarked. "Our emphasis is on the individuals to consider the whole picture."

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Northwest schools appear stable, quadrant board says

By Rob Cullivan
Staff writer

GREECE — The Northwest Quadrant Governance Board has recommended that the diocese make no grade reconfigurations for the next five years — provided enrollment in the quadrant remains stable.

The board announced its recommendations at a meeting for parents at St. John the Evangelist Church, 2400 W. Ridge Road, on Oct. 21.

The Northwest Quadrant comprises 10 Catholic schools, including the Nazareth Schools (Nazareth Academy and Hall), which are independently operated by the Sisters of St. Joseph. Quadrant schools are located in Greece, Rochester, Brockport and Spencerport.

The board also called for a five-year plan to ensure that the northwest's enrollment remains stable; to improve quadrant financing; and to explore ways of strengthening its middle-school programs.

The board found that the quadrant does not need a centralized junior high, and that establishing such a school(s) could ultimately damage the growing enrollment in the quadrant.

Given the distance between the quadrant's schools, the board would have to recommend at least two junior highs. But establishing two junior highs would displace a high number of students, and hence, might backfire and cause enrollment decline, according to Jim Gelormini, chairman of the board's planning committee.

"I think if we've found anything ... that if parents don't like their educational options, they will take their

kids out of the system," he said. Parental surveys show little support for junior highs in the quadrant.

Establishing two junior highs in the quadrant could also result in tuition increases of between 60 and 70 percent, Gelormini maintained. According to the planning committee report, those percentages translate into tuition increases of between \$700-\$800.

Results from a parent survey commissioned by the board "establish that tuition increases would virtually render junior high Catholic education unaffordable for all but a privileged few," the report concluded.

Meanwhile, parents in the northwest formed a group last summer called "Concerned Parents for Rejuvenation of Catholic Schools," or "C.P.R. Catholic Schools." The group passed out a newsletter at the meeting, and called on parents to write diocesan officials and let them know that they want the quadrant's schools to remain intact.

Finally, board members pointed out that the quadrant must move to a centralized financing system by July, 1993. Such a system is mandatory for each quadrant under the diocesan Catholic Community Schools Plan.

It may cost as much as \$79,000 to establish a centralized financing system, according to William J. Brown, chairman of the board's finance committee. The money would be spent on such items as hiring new staff, he said.

Among the board's financial suggestions was a proposal to create a quadrant development fund. Schools seeking to raise monies for the fund could retain one-half of the monies they raise for the development fund, and give the other half to the quadrant.