

# Development campaign empowers needy

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justice can be reaped now and in the future.

"It continues to be the very best program in the Catholic Church," according to Father Joseph R. Hacala, SJ, executive director of CHD.

Father Hacala spoke at two functions honoring CHD grant recipients in the diocese on Friday, April 16 — a noon-time luncheon at St. Mary Church, 95 N. Main St., Canandaigua, and an evening dinner at St. Mary Our Mother Church, 816 W. Broad St., Horseheads.

This year's CHD grant recipients in the Rochester diocese included the following sample:

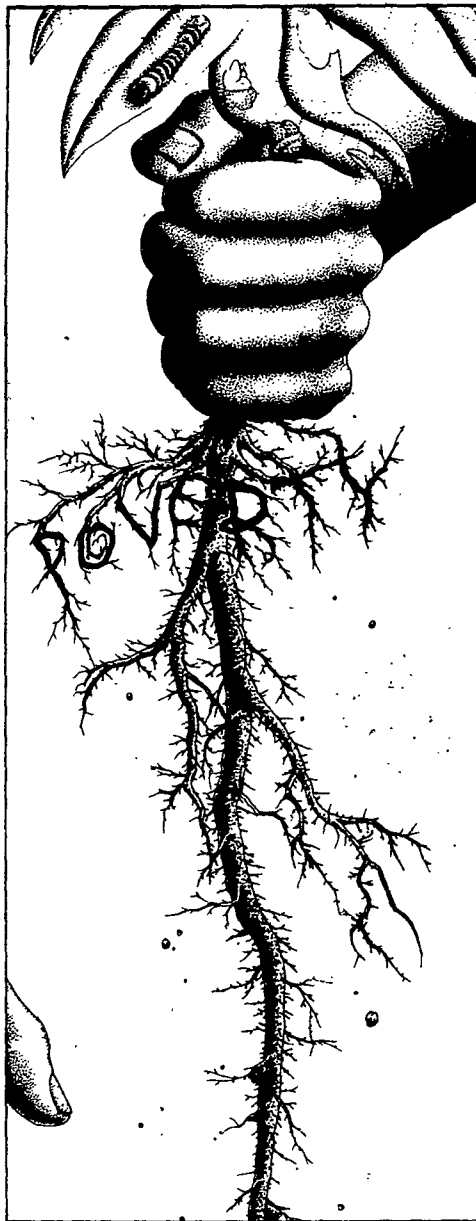
- La Vida, a program geared toward Hispanic drug and alcohol addicts in Rochester.
- The Ontario County Tenants Association, an organization seeking to increase awareness of tenants' rights and dialogue between tenants and landlords.
- The Neighborhood Action Network of Auburn, a grass-roots group helping poor people obtain respite and child care; legal counsel; family counseling; and emergency and hotline services.

Father Hacala's appearances in the diocese coincided with a pulpit appeal by pastors over the weekend of April 17-18. Diocesan parishes will take up collections for CHD April 24-25.

Seventy-five percent of the monies collected is disbursed through grants approved by a national committee, while 25 percent of the collection remains within the diocese to be disbursed by grants approved by its three regional committees.

The Campaign for Human Development has funded more than 3,000 organizations through its national disbursement effort, and thousands more have received grants from regional committees. The Diocese of Rochester alone has contributed \$2.1 million to the agency, which has raised more than \$150 million since its inception.

Organizations funded by CHD range from the secular to the religious and include a number of interdenominational efforts. CHD stipulates that grant applicants have to gear their projects to low-income people, and must include anywhere from one-third to one-half low-income people on a project's board of directors and/or among its benefi-



ciaries depending on the project's aims.

In an interview with the *Catholic Courier*, Father Hacala supported his assertion that CHD is the church's "best program" because it combines church teaching's spiritual and practical sides in a visible way.

In particular, the priest-director pointed to *Gaudium et Spes*, the Vatican II document describing the church's role in the modern world, as evidence that CHD was fulfilling a prime mission of the church. Father Hacala quoted that document's opening lines to emphasize that the CHD embodies church social teachings:

"The joy and hope, the grief and anguish of the men of our time, especially those who are poor or afflicted in any way, are the joy and hope, and the grief

and anguish of the followers of Christ as well," the document states.

Through CHD, the U.S. Church has shared the joys and griefs of migrant workers seeking to form unions; helped factory workers buy out their closing plants and revive their productivity; and nurtured numerous neighborhood organizations seeking affordable low-income housing.

CHD has also funded groups protecting Native American tribal rights; efforts to secure health care for poor women who are pregnant and senior citizens who live on fixed incomes; and aided farmers fearful of losing their land.

CHD draws its inspiration from the concept of *empowerment*, which simply means giving the poor and the powerless the ability to run their own lives. Empowering the poor is an idea embodied in church social teaching as far back as Pope Leo XIII's landmark encyclical *Rerum Novarum*, issued in 1891.

"When there is a question of protecting the rights of individuals, the poor and the helpless have a claim to special consideration," Pope Leo wrote. "The rich population has many ways of protecting themselves, and stands less in need of help."

Furthermore, the pope noted, the reason poor people lack the ability to run their own lives is because they are powerless.

"On the one side," he wrote, "there is the party which holds the power because it holds the wealth ... On the other side there is the needy and powerless multitude."

Lest Catholics think that CHD is engaged in class warfare, however, the program actually attempts to bridge the gap between poor and middle and upper classes.

According to its 1991 annual report, the CHD has instituted the "Middle Income Process," a program that attempts to educate higher-income Catholics about the conditions affecting their poor brethren, and use the resources of better-heeled parishioners to empower the poor.

Parishioners participating in MIP have arranged an interest-free loan for a sewing cooperative; raised \$10,000 for migrant housing; staffed community literacy and health-care programs; and met regularly with neighborhood associations to deal with such issues as bus-

ing and law enforcement.

Although Rochester is not among the dioceses currently involved in MIP, this diocese has seen a number of CHD successes — both from nationally funded programs and from locally funded organizations. One such story began with a couple in their mid-20s who lacked the knowledge and resources to build the dream of their own video-arcade business.

Daryl Deal and his wife Tammy received a pamphlet in the mail last December from the Geneva-based Worker Ownership Resource Center, a program funded by a national CHD grant and located at the Finger Lakes Office of Social Ministry, 110 Exchange St. The pamphlet offered a 17-week course in business that cost \$40, with the fee waived for those without the ability to pay.

The Deals always wanted to start their own business, but were skeptical of the offer.

"I thought it was going to cost us so much, and you weren't going to get anything," Daryl said. Nonetheless, the Deals decided to gamble on the program and have been pleased with their progress.

"They've taught us a lot of market research, how to prepare a business plan," he said. "They're pretty much walking us through the whole process."

The Deals have found a location for their potential arcade and are now looking into financing their business with the help of WORC's advice.

Stories such as the Deals' convinced the U.S. Bishops Conference to make the CHD's ad hoc committee a standing committee in 1988. The bishops have also mandated that the CHD increase all of its efforts, from fundraising and public relations to improving its administrative efforts.

The 1991 report also noted that the national CHD collected \$9.3 million from U.S. dioceses, received \$160,000 from individuals and institutions, and \$860,000 in investment income, for a total of more than \$10.32 million.

Of that figure, more than \$7.8 million went to various projects around the country, and slightly less than \$1 million was used for promotional and educational campaigns. The rest of the funds were used for administrative, planning and program support.

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