

## Acting on abuse

At the U.S. Catholic bishops meeting in New Orleans last week, Bishop John F. Kinney was named head of a new Ad Hoc Committee on Sexual Abuse. Page 4.



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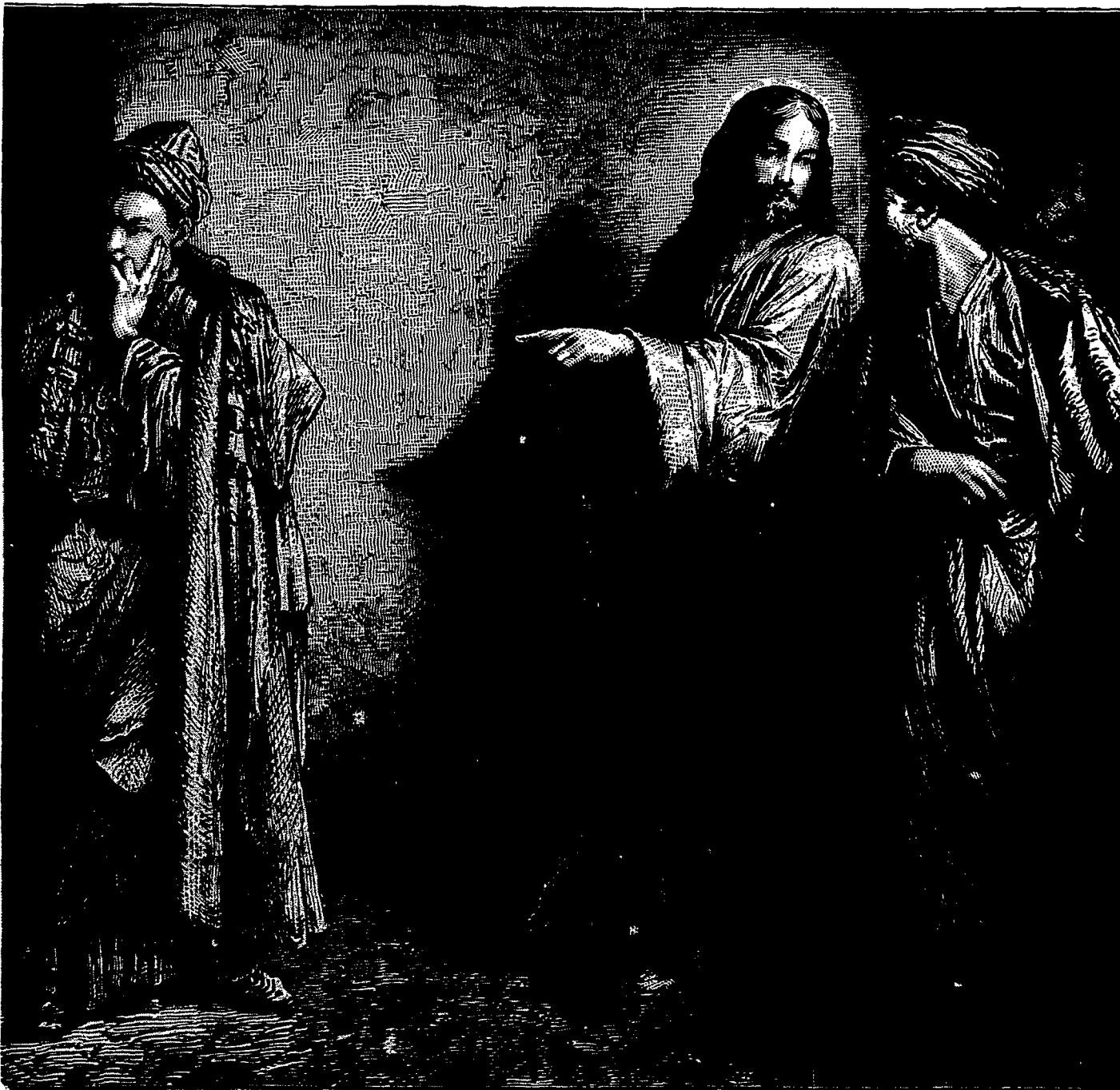
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# Jesus and the rich young man

(Matthew 19:21-22)



## Church seeks means to spur giving

ROCHESTER — When the young man in Matthew's Gospel asked how he could gain eternal life, Jesus replied: "If you wish to be perfect, go, sell what you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me."

Catholic Church officials — from parishes to the Vatican — certainly do not ask the faithful for sacrifices of this magnitude. But in light of ongoing financial woes, officials are more and more frequently asking people to increase their contributions.

All across the Diocese of Rochester, parish bulletins carry pleas for larger collections, amid reports of deficits and the elimination of staff positions.

The diocese itself has been forced — for the second consecutive year — to cut back on personnel due to a shortfall in the Thanks Giving Appeal, the diocese's chief source of income.

According to Catholic News Service reports, dioceses across the country are also facing similar financial problems. Indeed, members of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops were so concerned about church contributions that on Nov. 18, 1992, they approved a pastoral letter on stewardship — "Stewardship: A Disciple's Response."

And Vatican officials are looking to the Peter's Pence collection — scheduled to take place in the Diocese of Rochester the weekend of June 27-28 — to help reduce a projected \$80 million deficit.

The immediate effect of these various shortfalls is evidenced by a smaller number of church personnel and by reductions in services. And Rochester diocesan officials are already voicing concerns about long-term budgetary implications stemming from decisions made in the ongoing Synod.

When the general session concludes Oct. 3, the Synod will have produced a series of recommendations diocesan officials will be charged

with implementing. But those officials already wonder where they will find the money to carry out that implementation.

The financial woes can be linked to a variety of factors, noted Mark Seeberg, the diocese's director of development.

Among those factors, Seeberg said, are the troubled economy, restructuring of the Catholic school system and the controversy over United Way of Greater Rochester's support of the Rochester chapter of Planned Parenthood, which is constructing an abortion clinic.

But the problem extends beyond these local issues. **Continued on page 14**

### Diocesan cluster enjoys increase in collections

CAYUGA COUNTY — In light of growing financial needs, parishes throughout the Diocese of Rochester are seeking to increase their collections through a variety of means — ranging from simple bulletin requests to formal, sacrificial-giving programs.

The four parishes that constitute the Cayuga Team Ministry are among those that have succeeded in raising their collections.

"We saw that we were getting by by the skin of our teeth," reported Father Paul Ryan, pastor of the cluster comprising St. Patrick Parish, Aurora; St. Joseph Parish, Cayuga; Our Lady of the Lake, King Ferry; and St. Mi-

chael Parish, Union Springs.

"We're presently in debt to no one," Father Ryan continued. "(But) we saw that in the future, the cost of salaries, inflation would go up."

Since the cluster parishes had not implemented a formal giving program in approximately 22 years, the staff knew that any effort should be low key, Father Ryan said.

After considering a number of options, the staff selected this spring an increased-giving program offered by Letter Concepts of Wallingford, Conn.

**Continued on page 14**

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