

United Way reaches goal for annual appeal

By Lee Strong
Senior staff writer

ROCHESTER — Despite concerns over the economy, a protest by a local pro-life group, and even recent articles that the campaign would fall \$500,000 short, United Way of Greater Rochester, Inc., has reached its goal of \$36 million in pledged contributions for this year's campaign.

According to Neal Haddad, United Way's director of communications, the organization received \$36,007,236 in pledges during its annual campaign from April 6 to May 19. Money raised through United Way is distributed to hundreds of area health-care and social-service agencies.

During the campaign's final week, a number of local companies responded to the predicted shortfall by seeking out additional contributions before turning in their totals, Haddad observed.

"The community knew we needed a little bit more," Haddad explained. That spurred Eastman Kodak Company employees, for example, to contribute more than \$5.5 million in pledges — more than had been expected, he reported.

Haddad noted that the campaign had begun under a cloud created by concerns over the economy and ongoing cutbacks at large companies in the Rochester area.

"The campaign began with \$1 million in pledge card loss because of people no longer in the work place who gave last year," Haddad said.

As for a pro-life group calling for donors not to give to the United Way because of the organization's relationship with Planned Parenthood of Rochester and the Genesee Valley, Inc., Haddad said there was no discernible impact.

"Destroying the campaign was not our goal," observed George Madden, a member of Citizen's for United Way Responsibility.

Indeed, that was one of the points raised during a May 16 meeting of the pro-life group's core members — a day af-

ter local newspaper articles reported that the United Way campaign might fall well short of its goal.

"For myself, I've always been conflicted about harming United Way and doing anything that would deny funding to legitimate agencies," Madden said. "So naturally, I'm gratified that they made it. I would be distressed if they didn't make it — for the sake of the agencies."

"But I'm equally distressed that United Way — quite apart from the campaign — continues to directly associate itself with abortion and abortion-related services," Madden added.

For the past three years, Citizens for United Way Responsibility has asked that people donate directly to agencies they

wish to support — rather than the United Way campaign — to protest United Way's relationship with Planned Parenthood.

The group also asked that United Way move Planned Parenthood from "member-agency status" to "donor-designation status." Such a move would ensure that contributions to United Way from people who oppose abortion would not go directly to Planned Parenthood.

Last December, United Way's board of directors approved a Planned Parenthood proposal that the agency receive only donor-designated funds.

As part of this agreement, however, Planned Parenthood remained a member agency. Thus it did not have to pay

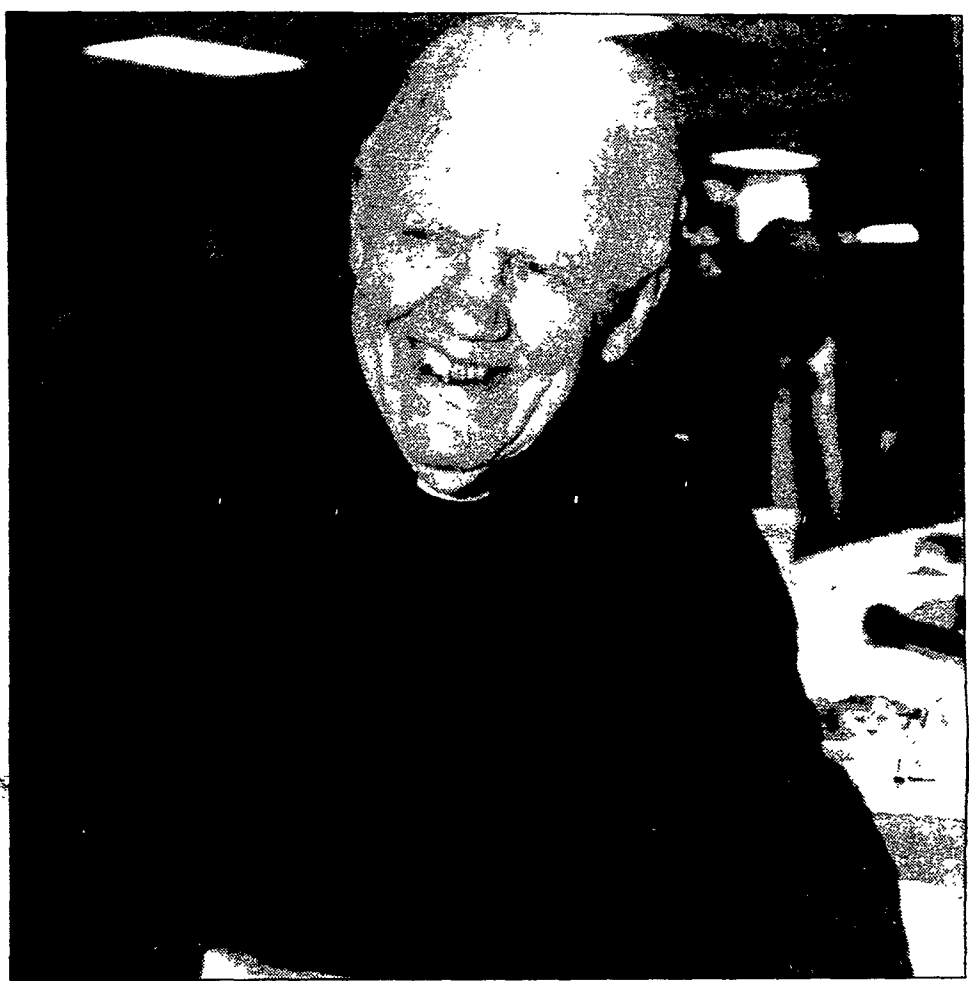
the administration fee that most donor-designation agencies must pay. In the case of Planned Parenthood, this fee, which was covered by United Way, amounted to tens of thousands of dollars, Madden estimated. Thus, members of the pro-life group argued that money from pro-life contributors to the United Way would still help Planned Parenthood.

Madden reported that the May 16 meeting saw members of Citizens for United Way Responsibility planning their strategy for the coming year. That strategy includes raising funds and developing an educational program focusing on Planned Parenthood and its relationship with the United Way.



Parish honors Fr. Ehmman

Holy Apostles Church in Rochester marked Father Benedict A. Ehmman's 65th year of ordination with a May 22 Mass, tree planting, and roasting by Phyl Contestable (above), who starred as 'The Reverend Mother' in the hit play 'Nunsense.' Father Ehmman (right), who was ordained in 1929, enjoys a laugh at his own expense during a brunch after Mass.



Lauren McFalls/Photo intern

Parish to honor pastor, celebrate 70th

SODUS — Parishioners of Church of the Epiphany in Sodus and St. Rose, Sodus Point, have scheduled a supper to celebrate the parish's 70th anniversary and to honor Father George Heyman on Sunday, June 5, at 4 p.m. The dual celebrations will take place in the Father Cavanaugh Parish Center, 105 W. Main St.

Father Heyman, who has served as pastor since 1991, is leaving the parish to complete his doctoral studies. He is

credited with implementing a children's liturgy; the religious education program on Sunday mornings; and Stephen Ministry, a program in which trained lay people provide care and support to people experiencing difficulties in their lives.

Guests are asked to bring a dish to pass and their own table service for the supper. Beverages and dessert will be provided.

Celebrate Life '94 rally set for Sunday, June 5

ROCHESTER — For the second consecutive year, United For Life — a coalition of pro-life groups, churches and individuals — has scheduled a pro-life rally at Manhattan Square Park in downtown Rochester.

"Celebrate Life '94" is slated for Sunday, June 5, from 2 to 5 p.m. The rally will feature music, games, food and speakers.

In addition, the missionary image of Our Lady of Guadalupe will be sent to

Rochester for the rally.

Organizers of this year's event also expect more involvement by youth and school groups.

Preceding the rally, some individuals will wear and distribute hospital bracelets, which organizers said will be worn as "a witness to an unborn baby in danger of abortion." They may be obtained through local pro-life agencies, churches or schools, or by contacting Dr. Helen M. Owens at 716/467-5698.

June 3 musical to benefit scholarship fund at Kearney

IRONDEQUOIT — "An Evening of Song, Dance and Comedy" will be the theme of a performance by The Traveling Cabaret, which will perform at Bishop Kearney High School, 125 Kings Highway S., on Friday, June 3. This show, featuring performances of Broadway, film and pop tunes, will begin at 8 p.m.

The 11-member performing group is a division of the Brighton Theatre Guild. Proceeds from the June 3 show will benefit the Joseph Gillen Scholarship Fund, in memory of the former Kearney teacher and Traveling Cabaret member.

Reservations are suggested. For details, call Kerri Bishop at 716/342-4000.

A donation to help support THE MONTHLY PRAYER REQUEST FOR PRIESTS will be greatly appreciated.

THE MONTHLY PRAYER REQUEST FOR PRIESTS

WOULD YOU PRAY FOR A PRIEST EACH DAY?

SUGGESTED PRAYERS AND SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR PRIESTS

V. Lord, open our lips.
R. And we shall praise Your name.
V. O God, come to our aid.
R. O Lord, make haste to help us.

Scripture Reading:
One of the following may be used:
Matt. 9:35-38 Mark 10:28-30
Luke 5:1-11 Luke 14:25-33
Jn. 1:35-52 Jn. 15:9-17
2 Cor. 5:14-20 Heb. 5:1-10
Gen. 12:14 Exod. 3:1-6-9-12
1 Sam. 3:1-10 Jer. 1:6-8.

A Litany of Saints:
St. Michael and St. Vincent de Paul
St. Raphael St. John Eudes
St. Joseph St. Margaret Clitherow
St. Peter and St. Paul St. John Vianney
St. Patrick St. Therese of Lisieux
St. Francis St. Maximilian Kolbe
St. Dominic St. Lorenzo Ruiz de Manila
St. Catherine of Sienna R. Pray for our bishops and priests

Or whatever the Lord inspires you to offer Him on behalf of His Priests

JUNE, 1994

DIOCESE OF ROCHESTER, NY

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