TGA helps create 'lively, strong community

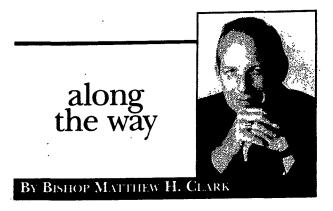
As is my custom at this time of the year in Along the Way I want to extend to you an invitation to consider a gift to our annual Catholic Thanksgiving Appeal (TGA).

The TGA is important to us because it supports a range of activities which increase our capacity to know, to celebrate and to give witness to our faith.

Your gift to the TGA will strengthen our capacity to meet obligations and to enjoy opportunities which go beyond what individual parishes can handle but which are our common responsibility as members of our diocese. For example, your gift to the TGA allows us to make our fair contribution to our Holy Father's pastoral administration. It supports our participation in the New York State Catholic Conference and the National Conference of Catholic **Bishops**.

Further, your gift will enhance our capacity to stand in vigorous support of our parish communities as we continue to implement our synod goals. We are working hard to strengthen our efforts to realize our synod goals in Life Long Faith Formation, in the Consistent Life Ethic, in the Value and Dignity of Women in Church and Society and in the formation of Small Christian Communities.

One last example: Your gift to Catholic Charities through TGA helps us to offer



assistance to sisters and brothers who stand in special need of the care of our community. Your gift also supports our capacity to advocate for change in those societal structures and systems which make it difficult for people to live in dignity and peace.

If you read this column with any regularity, you know that one of its principal themes is the daily life of this diocese as it unfolds in every one of our 12 counties. It is my privilege to witness almost every day the good things that happen because so many of you make a gift to the TGA. Such experience gives me, as bishop, a great sense of gratitude that so many participate in this important part of Catholic life. Such experience gives me, as donor to the TGA, strong confidence that my gift is carefully used and does much good.

As you consider a gift to the TGA the following information may be of interest to you. Of every TGA dollar:

· 35 cents supports life long faith formation, the number one Pastoral Plan Goal, \$1.5 million in total;

• 17 cents supports the diocese's commitment to respect and uphold the dignity of human life, Goal 2, \$718,000 in total;

• 4 cents underwrites Goal 3: recognize and value the dignity of women in church and society, \$185,000 in total;

• 2 cents goes to Goal 4: support for the growth of small Christian communities, \$72,000 in total;

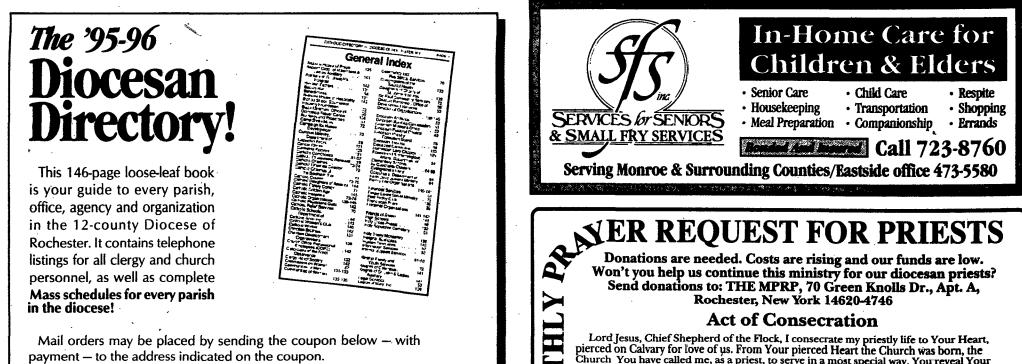
• 42 cents provides other direct services to parishes and individuals, \$ 1.8 million in total.

There is much more I could say about the good things made possible by your gift to the TGA. I won't do that here; but I do invite you to review with care the materials you will receive in the mail and to consider thoughtfully what you hear in your parish church about this important work.

If we all do what we can, our TGA will be a great success and we will strengthen our capacity to be a lively, strong community well able to respond generously to the challenges which lie before us.

I thank you very much for your kind consideration.

Peace to all.



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