

TGA gifts reach far and wide

This weekend and on the two following weekends, pastors and volunteer leaders of our parish communities will be asking all Catholics of the Diocese of Rochester to make a gift to our annual Thanks Giving Appeal (TGA).

In some instances pastors ask individuals from outside the parish to visit the parish to help promote this annual effort. Generally, those invited to do this are particularly well acquainted with the good works made possible by gifts made to the TGA. Last Sunday, for example, I spoke in support of the TGA at all of the weekend Masses at St. Lawrence Parish in Greece. This weekend I will do the same at St. Charles Borromeo, Greece.

It is always a pleasure for me to make such presentations. One reason is that I love to spend full weekends in our parishes whenever I can. A second reason is that I believe in the concept of the TGA. It is an annual fundraising effort that helps us meet our common responsibilities as a diocese. Your gift to the TGA helps us to implement our Synod priorities: lifelong faith formation, consistent life ethic, women in the church and society, and the promotion of small Christian communities. In addition, monies contributed to the TGA enable us to help those among us in special need through direct services and through advocacy designed to change systems that diminish their capacity to help themselves.

What makes me most enthusiastic about the TGA is the opportunity I have almost

along the way



BY BISHOP MATTHEW H. CLARK

every day to see the impact your gift makes in the lives of people. For example, last Saturday I had the pleasure of participating in a day of study and reflection on one of our major Synod priorities, women in the church and society. That gathering attracted about 90 people from our parishes in the Finger Lakes region.

Among them was a very bright young woman who is a graduate student at Cornell University. She came both to learn from those present and to share with them the faith opportunities and challenges that are part of university years for her and her friends.

As I was driving to another event after my part of that program, I was thinking that your TGA gift contributes directly or indirectly to our Synod work, to regional development and to campus ministry programs. And I was very grateful that we have such a vehicle as the TGA to help finance such life-giving activities.

A second example that comes to mind is the range of youth activities that have brought such life to our local church. I

think of our Hands of Christ celebrations, our annual Junior High School Youth Rally and our annual weekend convention for high school students.

Events like this, at least as I experience them, do much to encourage our young people today. I think you will agree that any effort we put into such endeavors is a great investment in the health and well-being of the church of the future. All of them are helped by your gift to the TGA.

Lastly, I mention the good things you do for our sisters and brothers who, from time to time, stand in special need of the care of the community. Seventeen cents of every dollar you give to the TGA is used to support Catholic Charities. Through the volunteer and professional leadership of Catholic Charities, your gift to the TGA is multiplied many times over and is used to help meet the basic needs of individuals who might otherwise be forgotten.

In light of the importance of the TGA to the health and vitality of our local church, I ask you please to consider supporting it with a gift this year. If you have been a regular participant in the past, I thank you and ask you to extend that support yet another year. If you have not supported the effort in the past, I ask you the favor of participating this year. If you do, your gift will do much good.

Whatever your decision about a financial gift, I ask you please to support our TGA with your prayer. Thank you very much for your consideration.

Peace to all.



Catholic Courier • Catholic Charities Christmas Appeal Dinner Theatre

featuring a "Musical Salute to Irving Berlin"

by the Aquinas Follies
and entertainment by "Rev. Mother" (Phyl Contestable)

Friday, December 6th, 1996 • 7:00 p.m.

The Harro East • 400 Andrews Street, Rochester.

Tickets are \$50* per person and include reception, buffet dinner and entertainment.

*Approximately 40% of ticket price will benefit the Christmas Appeal.

What is the Christmas Appeal?

It is a cooperative effort of the Catholic Courier and Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Rochester to raise funds for people in desperate financial crisis.

For the past 27 years, the appeal has enabled the Catholic community to help thousands of people in 12 counties to help meet life's basic needs. Christmas Appeal funds have been there for them when no other sources of aid were available.

Who benefits from it?

The Christmas Appeal helps individuals and families in short-term financial crises. These are people who have no financial resources and are either awaiting or are ineligible for assistance through other sources.

How does it work?

Appeal proceeds are allocated to the emergency funds of the following diocesan agencies: Catholic Family Center; Finger Lakes Social Ministry; Catholic Charities of the Southern Tier; Catholic Charities of Livingston County outreach; Bishop Sheen Ecumenical Housing Foundation; and diocesan Urban Services.



Catholic Courier • Catholic Charities Christmas Appeal Dinner Theatre

Please reserve _____ tickets @ \$50 each

Please reserve _____ table(s) for eight @ \$400 each

In addition to, or in lieu of, my reservation, please accept this donation to the 1996 Christmas Appeal \$ _____

Total enclosed \$ _____

Name _____
Address _____
City, State, Zip Code _____
Telephone _____

Please respond on or before November 25, 1996

Mail to Christmas Appeal • PO Box 24379 • Rochester, NY 14624-0379