

DIOCESAN NEWS

Bishop Clark kicks off Thanks Giving Appeal

By Rob Cullivan
Staff writer

GATES — Diocesan Catholics will be asked to make \$4.9 million in pledges to the 1996 Thanks Giving Appeal, according to Bishop Matthew H. Clark.

That money will fund almost half the diocese's budgetary needs, the bishop added.

Bishop Clark kicked off the TGA at a press conference Oct. 28 in the Diocesan Pastoral Center, 1150 Buffalo Road. Bishop Clark was joined at the conference by several diocesan officials.

"The TGA is really what allows us to carry on and provide to our people," Bishop Clark said, noting that the appeal is marking its 16th year.

Almost 900 volunteers will work to collect pledges at parishes over the weekends of Nov. 2 and 3, Nov. 9 and 10, and Nov. 16 and 17, according to Tom D'Agostino, director of the TGA.

He added that the official pledging period will end April 1, 1997, but that Catholics are welcome to pledge contributions to the appeal through June 30, the end of the diocese's fiscal year.

The appeal goal is \$100,000 more than last year's goal of \$4.8 million, according to D'Agostino. It's a smaller increase than in years past when the appeal has generally increased by \$200,000 each year, he said. He attributed the smaller increase to several factors — including the success of last year's TGA.

"We've talked to some of our priests, and we've had very good growth," he said of

parishioner pledges to the last year's TGA. He added that some areas of the diocese have been hit by layoffs over the last year, and that fact also played into the decision to keep the TGA goal increase lower than in the past.



Thanks Giving Appeal

Ever since the diocese stopped mandating TGA quotas for parishes a few years back, it's been easier to raise monies for the appeal, according to Father Joseph F. D'Aurizio, pastor of St. John the Evangelist Parish in Greece and co-chairman of the appeal. Today, parishes and the diocese work together to set voluntary goals, he said, pointing out that this year, his parish actually told the diocese to increase its goal from \$88,500 to \$90,000.

"There's a more collaborative working together now," he said. "Initially (parishioners) felt almost threatened like they had to give to us."

The Thanks Giving Appeal office provided the following breakdown on where this year's appeal monies will go.

- Forty-four cents of every dollar will provide direct diocesan services to parishes and individuals. Such services include support for seminarians and chaplains and support for parishes that need computer training, personnel services and financial and building management. The money also goes to diocesan ministries serving the African-American, Hispanic and Asian communities.

- Thirty-two cents of every dollar goes to promoting the top diocesan synodal priority of Lifelong Faith Formation. Support,



Matthew Scott/Staff photographer
Bishop James M. Moynihan of Syracuse greets well-wishers and old friends following the Mass he celebrated at Holy Spirit Church, Penfield, Oct. 26. The former pastor of St. Joseph's Church, Penfield, was the guest speaker at the Mass, as well as at a dinner that followed. The evening was a fundraiser sponsored by the Catholic Physicians' Guild to benefit Project Rachel, an outreach for people suffering from the effects of abortions.

training and resources are provided for parish ministers working with all age groups, and funding covers such activities as youth retreats, marriage preparation, religious education and aid to Catholic schoolchildren.

- Sixteen cents of every dollar goes to human services and advocacy efforts, including funds that go to Diocesan Catholic Charities, which helps, among others, low-income residents of the diocese, pregnant teens, refugees and immigrants. Monies are also used to track legislation that affects the poor and the vulnerable, Bishop Clark said, noting the diocese has become more concerned about such legislation in this era of

welfare reform.

"We're concerned that for the first time in many many years that those that are most in need are not covered," he said.

Other TGA funds will go to cover such costs as that of the newly established Office of Women in the Church and Society. The office will be headed by Gloria O'Toole Ulterioro, temporary pastoral administrator of the Roman Catholic Community of St. Joseph in Livonia and St. William in Conesus. The office was established as part of the diocese's effort to promote the third synodal goal of recognizing and valuing the dignity of women in church and society, the bishop said.

Diocese mandates sexual misconduct workshops for all employees

By Lee Strong
Associate editor

The Diocese of Rochester has announced that all diocesan employees will be required to take part in education sessions about sexual misconduct and the misuse of ministerial power and authority.

Beginning in November, the diocese will offer a series of 30 six-hour workshops for employees through the Employee Assistance Program operated by Park Ridge Health Connection.

All 1,800 diocesan and parish staff members, and all 1,200 Catholic school principals and staff employed by the diocese will be required to complete a workshop by June 1997. Ongoing training sessions will be offered thereafter for new employees.

In addition, the diocese will provide information to all parishes explaining some signs of abuse and detailing ways to respond, should any member of a parishioner's family become a victim. And the diocese is expanding a policy initiated in 1993 to deal with allegations of sexual abuse of minors by clergy so that it now covers all church employees and includes all types of sexual abuse, including harassment.

"Our diocese holds every person in a position of leadership or power accountable for maintaining the integrity of ministeri-

al relationships," observed Bishop Matthew H. Clark. "I would not require any program of so many busy people without being convinced of its importance for all of us and for those we serve."

Bishop Clark and other diocesan staff members took part in a pilot training session Oct. 8.

Father John Mulligan, vicar general of the diocese, said diocesan officials had decided to expand the current policy in light of how well it has worked.

"It has given us a real clarity is exactly how we are going to deal with allegations," Father Mulligan said. "It has helped us to reach out to victims."

Father Mulligan noted that with so many lay people in positions of responsibility in parishes and schools, diocesan officials believe that it makes sense to extend the policy beyond priests. He described the effort as "proactive."

"It's not, 'What are we going to do about it?' It's not 'What are we going to do when it happens?'" Father Mulligan observed. "It's advanced to the point of how we are going to prevent it."

Under the revised policy, Barbara Pedeville, coordinator of parish personnel services, and Father Robert Ring, director of the diocesan Department of Priest Personnel, will remain intake workers who receive complaints of misconduct. In addi-

tion, Sister Virginia Steinwachs, assistant superintendent for human resources in the diocesan Department of Catholic Schools, will serve as the intake worker for Catholic schools, and Beverly Ludke, vice president of human resources at the Catholic Family Center, will be the intake worker for

Catholic Charities.

Father Mulligan noted that the policy may eventually be expanded to cover parish and school volunteers as well.

"If people entrust their children to us, we are going to do our best to be responsive to their trust in us," he said.

The Monthly Prayer Request For Priests

Will you pray for a priest each day?

JESUS' PRAYER FOR HIS PRIESTS

O Jesus, by Thy most loving Heart, I implore Thee to inflame with zeal for Thy love and glory all the priests of the world, all missionaries and those whose office it is to preach Thy word, that on fire with holy zeal, they may snatch souls from the devil and lead them into the shelter of Thy Heart, where for ever they may glorify Thee.

Imprimatur: E. Morrogh Bernard, Vic. Gen. Westmonasterii, May 5, 1953

Prayer Suggestions: Mass, Rosary, Fasting, Day Offering, Eucharistic Adoration, Offering Offerings, Divine Mercy Chaplet

November, 1996

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Look for the December MPRP Calendar in the November 28th Catholic Courier.				Rev. Fathers:	Pope John Paul II Ordination	All Deceased Priests
Bishop Matthew H. Clark	All Priests on Sabbatical	Francis Marino, SM	Conrad J. Sundholm	Austin Budnick, OFM	John Lee, CSB	M. Gerald Hafner
Michael Costanzo	Edward E. Steinkirchner	Curtis Cadorette, MM	Herman Siebert, OFM Conv	Peter T. Bayer	William J. Gordinier	William J. Cosgrove
Mark E. Melone	Michael Hayden, OCSO	Peter C. Clifford	Bernard J. Nowak	Richard J. Beligotti	Robert L. Beligotti	Joseph M. Sasso
Emmett J. Halloran	Frederick W. Bush	Peter A. Deckman	Msgr. William M. Roche	Gerald T. O'Conner	Bartholomew J. O'Brien	Msgr. G. J. Gefell

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