



Greg Francis/Staff photographer

Keynote speaker John Carr, secretary of the Department of Social Development and World Peace for the U.S. Catholic Bishops, opens the Thanks Giving Appeal supported North American Forum for Small Christian Communities conference Oct. 15 at Notre Dame Retreat House, Canandaigua.

Diocese kicks off appeal; goal set at \$5.15 million

By Rob Cullivan
Staff writer

The Diocese of Rochester has set a 1998-99 Thanks Giving Appeal goal of \$5.15 million, according to an Oct. 21 statement issued by Bishop Matthew H. Clark.

The goal exceeds last year's by \$150,000.

In announcing the 1998-99 TGA goal, the bishop noted that the TGA accounts for more than half of the diocese's annual budget. The rest comes from fees, investments and other gifts.

Last year's Thanks Giving Appeal funded a number of programs and initiatives, including:

- Diocesan-sponsored events, rallies and youth conventions, which more than 2,000 young people from 122 parishes attended.
- The hiring and training of 20 new youth ministers. Currently, more than 80 parishes have youth ministry coordinators, almost seven times more than in 1992.
- The diocesan audiovisual library, to which nearly every parish in the parish subscribes as a religious education resource. The library includes 1,200 videos and about 200 new titles are added every year.
- Consistent Life Ethic grants, funded in part by the TGA, which helped 75 single parents in Wayne County, 40 terminally ill patients in Clifton Springs and Greece, 20 pregnant teens in Naples, and helped to feed 100 children in Rochester.
- Salary subsidies to parishes for 14 pastoral associates and religious education directors.

The bishop noted in the media release that TGA funds raised this year will be used for such projects as "Pastoral Planning for the New Millennium," the strategic planning process currently underway in diocesan parishes; a two-year project to upgrade diocesan computer technology to improve communications and information exchange among parishes and between parishes and the Diocesan Pastoral Center; and the expansion of the Diocesan Tri-

bunal to reduce the backlog of annulment cases.

The appeal was promoted in parishes last weekend, and will also be promoted in parishes Oct. 24-25 and Oct. 31-Nov. 1, according to the release.

Parishes will be visited by 55 volunteer speakers who will talk about how TGA helps provide parish ministers with resources, training and support.

This year's TGA is co-chaired by Father James A. Schwartz, pastor of St. Louis Church, Pittsford, and Thomas G. Maguire, a real estate developer and a member of St. Thomas the Apostle Church.

According to Bishop Clark, this year's campaign theme, "Give Back with a Thankful Heart," calls "all members of our faith

communities to return to the Lord a share of what has so generously been given to us."

"The TGA is important to us because it supports a wide range of activities which increase our capacity to know, to celebrate and to give witness to our faith," he said. "In addition, TGA gifts help the church reach out to those in need, whatever their beliefs, in pursuit of justice and peace for all."

At least 200 diocesan Catholics, pastors and lay people, participated in diocesan-sponsored training sessions for TGA volunteers, according to Jennifer K. Myszk, diocesan director of annual giving. The bishop's statement added that more than 800 volunteers will participate in the campaign.

"Something that very much impressed me is their idealism and their commitment," Myszk said regarding the volunteers. "They're very positive, very enthusiastic."

"The appeal ... reminds Catholics of the need to connect in mutually supportive ways with all of the people in the diocese; enables us to achieve common goals; and helps us realize the vision of a more joyful, vibrant and compassionate church," the bishop concluded.



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Bishop has heart blockage; expects medical procedure

By Lee Strong
Associate editor

GREECE — A day after surgery to install a pacemaker Oct. 19 at Park Ridge Hospital, Bishop Matthew H. Clark was found to have heart blockage in two arteries. He was expected to undergo a medical procedure at Rochester General Hospital, possibly Oct. 21, to clear the blockages.

As of the *Catholic Courier's* press time Oct. 20, it was unknown when he was expected to return to his full duties as bishop of Rochester.

During Bishop Clark's recovery, day-to-day operations of the diocese are being overseen by Father Joseph A. Hart, vicar general and moderator of the Pastoral Office, and Father John M. Mulligan, vicar general.

A hospital press release Oct. 20 stated an angiogram that day revealed blockages of 60 percent in the bishop's right coronary artery and 70 percent in his left circumflex coronary artery.

"The condition is correctable," it stated, by angioplasty and stent, which would open the arteries and keep them open.

Early Oct. 16 the bishop suffered dizziness and an irregular heartbeat while playing racquetball at the downtown YMCA in Rochester. He was taken to Park Ridge for observation, and remained there after it was determined a pacemaker should be implanted.

At a press conference at the hospital prior to the Oct. 19 operation, Bishop Clark's personal physician, Dr. Robert McVeigh, said the bishop had been under treatment for atrial fibrillation, a condition in which the heart beats irregularly. He reported that the bishop first suffered an attack of dizziness and irregular heartbeat on Good Friday, 1996. Since then, he said, the bishop had been taking anticoagulant medication to prevent further problems.

The doctor said Bishop Clark has been aware for some time that he would eventually have to have a pacemaker installed and that it was "a relatively common procedure." The particular device, the doctor explained, is an activity mediated pacemaker, which will monitor the bishop's condition and respond as needed.

The small device was implanted just below the bishop's collarbone.

The doctor was asked if the Oct. 16 attack was linked to stress from the ongoing situation at Corpus Christi Church (see story, Page 3). McVeigh pointed out that the bishop had had the condition for 2½ years and experienced a number of stressful situations over that time.

"He's been dynamic and vigorous and active," McVeigh said, adding that in his judgement "stress did not play any significant role" in that particular attack.

He said he expected the bishop to be able to resume all his regular activities — including exercise and jogging — once his recuperation was complete.

Archbishop returns to home diocese for Immaculate Conception's 150th

By Mike Latona
Staff writer

ITHACA — Except for unexpected schedule changes on the parts of two dignitaries, Immaculate Conception Church's anniversary celebration went off as planned the weekend of Oct. 16-18.

"Everything worked out well," said Father George Heyman, pastor of Immaculate Conception. The parish noted the 150th year of its founding as well as the 100th year of the current church building.

Archbishop Thomas Kelly, OP, of Louisville, Ky. — a former Immaculate Conception parishioner — rededicated the church and served as homilist at the 11 a.m. Mass Oct. 18.

The archbishop was originally due to take part in the 4:30 p.m. Mass one day earlier, but did not catch a flight out of Louisville in time. However, he did arrive in Ithaca that evening in time to attend the parish's gala dinner at the Holiday Inn.

Archbishop Kelly also assumed the rededication duties due to the absence of Bishop Matthew H. Clark, who had been scheduled to attend the 7:30, 9 and 11 a.m. Masses Oct. 18. Bishop Clark was hospitalized Oct. 16 due to dizziness and an irregular heartbeat. (See story, this page.)

Archbishop Kelly, while asking the 11 a.m. Mass congregation to pray for Bishop Clark, joked that the bishop is so special, it takes an archbishop to stand in for him.

During his homily, Archbishop Kelly noted the proud heritage of Immaculate Conception and also challenged the congregation to continue this tradition by carrying "the light of Christ in your heart."

Archbishop Kelly was born in Rochester and spent the first six years of his life there. He lived for one year in Ithaca as a teenager, and in 1958 chose Immaculate Conception to celebrate his first Mass as a priest.

The archbishop noted that he would often drop by Immaculate Conception while he was discerning the priesthood. "There was always somebody praying in this church," he said.



Mike Latona

Fr. Tim Murphy gives the cup to his father John, at an Oct. 17 Mass at Immaculate Conception Church.

Archbishop Kelly was among several priests and women religious with ties to Immaculate Conception who returned during the celebration weekend. One such person was Father Tim Murphy, a priest in the Glenmary Home Missionaries order who grew up in the Ithaca parish.

"I was honored to be asked to come back. This was my home parish a long time; I have wonderful memories," Father Murphy told the *Catholic Courier* before the 4:30 Saturday Mass. "I'm very grateful for the example of the priests and the sisters here."

Father Murphy, who was ordained in 1993, added that he returns home about once per year to visit. He currently serves as pastor of St. Francis Church in Aberdeen, Miss., and also serves three mission churches in that area.

Father Heyman lauded the jubilee planning committee for its extensive preparation for the celebration weekend.

"They've been planning it since before I got here," said Father Heyman, who became Immaculate Conception's pastor in June 1997.

Father Heyman added that he is also pleased with the parish community for its participation in a year-long series of anniversary activities.

"All the events have been very well attended, from the pancake breakfasts, to the picnics, the (forum) talks, the potluck suppers. There's all kinds of things going on, let me tell you," Father Heyman said with a laugh.