



File photo
Father Daniel McMullin greets parishioners Oct. 17, 1998, during his first weekend as pastor at Corpus Christi Parish, Rochester.

Parish rejoices over debt relief

By Mike Latona
 Staff writer

When Father Daniel McMullin, pastor of Rochester's Corpus Christi Parish, told the congregation June 24-25 that the parish's debt had been tremendously reduced, "The place went wild with applause," said Sister Sue Hoffman, SSJ, pastoral associate.

Corpus Christi is among 34 parishes and schools that have been relieved of debts totaling more than \$2.1 million. According to James Rinefierd, diocesan chief financial officer, the debt relief ranges from \$1,000 to nearly \$250,000 per parish or school.

Rinefierd said that half of these debts are being paid by the Jubilee Debt Forgiveness Fund, a diocesan

Additional coverage on jubilee debt relief can be found on Page 3

program to which more than \$1.1 million in cash has been pledged. The remainder represents debts forgiven by the Diocese of Rochester, the Catholic Schools of Monroe County and the *Catholic Courier*.

Bishop Matthew H. Clark announced June 13 that more than 140 parishes and 400 individuals had made pledges to the Jubilee Debt Forgiveness Fund. During Lent, the bishop invited parishes to contribute 3-5 percent of their savings and investments to the fund, which was designed to help parishes rid themselves primarily of old debt. Ninety percent of the \$1.1 million was donated by par-

ishes; the rest came from individuals.

Sister Hoffman noted that Corpus Christi received \$242,565 in relief, wiping out most of the parish's debts.

She said the parish's debts already had been reduced by about 50 percent from the time Father McMullin became pastor in October 1998. Sister Hoffman said this reduction had been achieved through special contributions and budget cuts.

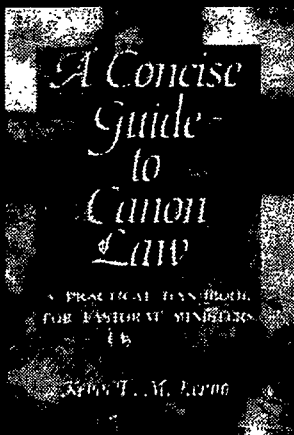
"Now we can start to be realistic in the rebuilding of the parish community, knowing that the generous contributions we have won't be going toward this debt," said Sister Hoffman, who has served at Corpus Christi since February 1999.

"The generosity of the entire diocese has made this possible."



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A South Korean man joins a procession at the Myongdong Cathedral in Seoul June 14 to mark the historic summit between South Korea and North Korea.

CNS/Reuters

TWO KOREAS, ONE PEOPLE

Kae Yol Lee, 61, a parishioner at St. Anne Church, Rochester, still remembers the day U.S. forces arrived 50 miles from his native town of Pyongyang, South Korea.

It was Sept. 15, 1950, the date Gen. Douglas MacArthur landed his forces at Inchon, a seaport in northwest South Korea. The U.S. forces were landing to fight North Korean forces that had taken over much of South Korea since war had broken out in June between the peninsula's communist North Korean government

and its non-communist South Korean government.

The night sky was illuminated by aerial and naval bombardment. Even though his village was a considerable distance from the landing area, Lee said the noise and the light of the fighting left a lasting impression on him as a young boy.

"The whole night was like daylight," he said in an excited voice. "My town was all daylight."

During the three-year war that ended in stalemate

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STORY BY ROB CULLIVAN STAFF WRITER