

Many Answer Holy Father's Jubilee Call



In a response to Pope John Paul II's call for forgiveness of debt as part of the great Jubilee Year 2000, the Diocesan Church and area Catholics stepped forward in generous fashion. More than \$2.1 million in outstanding debts owed by 30 parishes and parish communities, as well as five schools throughout the 12-county diocese was forgiven as a result of the Jubilee Debt Forgiveness Fund.

During Lent, Bishop Matthew H. Clark invited parishes and individuals to join together in a program of debt forgiveness by pledging to the Jubilee Debt Forgiveness Fund. More than 160 parishes and 400 individuals responded to that invitation, contributing nearly \$1.1 million. In addition, debt relief provided by the diocese, Catholic Schools and the Catholic Courier exceeded \$1 million.

"Debt forgiveness should have a positive impact on our entire diocese," said Bishop Clark. "By responding to those in need, we strengthen our local church. Debt forgiveness will relieve financial burdens that communities cannot easily overcome, and position those communities to move forward focused on the future instead of being shackled by the past."

Rev. Daniel McMullin, pastor of Corpus Christi parish, which was one of the beneficiaries of the fund, concurred with Bishop Clark, saying the act breathes new life and hope into his parish.

"When I announced that our debt had been forgiven through the Diocesan Debt Forgiveness Fund the entire assembly burst into applause," said Fr. McMullin. "The announcement coincided with our celebration of the feast of Corpus Christi. We cannot adequately express our thanks for such generosity nor for the evident trust that has been afforded us by this gift. It has freed us from some significant financial worries so that we can focus on the most important work of forming a community committed to Christ and his church while maintaining the long tradition of neighborhood outreach."

Diocese of Rochester - Fiscal year

Assets	Year ending June 30, 2000	Year ending June 30, 1999
Cash and equivalents	\$493,036	\$1,418,015
Accounts receivable, net	\$688,173	\$1,547,229
Current portion of notes receivable	\$29,201	\$62,914
Current portion of contributions receivable	\$556,482	\$742,836
Other receivables	\$7,320	\$6,859
Due from other funds	\$129	\$129
Custodial fund assets	\$14,197,517	\$14,150,948
Investments - insurance reserves	\$4,085,335	\$3,683,767
Second collection assets	\$350,322	\$245,738
Other current assets	\$385,180	\$96,881
Total current assets	\$20,792,695	\$21,955,316
Long-term notes receivable, net	\$226,245	\$312,789
Long-term portion of contribution receivable, net	\$209,133	\$459,904
Investments	\$52,308,279*	\$50,314,360
Land	\$82,548	\$145,342
Fixed assets, net	\$2,385,675	\$2,387,846
Other assets	\$464,725	\$481,015
TOTAL ASSETS	\$76,469,300	\$76,056,572

* see sidebar at right for explanation

Diocese of Rochester - Fiscal year ending

Premiums and payments from parishes for

	Thanks Giving Appeal	Gifts and bequests	Gifts to Jubilee Debt Forgiveness fund	Fees and charges	Self-insurance fund	Employee health insurance	Priests' pension fund
REVENUE							
Pastoral Center Operating Budget - Supported by the Thanks Giving Appeal	\$4,714,506	\$7,938	\$0	\$1,752,846	\$0	\$0	\$0
All other funds and activities	\$0	\$5,696,887	\$1,084,981	\$116	\$2,163,363	\$3,515,016	\$376,125
TOTAL	\$4,714,506	\$5,704,825	\$1,084,981	\$1,752,962	\$2,163,363	\$3,515,016	\$376,125
EXPENSE							
Pastoral Center Operating Budget - Supported by the Thanks Giving Appeal	\$647,700	\$829,528	\$1,699,358	\$1,957,546	\$728,613	\$990,175	\$83,284
All other funds and activities	\$0	\$10,191	\$3,017,793	\$1,493,238	\$223,583	\$534,159	\$2,729,696
TOTAL	\$647,700	\$839,719	\$4,717,151	\$3,450,784	\$952,196	\$1,524,334	\$2,812,980

Bishop's Ministries:

Diocesan funding has enabled staff to provide critical strategy and guidance to parishes and planning groups as they have engaged in the Pastoral Planning for the New Millennium (PPNM) process. The 35 defined planning groups have completed their initial plans and will soon begin a new cycle during which they will face issues related to the critical shortage of priests, facilities, Mass attendance and others. A planning group Leadership Day was held to teach planning group leaders strategies for developing greater collaboration among parishes and ministries as they deal with declining resources.

"As we are faced with the need for greater lay leadership and increased social ministry, the planning grant provided by the diocese helps us find solutions to these challenges"

Barbara Classen, Regional Center Coordinator, Tioga planning group

Qualified Pastoral Leadership:

Helps diocese and parishes deal with declining number of priests through a multi-faceted educate and place qualified pastoral leaders. Funds are also used to cover costs related to awareness, the education of seminarians, Deacon formation, and continuing education through St. Bernard's Institute. Also provides personnel support and ministry for priests deal with increased pressures and demands. The diocesan human resources department provide assistance to parishes in dealing with staff issues and parish leadership design.

Faith Formation:

Parishes are enriched through workshops, training and special events offered by the Diocese of Rochester. Catechist training ensures that faith is nurtured in our youth, young adults and families. Among the programs supported is the Rites of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA), through which 780 individuals last year joined our community of faith. In addition, more than 3,200 young people participated in diocesan-sponsored spiritual retreats, rallies and local and national conventions, providing unique opportunities for them to grow in their faith.

"As a new youth minister, I found the training and support provided by the diocese to be invaluable in my vocation and launching our youth ministry program. Diocesan support helps our faith communities nurture the young people of our church as they grow in faith and love."

Tim Santo, St. Leo Church, Hilton, NY

Support Parishes:

The Jubilee Debt Forgiveness Fund helped ease the financial crisis facing many diocesan parishes, allowing them to face the future with renewed hope and inspiration. In addition, diocesan funds provided for an urban subsidy grant program that helped subsidize programs that responded to the needs of urban parishes. Leadership Days, a comprehensive, multi-day staff development opportunity provided for paid and volunteer parish representatives, offered an opportunity for further development of effective ministry skills that participants could use to enhance their role in their parish. The scope of support extends to areas such as migrant ministry, tending to the sacramental and pastoral requirements of a particularly needy population.

Subsidies, Gifts, Grants and Assessments Paid:

Participation in the National Conference of Catholic Bishops, the New York State Catholic Council organizations provides the diocese a voice through which to advocate for the concerns of the diocese at the state level. Financial support provided by the diocese to Catholic Charities supports social services aimed at helping society's most vulnerable. Assistance is also provided to Catholic Family Services, a wide range of services to the needy throughout Monroe County. Diocesan funding has also helped Catholic Charities increase its presence in regions throughout the diocese. The Rural Outreach Program of Catholic Charities of Livingston County, for instance, uses diocesan funds to provide assistance to more than 500 households annually.

"Without diocesan funding, we would not be able to respond to our neighbors in need."

Sister Nancy, Director of Rural Outreach Program