

Thanks Giving Appeal sets goal of \$4.9 million

By Mike Latona
Staff writer

With a goal of \$4.931 million and a theme of "Love One Another as I Have Loved You," the Thanks Giving Appeal will kick off in diocesan parishes the first three weekends of October.

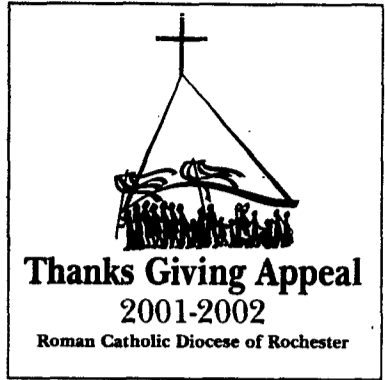
The appeal has raised nearly \$75 million since it began in 1981. It serves as the primary source of fundraising for the Diocese of Rochester, providing approximately half the diocese's annual budget.

Dan Healy, diocesan director of stewardship and development since Jan. 2, said all registered parishioners in the diocese should have received their TGA brochures and pledge cards by the end of

the first week in October.

The campaign will run through June 30, 2002. People may donate by cash, check or credit card to diocesan offices or through their parish. Those wishing to donate securities or stock options should call the Office of Stewardship and Development at 716/328-3228, ext. 278, or 800/388-7177, ext. 278.

Healy said the new campaign's goal is the same as last year's. (The stated goal for 2000-01 was \$5 million, but Healy said



that figure had been rounded up for the purpose of having a round number.) The 2000-01 appeal, Healy said, raised \$4.856 million in pledges, of which \$4.808 million has been collected. He termed this ratio — more than 98 percent of the total pledges — to be "excellent."

Healy acknowledged that the 2001-02 TGA campaign begins against the backdrop of an already shaky national economy that's been further worsened by the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks

on the United States.

"We do not want to forget what happened down there," Healy said of the attacks on New York City and Washington. "But the diocese and parishes have needs that are ongoing; this is something we do not take lightly."

Healy said he hopes that parishioners can adhere to their TGA pledges while also supporting disaster relief efforts. "In difficult times the people's focus is on the right things, not the frivolous things," he said.

"The people of our diocese have a wonderful tradition of generosity," Bishop Matthew H. Clark said in a statement. "I am hopeful that all will continue to rec-

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How do we respond?

Reuters/CNS

The remains of the World Trade Center are shown in an aerial view of the neighborhood Sept. 26 in New York. Crews continued to dismantle the shell more than two weeks after the attack on the twin towers.

On the morning of Sept. 11, John Doughty, youth minister at St. Paul's Church in Webster, watched a televised image of one of the two planes that hit the World Trade Center in New York City.

"At that instant, my mind flashed back to my visit in Iraq," Doughty said.

He traveled there in 1999 under the auspices of Voices In The Wilderness. The Chicago-based group has called for the lifting of U.N. economic sanctions imposed upon Iraq following its 1990 invasion of Kuwait. Doughty spoke about his trip, and the current situation here, at Corpus Christi Church, Rochester, during and after Masses Sept. 29-30.

Opponents of sanctions claim the measures have helped to create food and medical shortages, as well as severely slowed Iraq's rebuilding since the Persian Gulf War. These measures have contributed to the deaths of more than 1 million Iraqis, two-thirds of them children, Doughty said, citing U.N. statistics.

Sanctions supporters say Iraq's government simply refuses to fully comply with the conditions for lifting them, which include

the complete dismantling of certain weapons, and that the United States should not be blamed for the Iraqi people's suffering. However, Doughty told a chilling story that contradicted that sentiment in opinion, if not in fact. He said the leader of the delegation with which he was traveling had spoken to a 9-year-old boy named Achmed in a rural village one day.

"This little boy stared her right in the face and said, 'I want to be an airplane pilot one day,'" Doughty said.

"And why?" she asked the little boy.

"I want to bomb America."

Hunger and hate

Doughty said the Iraqi boy's grandfather apologized to the delegation leader, saying, "All his life, he has known only hunger and hatred." But that hatred, Doughty noted, is directed at the United States for reasons that have haunted the lives of millions of Iraqis since 1991.

Indeed, Osama bin Laden himself, in a 1998 interview with ABC

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STORY BY ROB CULLIVAN