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Giving

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support for victims' families. And despite the concerns of people like Sister Kuhn, there are signs this spirit of overwhelming generosity will visit other charities as well this year — though not as broadly as in the past.

According to a report released Oct. 23 in Washington by the Independent Sector — a national coalition of nearly 800 voluntary and philanthropic organizations — a survey the group commissioned in early October showed that the country's current economy has had more of an impact on charitable giving than redirected donations to the relief efforts.

It also revealed that 73 percent of Americans who made charitable donations in response to the Sept. 11 attack will continue to give as much or more than they usually give to other charities.

While this may be good news for many Catholic organizations looking for donations, it might not allow them to let out a collective sigh of relief.

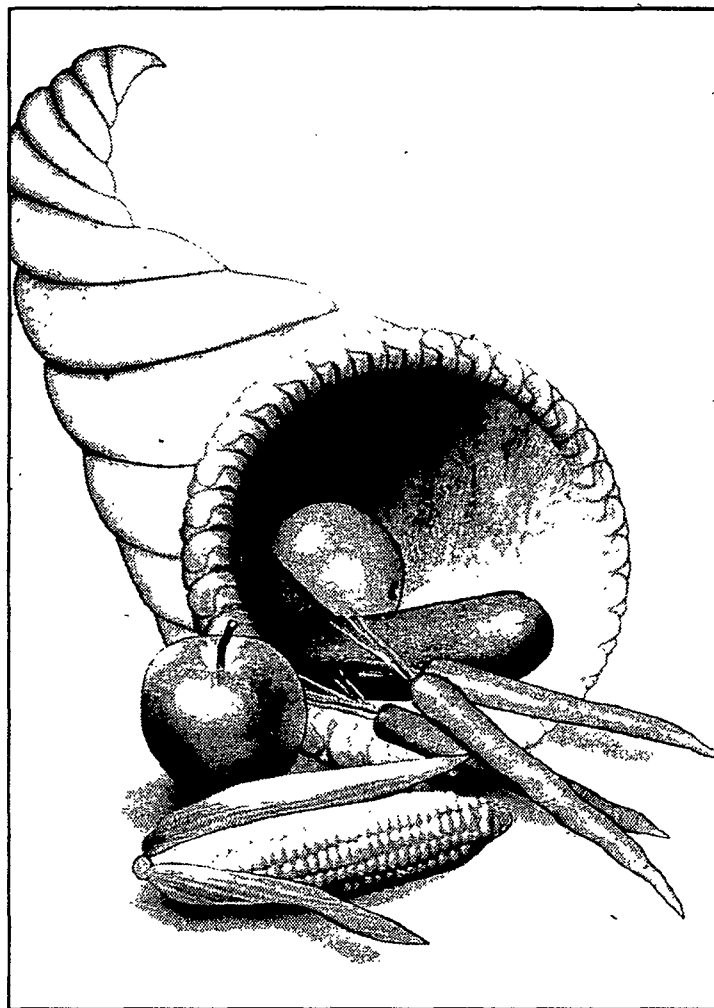
The impact the terrorist attacks had on charitable giving won't really be known until January or February when the holiday appeals are over, said John Keightley, vice president for development and communications for Catholic Charities USA. He said many Catholic Charities agencies across the country are particularly nervous about these appeals because they usually bring in 40 percent of their annual revenue.

Jack Balinsky, director of the Diocese of Rochester's Catholic Charities, said he was not aware of any impact on donations due to the Sept. 11 attacks. About 85 percent of Diocesan Catholic Charities funding comes from private donations and contributions, he said. He added that no major fundraising effort is currently taking place because the diocese is conducting its annual Thanks Giving Appeal, the diocese's primary fundraiser.

A projected \$773,000 of TGA funds will go to Catholic Charities this year, contributing 3 percent of Catholic Charities' budget. Diocesan officials have stated that the amount pledged to the TGA — whose goal this year is \$4.931 million — is actually ahead of the amount pledged last year at this point in the campaign.

In other parts of the country, many fear the country's economic slowdown coupled with an already generous response to the Sept. 11 relief efforts may have left many donors with empty pockets.

"Right now it's a mixed bag," Keightley said, noting that some agencies are doing well while others are adding more clients as a result of the attacks, but not simulta-



neously adding more funds to the pot.

Catholic Charities USA has been directly involved in the Sept. 11 relief efforts by distributing grants to nine agencies, primarily in New York and New Jersey, that are providing victims' families with counseling programs and financial assistance for rent and mortgage payments, utility and medical bills and help with burial services.

But even agencies as far away as the Miami Archdiocese have felt repercussions from the terrorist attack. New clients come looking for financial help after losing their jobs with the recent drop in tourism, officials said.

And Catholic Charities in the Diocese of Fort Worth, Texas, home to hundreds of pilots and flight attendants, also has been hard hit. Calls to the agency have tripled in the past month and emergency assistance requests have been up more than 40 percent, officials said.

Harvest, hunger

Sept. 11 struck hard against the fundraising efforts of Tom Ferraro, executive director of Foodlink. The Rochester-based food bank supplies several ecumenical food pantries and programs, as well as such parish-based food programs

as St. Peter's Kitchen at Ss. Peter and Paul Parish.

In addition to Allegany, Genesee, Wyoming and Orleans counties, Foodlink serves the diocesan counties of Monroe, Ontario, Wayne, Livingston, Yates and Seneca.

Ferraro said his agency expects to fall \$1 million short of its capital campaign goal of \$5 million, in part because of Sept. 11. The agency had slated a gala fundraiser marking its 25th anniversary for Oct. 27 in Rochester, but canceled it after the terrorist attacks. The agency had hoped to raise \$50,000 through the fundraiser, he said. He added that the agency has also seen

\$750,000 in expected state and federal funds go by the wayside, in part because of delays in passage of the state budget.

"I really think we took an exceptional beating this year," he said, noting that this was only the second capital campaign in agency history. Due to the expected funding shortfall, Foodlink will have to forestall such goals as installing a flash freezer, which would have helped it to collect more donated produce, he said.

Ferraro added that this bad news comes at a time when hunger is apparently increasing both here in the Diocese of Rochester and throughout the country. This trend has been documented in the "Hunger In America 2001" report released Nov. 14 by America's Second Harvest, a network of food "rescue" organizations in the United States.

The network includes Foodlink as well as Food Bank of the Southern Tier in Elmira, which is part of Catholic Charities of the Southern Tier, and which serves the diocesan counties of Tompkins, Tioga, Chemung, Steuben and Schuyler, in addition to Broome County in the Diocese of Syracuse.

According to a national report summary, food banks throughout the country currently serve 23.3 million people annu-

ally, a 9 percent increase in the number of people served by such organizations since 1997.

In its own study, Foodlink itself stated that increases in demand for food since 1998 were reported by more than 54 percent of the pantries it supplies, as well as more than 46 percent of the kitchens and more than 64 percent of the shelters it supplies.

Similarly, Food Bank of the Southern Tier stated in its report that 90 percent of the agencies it supplies are serving the same or an increased number of people since 1998.

Meanwhile, in part because of welfare reform that began in the mid-1990s, participation by food bank clients in the federally funded Food Stamp program has dropped since 1997 from 40.7 percent to 29.8 percent. Yet 73 percent of all the people served by food banks are income eligible for food stamps, according to Paul Hesler, executive director of Food Bank of the Southern Tier.

"Even those who participate in the program say they last less than three weeks," Hesler wrote in statement about Food Stamp participation accompanying the report. "The vast majority of those who do not participate in the program state that the process is much too cumbersome and complicated."

"The overall results of the study point to a problem that has not improved or been lessened and, in many cases, continues to grow several years after the last study was completed (in 1997)."

Loyal supporters

As charities at home worry about the double blows delivered by the worsening economy and the Sept. 11 attacks, overseas charities are also concerned. For example, Catholic Relief Services, the U.S. bishops' overseas relief and development agency, started the month of September \$1 million ahead of last year's cash budget, but after Sept. 11 it immediately stopped fundraising.

"It was a question of appropriateness," said Al Brill, deputy executive director of CRS, echoing similar statements by Ferraro.

So CRS, which has allocated more than \$2 million for aid to Afghan refugees, ended the month of September only \$100,000 ahead from the previous year.

By October, CRS officials again started sending solicitations, but as Brill points out, it's still too soon to know how people are giving.

One thing he does know is that loyal supporters aren't going to abandon CRS.

"They might give to other organizations as well, but they'll stay with us," he said.

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