

# Appeal kicks off

## TGA hopes to raise \$4.931 M in donations

Mike Latona/Catholic Courier

Thanks Giving Appeal officials have set a goal of \$4.931 million for the 2002-03 campaign beginning this month.

Kickoff events will be presented in parishes on the weekends of Oct. 12-13, 19-20 and 26-27. This year's theme is adapted from 1 Peter 4:10: "As each one has received a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of God's varied grace."

The TGA has raised nearly \$80 million since its inception in 1981. It serves as the primary source of fundraising for diocesan programs, providing nearly half of the diocese's annual operating budget of \$10.488 million.

The 2002-03 campaign will run through June 30, 2003. Parishioners can donate by cash, check or credit card to diocesan offices or through their parishes.

The goal of \$4.931 million is the same figure as for 2001-02 and 2000-01. According to Dan Healy, diocesan director of stewardship and development, last year's campaign raised \$4.88 million in pledges, of which \$4.831 million has been collected.

Although this figure fell a bit short of last year's goal, Healy said it was an improvement over the 2000-01 totals of \$4.856 million pledged and \$4.706 million collected. It was made more impressive by the fact that the number of donors

dropped from 47,300 in 2000-01 to 46,100 last year. Healy also said he was pleased that the 2001-02 TGA fared so well, considering that the campaign — which began shortly after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks — competed with fundraising efforts related to Sept. 11.

"That seemed to have a direct impact from day one. It didn't mean that people didn't want to give (to TGA), they just didn't have anything left to give away," Healy said, adding that his office aims to reconnect with past TGA donors who did not give last year.

Healy said the poorly performing stock market should have no major bearing on TGA donations, saying the market mainly affects people's retirement funds whereas the TGA targets discretionary income.

In relation to another topic often in the headlines this past year, the 2002-03 TGA brochure specifically states: "All funds raised in the TGA are used for programs and services. None of this money is used for the settlement of legal cases." Healy said this statement is in response to concerns about cases involving diocesan priests accused of sexual misconduct.

"People question it today, as well they should. It's national news with a local dimension," Healy said.

Healy said the campaign will be a collaborative effort of the entire Office of Stewardship and Development, which also includes Mark Clark, associate director, and Dave Kelly, who began Sept. 16 as the office's second associate director.

The TGA brochure projects allo-



cations for diocesan offices as follows: Catholic Charities, \$786,100; Parish Support Ministries, \$725,800; Evangelization and Catechesis, \$557,000; Financial Services, \$413,000; Information Technology, \$358,900; TGA Campaign, \$357,500; Bishop's Office, \$337,000; Administrative Services, \$307,800; Pastoral Planning, \$282,600; Catholic Schools, \$247,300; Human Resources, \$173,100; Communications, \$163,700; Stewardship and Development, \$121,200; and St. Bernard's School of Theology and Ministry, \$100,000.

## Pope canonizes Opus Dei head

John Neroni/CNS

VATICAN CITY — Before one of the largest and most orderly pilgrim crowds in Vatican history, Pope John Paul II canonized Msgr. Josemaria Escriva de Balaguer and called the Opus Dei founder's message of sanctifying ordinary life valid for all believers.

"To raise the world to God and transform it from within. This is the ideal that the holy founder indicates to you," the pope said during the Oct. 6 canonization Mass.

The canonization came 27 years after St. Escriva's death — one of the shortest waiting periods in the church's history.

Beatified in 1992, St. Escriva was cleared for canonization last year when the Vatican approved of a miracle attributed to his intercession.

Over the years Opus Dei has had a sometimes-controversial reputation, which it has blamed mainly on ignorance and the relative newness of its 20-year existence as the church's only personal prelature, sort of a diocese without geographical boundaries.

One of its fiercest critics is former high-ranking Opus Dei member Maria del Carmen Tapia, who left the group in 1966 and later detailed her negative experiences in a book. Although normally critical of the group, she supported the canonization and has never doubted the group's "divine origin." She even has prayed to St. Escriva and has received favors from him.

"To me, a saint is the person who fulfills and carries out God's will to the end of his or her life. And faith was, in my opinion, the most relevant feature in the life of Msgr. Escriva: his unshakeable confidence in God," she said.

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