

# Lay, clergy 'crisis' looms on horizon

Nancy Frazier O'Brien/CNS

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Receiving an award for his leadership in church research, the Lilly Endowment's program director for religion warned Oct. 2 of "a crisis looming on the horizon" as the number of lay ministers grows and younger priests appear to be "much less willing" to collaborate with them.

Fred L. Hofheinz of Lilly, the largest provider of philanthropic funds for religious research, spoke at the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate at Georgetown University in Washington as he received the fourth Cardinal Cushing Medal for Support of Church Research.

Hofheinz, who is Catholic, criticized some Catholic bishops for what he said was their failure to heed church research on the "shrinking number of ordained ministers" but said other research shows "a remarkably healthy, com-

mitted and fulfilled presbyterate."

On clergy-lay collaboration, he said studies show that — unlike older priests — those "ordained in the years after 1980 and shaped almost entirely by the long papacy of Pope John Paul II are much more conscious of their priestly distinctiveness from the laity and much less willing to embrace and enable collaborative ministry."

This is occurring "just at the time when collaboration with lay ministers has become more necessary than ever before and at a moment when there are more well-trained and competent lay ministers available than at any other time in history," Hofheinz added.

"One does not have to have the prescient eye of a prophet to see a crisis looming on the horizon," he said.

Hofheinz faulted the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops for relegating responsibility for lay ministry to "a subcommittee within the broadly dispersed Office of Family, Laity, Women and Youth," when it has nearly 40 permanent offices, including one for priestly formation and one for priestly life and ministry.

With "nearly seven times more people preparing for lay ministry than there are men preparing for the priesthood," he said, "the future of ministry is clearly staring us in the face."

Hofheinz said the Lilly Endow-



Reuters/CNS

## El Salvadorans get church aid

Yolanda Herrera and her children receive food aid from the Catholic Church Sept. 27 in the village of Tepecoyo, El Salvador. Overproduction of coffee worldwide has eliminated thousands of jobs in the country's coffee industry.

ment's aim in funding religious research is to provide "a kind of 'early warning system' that could help illumine the landscape of things to come."

But he said the Catholic leadership's response to such research often follows the sentiments expressed by Republican Rep. Earl F. Landgrebe of Indiana — a staunch supporter of President Nixon — during the Watergate hearings: "I've got my mind made up; don't confuse me with the facts."

"Though I can't imagine many bishops who would put it quite that starkly, I am afraid that far too many seem to operate with that as

a guiding principle," Hofheinz said.

"If the important work of CARA and others engaged in research in service to the church is to be appropriately appreciated and useful, this mindset must change and change quickly," he added. "I regret to say that so far, at least, I haven't had a lot of evidence that this is happening. Let us pray that it soon will."

At the Oct. 2 Georgetown event, Hofheinz was honored for his leadership and advocacy of church research since the 1970s. The award he received was named for Cardinal Richard J. Cushing, the late archbishop of Boston.

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## DeSales hires new assistant principal

DeSales High School in Geneva has hired Mary E. Caffrey, who served as principal of St. Joseph's School in Auburn for four years, as its assistant principal.

In this newly created position, Caffrey will share in the supervision and control of the school, teaching personnel and staff, students, programs and school-related activities, especially in the areas of programming and scheduling, curriculum development and instruction.

Caffrey received a bachelor's degree in English and a master's degree in education from Nazareth College in Rochester. She is a New York certified administrator, and received her certificate in advanced studies in education administration from the State University of New York College at Brockport.

Before serving as St. Joseph's principal, Caffrey was assistant superintendent for assessment and staff development for the diocesan Department of Catholic Schools from 1995-98.

## Marian Conference will be Oct. 12

Several guest speakers are slated for the ninth-annual Marian Conference, scheduled for Saturday, Oct. 12, at Theater on the Ridge, 200 Ridge Road West, Rochester.

Registration begins at 8 a.m. The conference begins at 9 a.m. and concludes with Mass at 5:15 p.m.

The main presenters are: Father Albert Shamon, *Courier* columnist and administrator of St. Isaac Jogues Chapel in Fleming; Father Paul Bonacci, pastor of St. Mary of

She was also principal of All Saints Catholic Academy in Rochester from 1991-95. She served Holy Cross School in Rochester from 1969-1991, first as a teacher, then as principal.

the Lake/St. Benedict in Watkins Glen and Odessa; Mother Nadine Brown, foundress of Intercessors of the Lamb, a contemplative community based in Omaha, Neb.; Tom Petrisko, an author from Pittsburgh who specializes in Marian publications; and Bud Macfarlane Sr., a New Jersey resident who lectures on Marian apparitions.

For details, call 585/244-7432, 585/461-3073 or 315/539-2025, or visit [www.flare.net/mary](http://www.flare.net/mary).