

## LAW FREEZES CLOCK ON ABUSE INVESTIGATION

LOS ANGELES (CNS) — With the clock about to run out for prosecuting several priests accused of sexual abuse, California Gov. Gray Davis signed emergency legislation April 3 that freezes the clock while judges consider the merits of defense challenges to subpoenas for evidence.

A 1994 California law eliminated a statute of limitations requiring charges for sexual abuse of minors to be brought no more than six years after the crime itself. The 1994 law said the state must bring charges within a year after law enforcement authorities learn of an allegation. The new law suspends that time limit while the court is engaged in processing legal challenges to a possible indictment.

## BOSTON ARCHDIOCESE REFUSES VOTF MONEY

BOSTON (CNS) — Bishop Richard G. Lennon, apostolic administrator of the Boston Archdiocese, has decided not to accept money collected by the Voice of Compassion, the fundraising arm of the lay group Voice of the Faithful.

According to archdiocesan spokesman Father Christopher Coyne, the funds offered by the Voice of Compassion came with the condition that they not be used for administrative purposes, and the bishop interpreted that condition as "not working toward unity, but continuing to maintain division."

## EXPERTS CRITICIZE 'ZERO TOLERANCE' POLICY

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — While pleased that the Catholic Church is taking the problem of pedophilia seriously, an international panel of experts told Vatican officials that dismissing every priest guilty of sexually abusing a minor is not the way to handle the problem.

Eight internationally recognized experts were invited to lead an April 2-5 symposium at the Vatican.

The eight experts criticized "zero tolerance" policies for all priests who had ever sexually abused a minor. Such policies, they said, ignore the difficulty of determining the future risk posed by the offender and may actually increase the risk.

# Capital drive seeks \$50 M

## Bishop says campaign has raised \$7 million

Mike Latona/Catholic Courier

Bishop Matthew H. Clark announced April 7 that the Diocese of Rochester will seek to raise \$50 million through its capital and endowment campaign, Partners in Faith, over the next three to five years.

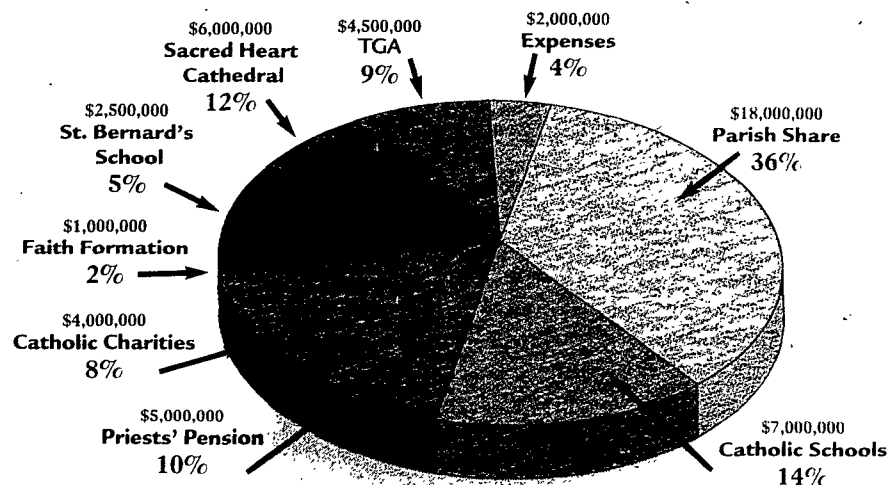
The bishop also said that nearly \$7 million toward the goal already has been raised through advance gifts as well as donations from a pilot phase conducted in designated parishes between January and March. The pilot parishes are St. Thomas More, Brighton; St. Mary, Geneseo; Ss. Peter and Paul, Elmira; St. Francis de Sales, Geneva; St. Stephen, Geneva; Holy Cross, Charlotte; and St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Hamlin.

"Thus far I'm very pleased," Bishop Clark said.

As the campaign's pilot portion concludes, Partners in Faith will now be launched throughout the diocese. The campaign will be presented at all diocesan parishes over the next several months.

Funds raised from the campaign are being targeted for the following areas:

- **Diocesan parishes** — \$18 million, half of which will be returned to each parish for its own needs.
- **Department of Catholic Schools** — \$7 million for an endowment fund.
- **Sacred Heart Cathedral** — \$6 million for preservation and renovation expenses.
- **Priests' pension fund** — \$5 million for the existing pension fund, as well as retirement benefits and care for priests who are infirm.
- **Thanks Giving Appeal** — \$4.5 million for diocesan pastoral and social services during the diocese's 2003-04 fiscal year. The annual campaign is being suspended during the first year of Partners in Faith and will be reinstated in the fall of 2004.
- **Catholic Charities** — \$4 million for programs and technological updates for the department.
- **St. Bernard's School of Theology and Ministry** — \$2.5 million for construction of a new Pittsford facility for the graduate institute for lay ministry.
- **Campaign expenses** — \$2 million for the capital campaign, which is being managed by Community Counselling Service, a New York City fundraising company.
- **Diocesan Office of Evangeliza-**



Linda Rivers/Catholic Courier

## PARTNERS IN FAITH

**tion and Catechesis** — \$1 million for catechist formation and expansion of youth ministries.

Although many of these areas could have been funded by separate campaigns, Bishop Clark said the organizers of Partners in Faith favored a comprehensive approach. "The consensus was that we didn't want to keep going back to the same people for certain needs, but to go to the people once," Bishop Clark said.

Bishop Clark said most of the donations are earmarked for ongoing needs. However, he noted that the two "brick and mortar" segments, Sacred Heart Cathedral and St. Bernard's School, are special one-time costs that will benefit Catholics for many generations to come.

Regarding the cathedral, he said, "It's come to the point where we need to take action (on renovating), or we'll be spending much more money in the future." The bishop further observed that St. Bernard's School has outgrown its current space and must have a new facility to meet the increased need for lay ministerial training. "If we did not have St. Bernard's School of Theology and Ministry in this age, we'd have to construct one," he said.

The bishop noted that this is the first diocesanwide capital campaign since 1965, saying, "This is a

big challenge for us, a historic moment for our diocese. It's a rather exciting prospect."

He also acknowledged that the campaign has begun amid challenging economic times. "We all realize this is not the ideal environment. There is no perfect time," Bishop Clark said.

Nevertheless, the bishop said he's confident that the campaign goal will be met. He called upon potential donors to adopt the spirit of immigrants who built many diocesan churches.

"They were not wealthy people. They scraped and saved and sacrificed," Bishop Clark said. "That's our call as well."

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