

# Coin collection supports church

Shannon Fiecke/CNS

NEW HOPE, Minn. — The first large donation toward building a new sanctuary at St. Joseph Church in New Hope came in the form of coinage — a hefty bit of it at that.

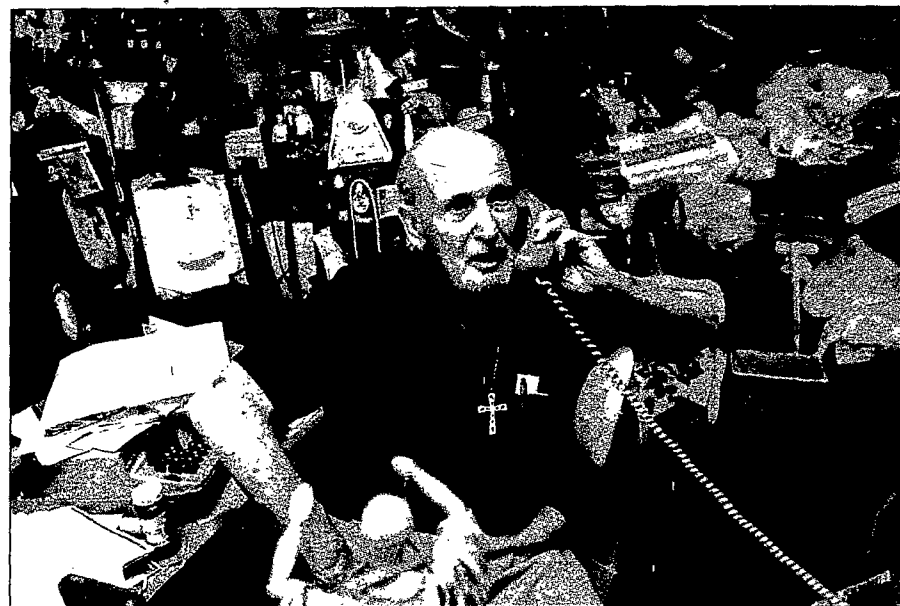
It took 12 men and three pickup trucks to haul parishioner Melvin Doyle's lifelong coin collection from his basement to a locked room at St. Joseph. All sorts of buckets and jars held loose change that Doyle, 90, had accumulated since age 5.

After years of nagging by three wives, the twice-widowed Doyle finally gave in. "It felt good," said the self-proclaimed hoarder. "It isn't

mine anyway; it belongs to God."

Coins of major value — 52 of them — were being sold at a New York auction house and were expected to bring in \$15,000. The total worth of the collection is estimated to be \$75,000 to \$85,000, said Father Bob Hazel, St. Joseph pastor.

If the coins hadn't been grouped largely by age to make the search for valuable ones easier, "we'd have been looking from now to eternity," Father Hazel told *The Catholic Spirit*, newspaper of the St. Paul-Min-



Dave Hrbacek/CNS

Melvin Doyle, surrounded by things he has collected, talks on the phone at his business in Minneapolis. His parish in New Hope, Minn., was on the receiving end of about \$75,000 in loose coins he collected over the years.

neapolis Archdiocese.

Doyle still works full time at Marvel Rack, a Minneapolis manufacturing factory he owns. He's considering a possible consolidation with two to three other companies to focus on jobs for the unemployed.

Doyle visits the homebound at three residences and two nursing homes, providing shut-ins with company and Communion. He's also in a men's Bible study group, serves on

his parish's new-member team and has been involved in a grief support group.

Doyle gave a 17-unit apartment building he owned to Families Moving Forward, a nonprofit organization that provides shelter to families trying to stabilize themselves. Along with a smaller unit he sold to the interfaith organization for half the appraised value, the buildings are called Mel's Place.

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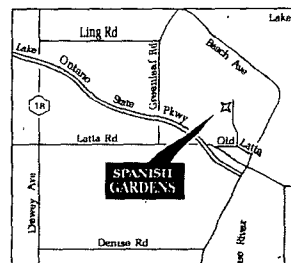
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