



Sustaining Life on the Land

Reflections on Rural Life

LETTER OF CONCERN FOR FARM FAMILIES OF OHIO JUNE 10, 1985

To the People of God of the Six Ohio Dioceses,

The Catholic Bishops of Ohio express their support of the Ohio farmers and especially families who operate their own farms on their own land. We recognize the vital role that these families play in supplying the nation's food, and the efficiency of their efforts that has made it possible for this nation, the richest on earth, to enjoy a plentiful and varied food supply at relatively modest cost to the nation.

We are aware of the financial crises that many of these farm families face due to a number of factors, including changes in the international market for agricultural products following in the wake of government encouragement to reinvest and retool to meet worldwide demands.

We support most heartily the position taken by the National Conference of Catholic Bishops in their Pastoral Letter on CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING AND THE U.S. ECONOMY, in support of the American farmer and the family farm. We see the principles stated in Chapter Three, Part C of that Letter as most timely and plan to carefully study the implications of that chapter for our own State of Ohio, in which agriculture is the leading industry.

We recommend to the Catholics of Ohio that they join us in supporting our fellow Americans, upon whom we all depend, by our prayers in this hour of need; and by our support as citizens of those legislative and political measures which shall be offered on their behalf.

The Most Reverend Daniel E. Pilarczyk
Chairman, Archbishop of Cincinnati

The Reverend James R. Hoffman
Bishop of Toledo

The Most Reverend Anthony M. Pilla
Bishop of Cleveland

The Most Reverend James W. Malone
Bishop of Youngstown

The Most Reverend James A. Griffin
Bishop of Columbus

The Most Reverend Albert H. Ottenweller
Bishop of Steubenville

