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Catholic Bishop Anthony Pilla on building a new urban future

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Good words

The forces that manufacture desires -- advertising, commercial television, and shopping centers -- are so familiar as to go virtually unnoticed in the consumer society, and among the middle-income class they are rapidly becoming pervasive as well. Yet the conscious and widespread cultivation of needs is a relatively recent phenomenon in human history, tracing its roots back scarcely a century. There is no reason these forces cannot be fundamentally redirected -- constraining advertising to its appropriate role of informing buyers, turning television to conserving ends, and replacing shopping malls with real communities. Indeed, there is every reason to do so, for the sake of the planet and our own peace of mind.

-- Alan Durning

How Much is Enough?: The Consumer Society and the Future of the Earth

THE CHURCH IN THE CITY

The church was a stark and stubborn symbol amidst a tangle of highway interchanges on the edge of downtown Cleveland: Long after the highways and urban renewal wiped out its surrounding neighborhood, St. Joseph's kept standing tall. And it kept standing, even as the Cleveland Catholic Diocese and historic preservationists tried to find ways to finance overdue repairs and find new uses for the Gothic structure.

But the empty church could not wait forever. Someone -- perhaps a homeless person, perhaps a vandal -- broke in and lit a fire last February. The whole, glorious church went up in flames.

When we think of the costs of suburban sprawl, we commonly think about the decline and isolation of the central city, the loss of farmland and wetlands in outlying areas, the longer drives in the car and additional air pollution, the wasteful expansion of roads and sewer lines. Less often do we think of the impact on particular institutions of the city -- religious institutions, hospitals, arts organizations and others. As the people they serve move farther out from the city, these institutions must strain to keep underutilized facilities operating. At the same time, they are forced to build new facilities out on the edge of the metropolitan area.

Starting last month with a speech by Bishop Anthony Pilla (see p. 5), the Cleveland Catholic Diocese has begun to confront the problems of outmigration head on.

Continued on p. 4
Our list

This is the season of lists. Christmas lists. Lists of the Top 10 things. Countdowns of the favorite songs. It's our way of wrapping up the year in a neat package.

Here at EcoCity Cleveland, we would like to compile a less predictable list -- and you can help by sending in your ideas. Our list will not be primarily for ourselves. It will be for our bioregion and our children. And it will not sum up the past year. It will raise possibilities for the future. It will be a list of what we want to happen in the region in the coming years -- resolutions for 1994 and beyond.

How can we enhance our quality of life, restore the environment and achieve a sustainable economy? What should key actors -- elected officials, regional agencies, nonprofit organizations, the media -- do differently? How can we all contribute?

To get you thinking, here are a few random suggestions. A moratorium on sewer line extensions until a regional plan to protect sensitive lands is in effect. Stream bank protection ordinances in every community. An "eco-village" on vacant land in Cleveland. Strict regional targets to reduce toxics and greenhouse gas emissions. Pedestrian-oriented "slow streets" in your neighborhood. More job creation through energy conservation, local food production and environmental cleanup. The Plain Dealer covering development and transportation planning from a regional perspective instead of on a piecemeal basis in suburban bureaus. The Greater Cleveland Growth Association changing its name to the Sustainable Development Association.

You get the idea. So think about your resolutions. Try to make them as specific as possible. And whether they're big or small, profound or seemingly trivial, send them to us. We'll print as many as we can (anonymously) in our next issue.

There are two other ways you can offer year-end assistance to EcoCity Cleveland. You have one more month to take advantage of the holiday gift offer explained on the back of this issue. It's a special opportunity to give EcoCity Cleveland and save on your own renewal or new subscription. Also please notice the special fundraising appeal on p. 15. EcoCity Cleveland is a unique resource with an unusual potential to become financially self-sufficient through subscription income, but in the short term we need your help to do the necessary outreach. We are a small, lean, nonprofit organization, and your tax-deductible contribution will have a big impact.

-- David Beach
Editor

Mission
EcoCity Cleveland is a nonprofit, tax-exempt, educational organization. Through the publication of the EcoCity Cleveland Journal and other programs, it will stimulate ecological thinking about the Northeast Ohio region (Cuyahoga Bioregion), nurture an EcoCity Network among local groups working on urban and environmental issues, and promote sustainable ways to meet basic human needs for food, shelter, productive work and stable communities.

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OUR PLACE ON THE PLANET

Rating the region

What we measure tells what we value

We've been hearing a lot about "reinventing government" in recent months. The idea is that in an era of budget cuts government has to become more efficient, entrepreneurial, and responsive to citizen-customers.

How do you whip local governments into shape? The Citizens League of Greater Cleveland believes it can help by establishing standards to measure government performance in providing everything from garbage collection to health care.

According to the league's executive director Janis Purdy, the 100 or so units of government in the Cleveland area together spend about $4 billion annually. "This spending significantly affects the economic competitiveness and quality of life in the region," she says.

Therefore, the Citizens League has begun a "Rating the Region" project to develop a set of indicators which will be used to compare the Cleveland area with competing regions around the country. Using a corporate management technique called "benchmarking" (introduced to the project by a BP America executive), the league's research institute will try to determine where our region's performance lags behind that of our competitors. Then it will recommend ways to close the gaps.

On November 9, the league hosted a conference at which selected civic leaders commented on a proposed set of indicators. In a session on the natural environment participants discussed ways to measure water quality, toxic exposures, energy use, wetland protection and other indicators of environmental quality.

A few participants also expressed concern over the project's limitations. An indicator for efficient solid waste collection, for example, might not take into account other values. Maybe local citizens want special collection services or superior recycling programs that cost more. Maybe it serves a larger social good for government to hire well-paid, unionized workers rather than contracting out to more "cost-effective" private companies paying minimum-wage.

In addition, given time and funding constraints, the league will have to rely on existing data that can be collected from different cities and regions. Unfortunately, many of the current methods used to measure "progress" emphasize growth, consumption, and short-term thinking. One region might rank high in transportation because it has a zillion miles of freeway lanes. In contrast, a more progressive city might rank low for having fewer lanes, even though it is improving alternative forms of transportation that will make it more viable in the future.

Similarly, the league's researchers might find ready data for how much energy we use, but not for how much comes from local, renewable resources. Or they might find data on how much food we eat, but not on how much is produced by organic farms in our own bioregion.

The league will have to confront such issues in order to create a rating system that will point us in the right direction -- toward long-term sustainability. If it's true that we can manage only what we can measure, then it's critical to be measuring the right things.

Defining sustainable development

The interpretation of sustainable development keeps evolving, but the following definition from the United Nations Commission on Environment and Development is often cited:

Sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the present generation without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

For more information about the Rating the Region project, contact the Citizens League Research Institute, 50 Public Square, Terminal Tower 843, Cleveland, OH 44113, or call 241-5340.

Vital signs of sustainability

Citizens in Seattle recently developed a list of performance indicators for their region. Their explicit goal was to measure progress toward sustainability -- long-term cultural, economic and environmental health and vitality. Here are 20 of their "Indicators of Sustainable Community."

Environment

- Wild salmon runs through local streams.
- Number of good air quality days per year.
- Percentage of Seattle streets meeting "pedestrian-friendly" criteria.

Population and resources

- Total population of county.
- Gallons of water consumed per capita.
- Tons of solid waste generated and recycled per capita per year.
- Vehicle miles traveled per capita and gasoline consumption per capita.

- Renewable and nonrenewable energy consumed per capita.

Economy

- Percentage of employment concentrated in the top ten employers.
- Hours of paid work at the average wage required to support basic needs.
- Percentage of children living in poverty.
- Housing affordability for median- and low-income households.
- Per capita health expenditures.

Culture and society

- Percentage of infants born with low birthweight.
- Juvenile crime rate.
- Percent of youth participating in some form of community service.
- Percent of population voting in local primary elections.
- Adult literacy rate.
- Library and community center usage rates.
- Participation in the arts.

For more information, contact Sustainable Seattle, c/o Metrocenter YMCA, 909 Fourth Ave., Seattle, WA 98104, (206) 382-5913. Copies of the group's report are $10 postpaid.
SPRAWL

Church in the city

From p. 1

Advisory groups within the diocese had been meeting with Bishop Pilla to express concern about becoming a largely suburban diocese. Between 1950 and 1990, for example, the Catholic population in the city of Cleveland declined from 234,786 people to 126,602. Meanwhile, the Catholic population in the surrounding suburbs of Cuyahoga County increased from 102,009 to 365,096.

Urban parishes which once served 3,000 to 4,000 households now are down to a few hundred, says Richard Krivanka, director of the Diocesan Pastoral Planning Office. With so few members, it becomes hard to justify the costly maintenance of the old church buildings.

"That's the tension," Krivanka says. "We're not there as real estate managers. We're there for the ministry, to work for human needs."

Making the diocese's position even more complex is the fact that churches and their schools help stabilize neighborhoods. Not only are they architectural landmarks, but they provide meeting places, offices for community organizations and social services.

To respond to the issue of outmigration, the bishop has drafted a white paper entitled "The Church in the City." The paper discusses the regional population shifts affecting the Church (following analyses of researchers at the College of Urban Affairs at Cleveland State University, such as Tom Bier, and staff members of the Cuyahoga County Planning Commission). It then suggests that the trends can be altered. And, finally, it proposes "the role of the Church in continuing to serve the people of our diocese and in helping to shape a new and more beneficial future for the people in this part of Ohio."

The paper outlines five principles for building a new urban future:

- **Social justice.** Government policies must be balanced so that redevelopment and maintenance of cities and inner suburbs is given as much support as the development of new suburbs.

- **Redevelopment.** Government, banks, developers, real estate brokers and the Church must renew their commitment to invest in cities.

- **Interdependence.** In a regional economy, the health of outlying suburbs is linked to the health of the city. We all should feel a sense of stewardship for the region as a whole.

- **Restructuring.** Some urban parishes will have to be restructured and consolidated to assure that services can be sustained in the long run.

- **Preferential love for the poor.** We cannot relax our efforts to assist the poor left behind in the cities.

In the coming months, the diocese will recommend more specific actions to counter the effects of outmigration. But it won't be easy to alter present trends, acknowledges Len Calabrese, executive director of the diocese's Commission on Catholic Community Action. "We're talking about some of the deepest and most powerful trends and dynamics in our culture. Upward mobility has been identified with movement out from the city. Now we're flying in the face of that."

The first objective is to raise consciousness about the problems, Calabrese adds. "It's astonishing how many people see these developments in outlying suburbs as some force of nature. Land use is seldom talked about as a policy question, much less as social policy and in terms of social justice."

"There are moral issues here -- questions about how we live and how we impact the earth, ecosystems and Creation. Is the way we're developing consistent with being good stewards?"

<table>
<thead>
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<th>TOTAL AREA POPULATION</th>
<th>(PARISHES) CATHOLIC POPULATION</th>
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<tr>
<td>Cleveland</td>
<td>Rest of</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1950</td>
<td>Cuyahoga County</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>914,808</td>
<td>474,724</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1990</td>
<td>Rest of</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>505,616</td>
<td>906,524</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Akron</td>
<td>Summit County</td>
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<td>274,605</td>
<td>135,427</td>
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<tr>
<td>1990</td>
<td>291,971</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lorain/Elyria</td>
<td>Lorain County</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>81,509</td>
<td>66,653</td>
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<tr>
<td>1990</td>
<td>143,135</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

These figures show how the populations of Cleveland and Akron are declining, while surrounding suburbs increase in population. While Lorain/Elyria has grown, suburbs have grown more.

Source: "The Church in the City," Cleveland Catholic Diocese

The weakening metropolitan core

- Between 1960 and 1990, the City of Cleveland lost 70,000 households. If current trends continue, the city could lose another 30,000 households in the 1990s.

- Between 1979 and 1991, Cleveland residential real estate lost $1.5 billion (23%) of its value in dollars adjusted for inflation. Cuyahoga County lost $2.9 billion (8%).

- Between 1979 and 1989, average household income in Cleveland declined 13% and declined 5% in inner suburbs. Meanwhile, average income grew 5% in outer suburbs.

(Source: CSU Housing Policy Research Program, Cuyahoga County Planning Commission, U.S. Census)
Building the city of God

Catholics confront the regional challenge of outmigration

Bishop Anthony Pilla of Cleveland delivered the following speech to an urban ministry conference November 19 at the Sijufer Tower City Plaza Hotel. It is based on his recent white paper, "The Church in the City."

I'm here today to talk about building new cities. The kind of cities our society desperately needs. Cities where people of different incomes, races and cultures can live together, and be properly educated for meaningful employment.

Utopia? Not at all. That word implies the stuff of impossible dreams. This dream is not impossible. But it is certainly a brave new world...a world mandated by the teachings of Jesus Christ.

A world of justice and peace.

An illusion? Again, not at all. The Church can do a lot to help transform society so that people can reach their full potential. We not only can do this. We must do it. To borrow St. Augustine's term -- we must strive to build a city of God.

There will be some who object to the Church inserting itself into a discussion that seems beyond its purview -- those who will say our primary mission is to proclaim the message of Jesus Christ. And they're right, in the sense that our primary mission is evangelical.

But Christ's message must always be related to the particular circumstances of the people to whom it's spoken. Otherwise the message might not be what Christ intended it to be: liberating.

We must recall the words of the 1971 Synod of Bishops:

"Action on behalf of justice and participation in the transformation of the world fully appear to us as a constitutive dimension of the preaching of the Gospel, or in other words, of the Church's mission for the redemption of the human race and its liberation from every oppressive situation."

This, then, is a call to action...a framework and a focus for serious discussion in the Diocese of Cleveland for the purpose of developing a formal plan to rebuild our cities.

Moving out from the cities

First, some background. Cleveland, Akron, and Lorain/Elyria are the three largest urban centers in the Diocese of Cleveland. The populations of Cleveland and Akron are declining. The suburbs around these cities continue to grow. While Lorain and Elyria have grown, the Lorain County suburbs have grown even more.

Let's look at Cleveland and Cuyahoga County as our example. In 1950, the population of Cleveland was 914,808 while the rest of Cuyahoga County was 474,724. By 1990, those figures were essentially reversed. The city's population stood at 505,616, while the suburban population was 906,524. Cleveland alone has more than 50 suburbs, including townships and villages.

As the population has shifted, so has the tax base. As the more affluent people have moved from central cities to the suburbs, our cities -- and consequently our city parishes -- remain home to growing concentrations of low-income people who have little educational opportunity...and no access to employment in the suburbs where the jobs have moved as well.

In spite of these adversities, they remain good, hard-working people with the same dreams, ideals and spiritual values as those in the suburbs. Still, the need for education, job retraining, and social services has never been greater. Because government entitlements are increasingly difficult to come by, this financial burden has shifted to the private sector -- and especially to the churches.

The Catholic Church has served the people in our cities for many years. We have made remarkable contributions through our schools, our human services, and the dedication of women and men who have ministered in the city in so many different ways.

These contributions must and will continue. Pope Paul VI wrote in Octogesima Adveniens: "Let Christians, conscious of this new responsibility, not lose heart in view of the vast and faceless society; let them recall Jonah who traversed Nineveh, the great city, to proclaim therein the good news of God's mercy and was upheld in his weakness by the strength of the Word of Almighty God."

Undermining the region and the church

In hindsight it is clear: over the past 40 years, there has been little balance between the building of suburbs and the re-building of cities -- particularly city housing. A better balance would have given people more choice between city and suburb -- since not everyone wants to move farther out.
In hindsight it is clear: over the past 40 years, there has been little balance between the building of suburbs and the re-building of cities – particularly city housing. A better balance would have given people more choice between city and suburb – since not everyone wants to move farther out. This social and economic separation is problematic not only because of its destructiveness, but also because it is costly – for everyone. City and suburb are linked in a single economy.

**Imbalanced investments**

Outmigration began in earnest in the years immediately following World War II. Today, people move to escape crime and to find better schools for their children. But 40 years ago, the main reasons for moving were to escape city pollution, noise and congestion.

Blockbusting was also widespread. This sorry practice, which played upon racial fears, was perhaps the most influential factor in outmigration.

Outmigration was encouraged and facilitated by building highways, by widening roads to accommodate increased traffic, by building water and sewer extensions to accommodate developers. Almost all new housing is built in the outer suburbs, adding more and more fuel to the fire. These policies continue today.

The government isn’t doing this out of ill intent. It’s simply meeting public demand. This isn’t the issue here. At issue are the urban problems that have been exacerbated due to the imbalance in the deployment of the government’s resources. Billions of government dollars have been spent in paving the way for new suburbs, with little or no thought given to the consequences for existing communities.

A recent example here is Route 422, which was extended from Solon in Cuyahoga County into Geauga County. The cost? Some $65 million. The impact of that highway on the inner eastern suburbs of Cuyahoga County and the city of Cleveland is bound to be serious, because it makes moving to Geauga County that much more attractive.

I’m not suggesting the highway should not have been built. But ignoring its impact has further undermined the city of Cleveland, as well as the eastern inner suburbs. Investment in Route 422 calls for a counter-investment in the communities negatively affected by it.

This is what I mean by imbalance. And the private sector shares in this responsibility. The need for reinvestment in our cities has not received the needed emphasis, thereby denying opportunity to those who live in the city, by choice or otherwise.

**No one wins**

If this imbalance of investment continues, we can expect even more
urban decline. Stable neighborhoods will erode. The inner suburbs will soon follow. Spreading decline will spawn even more stress among people and institutions. The fiscal strength of county government will weaken, further jeopardizing the region's ability to compete in the global economy. Health care facilities in the city will close, only to re-open in the outer suburbs. The utility companies will likewise re-deploy their resources...as will libraries, schools, public transportation and recreational facilities.

Will this make our region more competitive in the global economy? Will it reduce unemployment? Build racial harmony? Create community stability? Inspire us to treat each other with kindness and decency?

Most surely not.
We must change course -- drastically -- if we are to create a society where "social groups and their individual members [have] relatively thorough and ready access to their own fulfillment" (Gaudium et Spes).

If outmigration trends continue, the Church, too, will be affected. More and more buildings, too large and expensive to maintain, will be left in the central cities and inner suburbs. Congregations will decrease and not be able to support their parishes. Parishes will end up serving people who return to their old neighborhood for Mass -- people who are anxious to preserve buildings and traditions, but not always anxious to serve the people who now live in the neighborhood. Catholic schools in the cities will serve an increasingly poorer population -- and will face ever increasing financial difficulties.

Meanwhile, the parishes in the outer suburbs will continue to spend more and more of their parishioners' money to build for the increasing population. And that money is limited. The suburban church will feel the strain because the parishioners will feel it. They are feeling it already,

So no one wins. Under the present trend, increased hardships await people in the city, as well as those moving outward.

Principles for a new urban future
It is clear, then, that we are challenged on two fronts: we must recognize and respond to the needs of the urban poor, who have been hurt by outmigration. And we must change governmental policy relative to outmigration.

The first challenge is entirely within our own hands. The decision to recognize and respond to the needs of the urban poor is an individual decision.

However, changing government policy is an arduous undertaking. Some of us might feel that it's even a hopeless undertaking -- that a change of such magnitude, involving such deeply-rooted attitudes, is beyond realistic expectation.

I don't feel that way at all. Hope is greatest when we face reality. So let us face it. And let us join with our neighbors, our public officials, and our community leaders in the hopeful endeavor of building a new urban future for Northeast Ohio.

Let me suggest five principles we might embrace in order to meet these challenges.

- **Social justice.** The practice of charity is different from promoting change that furthers social justice. We are called to work for changing the underlying causes of injustice. We must focus on governmental policies and practices that strongly favor outmigration over moving inward or simply staying in one's community.

The point is not to stop outmigration. People are free to move about as they please. Rather the point is to help balance government policies to allow for the redevelopment and maintenance of cities and inner suburbs.

Ideally, this shouldn't be a struggle. But it is because it will require unprecedented cooperative action on the part of public officials across the region. But rebuilding our cities means more than simple bricks and mortar. It means rebuilding in ways that will heal the wounds and close the separations that have been opened and aggravated over the past 40 years... in ways that further the cause of social justice.

- **Redevelopment.** Government policies that support the development of suburbs while neglecting the redevelopment of cities have contributed to the problems caused by outmigration. Similarly, the Church can fall victim to this same myopic strategy by concentrating on the development of the newer parishes in the suburbs, while older parishes in the city are allowed to decline.

For government, banks, developers, real estate brokers and others, redevelopment means creating and investing in projects such as Church Square and Central Commons in
Interdependence. City and suburb are linked by a single economy. City and suburban churches are similarly linked by a common mission. Many differences exist between ministry to city and ministry to suburbs -- but a single mission to reveal God's love binds them together.

There are gifts present in every church, urban and suburban, which can be shared among all churches. In order to deal effectively with outmigration, we must find ways of sharing these gifts more widely with one another. The parish that does not, in some way, extend its work beyond its own boundaries fails to be a church in its most complete meaning.

In our diocesan commitment to stewardship, we must seek to define stewardship in a way that encompasses the urban and suburban churches, with their unique gifts and their individual problems.

Restructuring. In order to efficiently and effectively serve people living in the city, it will be necessary to restructure the parishes in such a way that they will be able to offer proper ministry to their people, and remain financially stable -- and, as much as possible, independent of diocesan subsidy.

This restructuring will not in any way diminish the Church's commitment to the city. It will in fact increase our effectiveness. And in considering the right way to accomplish this restructuring, we must take special care to be sensitive to the cultural diversity of the city's residents.

Preferential love for the poor. The love of Christ compels us to turn our attention to the needs of our poorer sisters and brothers. Following the example of St. Vincent de Paul, the Apostle of Charity, we cannot relax our efforts to assist the poor in their need. We must be especially mindful of women and children, who are often the primary victims of social neglect.

The New Jerusalem
Shifting populations challenged the Church and its mission in the past. From its earliest days, the Church in northeast Ohio has been challenged and shaped by the movement of people. As early settlers crossed the Alleghenies into Ohio, pockets of Catholic families were served by missionaries on horseback who traveled long distances to offer Mass in places like Wooster, Chippewa and Valley City.

With modern outmigration, history is repeating itself. The Church in the Diocese of Cleveland is being called to respond as creatively and as effectively as it did in earlier times.

Pope Paul VI wrote in Octagesima Adveniens: "In the Bible, the city is in fact often the place of sin and the pride of man who feels secure enough to be able to build his life without God. But there is also the example of Jerusalem, the Holy City, the place where God is encountered, the promise of the city which comes from on high."

The New Jerusalem of the Book of Revelation is a promise, a challenge and an invitation.

It is a promise of God's final manifestation of power and justice, which will restore the world to its original harmony and order.

It is a challenge because it reminds us, as Pope John Paul II says in Sollicitudo Rei: "to 'have' objects and goods does not in itself perfect the human subject unless it contributes to the maturing and enrichment of that subject's 'being'; that is to say, unless it contributes to the realization of the human vocation as such."

And it is an invitation to begin now to participate in the life of that heavenly city by practicing the mercy and justice that will make our earthly cities a reflection of the city which is to come.

Even as we wait for new heavens and a new earth, let us begin to build a new city of justice and peace. I invite all people of good will to cooperate in the work of developing and redeveloping our urban centers. In a special way, I call on all Catholics in every part of our diocese to join me in this commitment to our cities -- and the churches in our cities.

The love of Christ invites all people of good will to cooperate in the work of creating such a city. I ask our government officials to renew and increase their efforts to develop and redevelop our urban centers. In a special way, I call on all Catholics in every part of our diocese to join me in this commitment to our cities -- and the churches in our cities.

I am asking that throughout the diocese discussions take place to suggest practical means of implementing this vision. These suggestions will be placed in the hands of a committee charged with the task of developing a formal plan of action.

Jesus loved the city of Jerusalem and wept over its impending destruction. May we imitate Jesus in His concern for the city as we begin our work -- rebuilding our cities as places where people can dwell in life-giving relationships with God, and with one another.

It is clear, then, that we are challenged on two fronts: we must recognize and respond to the needs of the urban poor, who have been hurt by outmigration. And we must change governmental policy relative to outmigration...

I invite all people of good will to cooperate in the work of creating such a city. I ask our government officials to renew and increase their efforts to develop and redevelop our urban centers. In a special way, I call on all Catholics in every part of our diocese to join me in this commitment to our cities -- and the churches in our cities.
Balancing the books with farmland and open space

Farmland protection in Northeast Ohio more than pays its way.

That's the finding of a study undertaken in Lake County's Madison Village and Madison Township by the American Farmland Trust, a nonprofit conservation organization, and the Lake County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD).

The "cost of community services" study compared the costs of providing services and tax revenues from residential, commercial and industrial, and farm, forest and open space land uses. It found that Madison communities spend an average of $1.54 on public services, including education, police and fire protection and utilities, for every dollar raised by the residential sector. In contrast, farmland, forest areas and open space cost just 34 cents for each dollar generated. Commercial and industrial uses also generate a net benefit.

As suburbia sprawls eastward through Lake County, the rural Madison area being forced to plan for growth. There's a danger that its valuable agricultural lands -- lands with sandy soils, lake-effect weather for long growing seasons, and abundant water supplies -- will become covered with housing subdivisions.

"It is our hope that local officials will realize that the preservation of agricultural land can be an important component in providing economic stability to communities," says Charles Grantham, chair of the Lake County SWCD board of supervisors.

The study, which is the first of its kind done in the Midwest, concludes:

While proponents of unplanned growth often present farmland and other undeveloped lands as awaiting a "highest and best use," generally considered residential development, the cost of community services findings show the positive tax benefits of maintaining these lands in their current use. The costs of providing new residents with services such as education, police and fire protection, road maintenance and ultimately public sewer and water, must be evaluated along with the gross contribution to the tax base. By examining these relationships in the present, this study suggests the costs of new residential development would have to be offset further because they are already straining local resources. And while existing commercial and industrial land uses are providing far more in revenues than they demand in services, unplanned growth in these areas may not solve the fiscal imbalance. If new commercial and industrial development does not meet the needs of local residents, and does not reflect local skills, values and resources, it is likely to be followed by increased demand for new housing, traffic congestion, pollution and other factors that typically accompany urbanization.

Copies of the Madison study are available free at the Lake County Soil and Water Conservation District, 125 East Erie St., Painesville, OH 44077, (216) 350-2730.
Dear Santa

The region's transportation wish list

In our October issue we printed the "minimum-build" list of transportation projects in the new Long Range Transportation Plan for the five-county region. Here now is the additional "needs" list from the plan. These projects are not yet programmed for construction, but they are under consideration and could be built in the next 20 years. Call the Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency at 241-2414 for more information.

**NORTHERN LORAIN COUNTY**

- **SR-2 AND I-90**
  - West of Middle Ridge Road to west of SR-57
  - Widen to 6 lanes
- **I-90 AND LEAR-NAGLE ROAD INTERCHANGE**
  - New interchange at Lear-Nagle Road
- **SR-254 NORTH RIDGE ROAD**
  - SR-57 to SR-301 Abbe Road
  - Widen to 4 lanes
- **COMMUTER RAIL**
  - Lorain to Cleveland

**CENTRAL LORAIN COUNTY**

- **CENTRAL LORAIN N/S HIGHWAY**
  - SR-2 to relocated US-20
  - New highway with location and design to be determined
- **RELOCATED SR-83**
  - North of SR-254 to existing SR-83 south of SR-10
  - New 2/lane highway
- **PARK-AND-RIDE LOT**
  - US-20 and SR-511
  - Express bus service to downtown Cleveland
- **SR-57 BETWEEN I-80 AND I-90**
  - Express bus service to downtown Cleveland

**WESTERN CUYAHOGA COUNTY**

- **RELOCATED SR-252**
  - Lorain Road to Rose Road
  - Extend SR-252 north of Lorain as a 4-lane highway
- **I-480 AND SR-252 INTERCHANGE**
  - Reconfigure interchange
- **I-480 AND CLAGUE ROAD INTERCHANGE**
  - Reconfigure interchange
  - Add westerly ramps to existing interchange
- **SR-252 COLUMBIA ROAD**
  - Rose Road to Hilliard Boulevard
  - Capacity improvements
- **RED LINE RAPID EXTENSION**
  - Existing Red Line to Great Northern Mall

**SOUTHERN CUYAHOGA--NORTHERN MEDINA COUNTIES**

- **I-71/MILLER ROAD INTERCHANGE**
  - Upgrade interchange by providing ramps to and from the south
- **I-71/BOSTON ROAD INTERCHANGE**
  - New interchange
- **I-77**
  - Pleasant Valley Road to Ohio Turnpike
  - Widen to 6 lanes
- **US-42 PEARL ROAD**
  - Shimer Road to SR-303 Center Road
  - Widen to 4 lanes
- **SR-82 ROYALTON ROAD**
  - Columbia-West River Road to Cuyahoga County Line
  - Widen to 4 lanes
- **RED LINE RAPID EXTENSION**
  - Existing Red Line to I-X Center/Berea
- **PARMA RAPID LINE**
  - Existing Red Line to Parma/Cuyahoga Mall
- **PARK-AND-RIDE LOT**
  - I-77 and SR-82
  - Express bus service to downtown Cleveland
- **PARK-AND-RIDE LOT**
  - I-77 and I-80 Ohio Turnpike proposed interchange
  - Express bus service to downtown Cleveland and Akron
- **PARK-AND-RIDE LOT**
  - I-71 and SR-303
  - Express bus service to downtown Parma/Patton
- **COMMUTER RAIL**
  - Lorain and Medina to Cleveland

**CENTRAL AND SOUTHERN MEDINA COUNTY**

- **SR-18 MEDINA BY-PASS**
  - New highway with location and design to be determined
- **PARK-AND-RIDE LOT**
  - I-71 and SR-18
  - Express bus service to downtown Cleveland and Akron

**COMMUTER RAIL**

- Lorain to Cleveland
- Medina to Cleveland
- West Bank Road Extension
- Riverbed Street Extension
- Columbus Road to W. 3rd Street
- New highway link
- Relocated Scratch Road
- West Bank Road extension to Carter Road
- Highway relocation
- Old River Road Extension
- Canal Road at Carter Road to Superior Avenue
- New highway link
- Canal Road Connector
- New connector from Broadway/Granby to Canal Road
- New highway link
- Flats Trolley-Waterfront Line
- New transit distribution from Tower City
- Commuter Rail
- Akron to Cleveland
- Downtown and Northeast Cleveland
- I-90/Innerbelt
- Ontario Street to Prospect Avenue
- Revise freeway and surface street ramp locations and design
- I-77 Willow Freeway
- I-90 to E. 30th and E. 30th to Broadway
- Revise freeway and surface street ramp locations and design
- Widen lanes along I-77 mainline

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SR-2/E. 18th STREET EXTENDED
New interchange at E. 18th Street
RELOCATED SR-87A/R-490
EXTENSION
I-490 to SR-87 with Kinsman Road intersection
New highway with location and
design to be determined
US-422 KINSMAN ROAD
E. 55th Street to E. 154th Street
Add one lane each direction
BESSEMER AVENUE EXTENSION
E. 65th to E. 55th
New highway
I-90/SR-2 INTERCHANGE
IMPROVEMENT
Innerbelt/Memorial Shoreway
Safety and geometric design improvements
UNION AVENUE EXTENSION/I-77
INTERCHANGE
Union Avenue west to independence Road
New highway and new interchange at
I-77
E. 17th/E. 18th STREET
E. 17th and E. 18th between SR-2 and I-90
Construct one-way pairs through
downtown
RED LINE RELOCATION
Between Cleveland downtown and
University Circle
Subway and at-grade rail realignment
COMMUTER RAIL
Akron, Ashtabula and Aurora to
Cleveland
EASTERN CUYAHOGA
I-480/LEE ROAD INTERCHANGE
Add westerly ramps to existing Lee Road interchange
SR-43 AURORA ROAD
Northfield Road to Richmond Road
Widen to 4 lanes
BLUE LINE EXTENSION
Existing Blue Line terminus-to
Richmond Road
Rail Rapid extension
GREEN LINE EXTENSION
Existing Green Line terminus to I-271
Rail Rapid extension
RED LINE RELOCATION SHAKER CONNECTOR
Between Red Line Relocation and
existing Shaker Lines
West of Shaker Square
RED LINE EXTENSION TO COLLINWOOD/EUCLID
From existing rail to Euclid Square
Mail
Red Line Rapid extension
CLEVELAND HEIGHTS RAPID LINE EXTENSION
From existing/relocated Red Line to
Severance Town Center
Rail Rapid extension
PARK-AND-RIDE LOT
US-422 and Harper Road
Express bus service to downtown
Cleveland
PARK-AND-RIDE LOT
I-271 and Wilson Mills
Express bus service to downtown
Cleveland
PARK-AND-RIDE LOT
Broadway and Fair Oaks Blvd.
Express bus service to downtown
Cleveland
COMMUTER RAIL
Akron, Ashtabula and Aurora to
Cleveland
GEAUGA COUNTY
SR-44 CHARDON BY-PASS
New highway by-pass of village
PARK-AND-RIDE LOT
SR-306 and US-422F
Express bus service to downtown
Cleveland
PARK-AND-RIDE LOT
SR-306 and US-322
Express bus service to downtown
Cleveland
COMMUTER RAIL
Aurora to Cleveland
LAKE COUNTY
SR-2/HENDRICKS ROAD
INTERCHANGE
New interchange at Hendricks Road
TYLER BOULEVARD EXTENSION
Munson Road to Heisley Road
New 2-lane highway
SR-2
SR-640 to SR-615
Widen to 6 lanes
HENDRICKS ROAD
Center Street to Heisley Road
Widen to 4 lanes
SR-84 JOHNNY CAKE RIDGE
Garfield Road to SR-615
Widen to 4 lanes
SR-306 BROADMOOR ROAD
SR-84 to US-20
Widen to 4 lanes
HEISLEY ROAD
US-20 to SR-2
Widen to 4 lanes, including grade
separation at tracks
PARK-AND-RIDE LOT
SR-2 and Lost Nation Road
Express bus service to downtown
Cleveland
PARK-AND-RIDE LOT
US-20 and SR-528
Express bus service to downtown
Cleveland
COMMUTER RAIL
Ashtabula to Cleveland,
OHIO TURNPIKE
I-80 (OHIO TURNPIKE)
Between SR-57 and I-80
Widen to 6 lanes
I-80/I-77 INTERCHANGE
New interchange and toll gate

Highway widening imperative?
Earlier this year the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) issued a new "multi-lane upgrade policy," which calls for adding lanes to existing four-lane divided highways throughout the state. ODOT's goal is to add new lanes in each direction and wider shoulders in the medians of I-70, I-71, I-75 and I-77 north of Canton. All other four-lane divided highways in the state will receive similar treatment if ODOT anticipates that they will become moderately congested in the next 20 years. In addition to speeding traffic flow, the additional lanes will help prevent bottlenecks during construction and maintenance, according to ODOT.

The upgrade policy conflicts with the regional long-range transportation plan recently developed for Northeast Ohio. That plan emphasizes maintaining and improving the efficiency of the existing transportation system, not adding new highway capacity. Local planners complain that ODOT engineers are concerned about highway operating and maintenance efficiency, while ignoring transportation alternatives and the impacts of bigger highways on urban sprawl and the environment.

It's also possible that ODOT engineers are rushing to add highway capacity before metropolitan planning agencies learn how to use the authority granted to them by new federal regulations.

"This is one last push before the power shifts," said one local planner.

Another caution, however, is that urban areas might lose out if they place too many restrictions on ODOT's plans. "ODOT might just shift its attention to rural areas away from the jurisdiction of metropolitan planning agencies where it's easier to work."

Keep your hands off my interchange!
A recent attempt by Cuyahoga County officials to get the Northeast Ohio Area-wide Coordinating Agency to re-evaluate a planned interchange at I-90 and Route 615 in Lake County was angrily beaten down by Lake County commissioners. A Lake County resident had requested the study in light of NOACA's new policy of planning transportation improvements to reduce sprawl.

Meanwhile, Mentor residents fighting the interchange and widening of Route 615 (Center Street) won a victory on December 3 when a unique cobblestone house on the street was nominated for historic landmark designation. They are now investigating whether the entire street is eligible to become a historic streetscape.
Creating sustainability
Organizers called it the kick-off of a new paradigm -- a conference on "Creating Sustainable Communities Across America," November 17-20 in the Washington, DC, area. The event brought together about 300 grassroots activists, urban planners, architects and scholars from across the nation to discuss the concept of sustainability and how to achieve it. Topics ranged from green building systems to alternative transportation to eco-villages.

The conference also included sessions with top officials from the President's Council on Sustainable Development. And Paul Hawken spoke about his visionary new book, The Ecology of Commerce: A Declaration of Sustainability.

Thanks to The George Gund Foundation for a travel grant which enabled EcoCity Cleveland editor David Beach to participate in the conference.

For more information about community sustainability efforts across the nation, contact the Community Sustainability Resource Institute, P.O. Box 11343, Takoma Park, MD 20913, (301) 588-7227. A $30 basic membership brings you the group's quarterly journal, The Community Sustainability Exchange.

Environmental legal aid
The environmental movement in Ohio and neighboring states will soon have more legal clout, thanks to the start-up of the Environmental Law and Policy Center for the Midwest. The new center will employ multidisciplinary teams of attorneys, economists and scientists to solve environmental problems in Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin and Minnesota (the six states covered by U.S. E.P.A. Region 5).

Until now, the Midwest has lacked a major environmental public interest organization of its own, and national groups such as the Environmental Defense Fund and the Natural Resources Defense Council have not established regional offices here.

The center will be based in Chicago and will work collaboratively with local organizations throughout the region. One staff member, Geri Unger, former environmental program officer for The George Gund Foundation, will work out of Cleveland.

A first objective for the center will be the promotion of a high-speed rail network in the region. It also will work to get utilities to replace new power plants with energy conservation and efficiency, and it will seek to change land-use planning to protect ecosystems like the north woods. In addition, the center plans an environmental health program focusing on urban areas.

Nuclear duct tape?
How many people are getting the feeling that the Perry Nuclear Power Plant is patched together with baling wire and duct tape? On December 2, the plant suffered yet another equipment problem -- a leaky pump -- and had to shut down. Overall, Perry has generated electricity less than half the time in 1993.

The $5.6 billion albatross of a plant has dragged Centerior Energy into severe financial distress. Moreover, the excess generating capacity provided by Perry (when it's operating) makes it harder for the utility to support energy conservation programs, since the utility needs to sell every kilowatt it can to pay for the plant.

Boosting bicycle advocacy
Bicycle advocates around the state may be resurrecting the moribund Ohio Bicycle Federation so that they can have a stronger voice in transportation planning. Many are upset that Governor George Voinovich recently disbanded the Ohio Bicycle Advisory Council. The Bicycle Federation of America has pledged to support advocacy in the state. An organizing meeting is scheduled for January 10 in Columbus. Call Bill Trentel at 522-2944 for details.
Is high-density the cure?

Ecocity activists often proclaim the advantages of high-density urban areas. For example, it's easier to provide services like mass transit and recycling to compact "urban villages" than sprawl's suburbs.

A recent newsletter from the Cuyahoga County Solid Waste District, Brook Park had the highest per capita recycling rate in the county in 1992 - a reported 600 pounds per person per year. Unfortunately, Brook Park sent its recyclables to be burned Akron's "waste-to-energy" plant.

Hot recycling

According to the Cuyahoga County Solid Waste District, Brook Park had the highest per capita recycling rate in the county in 1992 - a reported 600 pounds per person per year. Unfortunately, Brook Park sent its recyclables to be burned Akron's "waste-to-energy" plant.

Had incineration for energy production not been considered "recycling" by the Ohio EPA, the leading per capita recycling cities would have been Fairview Park, Bentleyville, Orange and Brooklyn Heights.

"The heart of it all"

How bad is Ohio's environment? Here's a description from a recent mailing from the Northeast Ohio Greens:

"Ohio is one of the worst polluted states in the country. We transfer more toxic wastes off-site than any other state in the U.S. We have some of the worst coal-fired, acid-rain-producing power plants right here in Ohio, two nuclear power plants, with several more just across the borders in Michigan and Pennsylvania, four nuclear weapons manufacturing facilities, and they want to put a BIG nuclear dump here somewhere. If that isn't bad enough, we're host to one of the two plants in the whole country which enriches uranium for commercial power plants. We've got an aging petrochemical industry that makes all sorts of pesticides, herbicides and other toxic wastes, and what they can't sell they incinerate or deep well inject into the ground. We've got more than enough medical, toxic and hazardous waste incineration capacity. In fact, Ohio releases more toxics into the air than most other states, but they still keep applying for and getting more and bigger permits. Add to that the problems of racism and segregation in our cities and economy -- just look at unemployment figures or infant mortality rates among blacks if you don't think there's a problem -- and it totals up to no good."

Lorain County's Seventh Generation

Funders seem to like the recent consolidation of Lorain County environmental and beautification groups. Since the Friends of the Black River and Lorain County Beautiful joined under the umbrella organization, Seventh Generation, grants have come in from the Nordson Corporation Foundation, Nord Family Foundation, Stocker Foundation, Gund Foundation, R.W. Beckett Corporation and BFJ.

The group also has a contract from the Lorain County Solid Waste District to do litter and recycling education, as well as a grant from the Ohio Environmental Education Fund for pollution prevention programs.

Winning in Reminderville

Marie Meehan, chairperson of Area Residents for Intelligent Development (ARID) is now Councilwoman Meehan. In the November election, the political neophyte was the top vote-getter out of six candidates for the Reminderville council. Her campaign literature: copies of a September EcoCity Cleveland article about her battles against local developments and storm water drainage problems.
Winter solstice

In the dying light of a record-cold day, we hiked to a rocky ledge in the Cuyahoga Valley National Recreation Area. A dozen of us stood at the edge of the precipice -- a gift of the glaciers that had scoured the area thousands of years ago -- and looked out over the snow-covered river valley. The westerly wind, after racing across miles of open space, struck us head on and frosted our faces. Cold seeped into our boots from the rocks. Yet we stayed and kept looking to the southwest. We wanted to bid farewell to the sun.

It was December 21, the winter solstice, the shortest day of the year. The sun had been up only nine hours and now was about to set behind the ridges on the other side of the valley. Amazingly, it had broken free of the clouds, and we were treated to a rare, winter sunset. For a few minutes the molten iron sun was alloyed with the icy, blue lead of the sky.

The park ranger had been describing how animals and insects survive the winter -- how ants tunnel far underground, how bees create a buzzing sphere of warmth in the hive. But, as the sun touched the horizon, he stopped. We all grew silent and said our private goodbyes.

Solstice means "sun stands still." Each year, as the winter solstice approaches around December 21, the sun rises farther to the southeast and sets farther to the southwest. It traces a lower and lower arch in the southern sky, so its rays do not strike the earth directly. At the winter solstice the sun pauses, then turns around and heads north again. It is reborn. The days lengthen until the summer solstice around June 21.

We know that the process is the result of the earth being tipped on its axis, the northern hemisphere leaning away from the sun during a portion of the year. As I shivered on the ledge, however, I tried to forget such abstract astronomical knowledge. I tried to imagine the fears of ancient peoples who depended on the earth's natural cycles and endured long, dark winters without central heating and electric lights. What if you didn't know for sure that the sun would return? What if the proper respect hadn't been paid to the gods this year? What if it kept getting colder and darker?

Ancient peoples worshipped the sun, and their priests and shamans carefully followed its progress in the sky. They determined the time of the solstice with elaborate structures, such as Stonehenge, or by watching the sun set over sacred mountaintops.

To counteract the growing darkness, ancient peoples lit fires to help the sun regain strength and battle the evil forces loose upon the land. To celebrate the sun's rebirth and to relieve the tedium and dread of midwinter, they staged festivals of renewal. The Druids brought mistletoe into their homes as a symbol of life and healing. The Romans celebrated Saturnalia, a year-end festival of license and intoxication which was derived from earlier pagan traditions.

Early Christian leaders set the date of Jesus' birth to coincide with the existing winter solstice festivals, and over the centuries many of the old traditions were incorporated into new Christmas practices. There are the Yule logs, candles, evergreens in the home -- all symbols of the birth of new light, the triumph of light over darkness, of warmth over cold, of goodness over evil, of life over death.

As I stood out on the exposed ledge and watched the setting sun, I felt close to the root of such traditions. I was far from a church and the city. I could forget about the tensions of the Christmas season, the frenzied shopping and the crowded malls. For a moment I could reconnect with the natural cycles of the earth, reorient myself in place and time as ancient peoples must have done for ages.

After the last drop of light fell below the horizon, our group walked back to a park shelter about a quarter of a mile away. We emerged from the deepening gloom of the woods and crossed an open field, our boots punching clean footprints in the snow. Away from the ledge, there was little wind. It seemed perfectly peaceful, this cusp of winter.

The people around me were all strangers, yet I felt we had just shared something mystical. We had witnessed the dying of the sun, the true end of the year. At the shelter, we would soon be sharing a roaring fire. The burning logs would release to us the stored heat of the sun.

And we would not be afraid of the longest night that was upon us. We would have faith in a new sun rising tomorrow. 

-- David Beach

EcoCity Cleveland  December 1993
"A really great publication — every city needs one like it."

That’s what Jay Walljasper wrote to us after seeing the first few issues of EcoCity Cleveland. And Walljasper should know what he’s talking about. As editor of the Utne Reader: The Best of the Alternative Press, he keeps tabs on new publications around the country.

We’ve been getting a lot of comments like that since we started publishing in April. People are excited by our vision of Northeast Ohio. They appreciate our intelligent, holistic coverage of the real issues affecting our region.

Now we hope you will help take EcoCity Cleveland to the next level of excellence and influence. In the coming year, we plan a major subscription drive to expand our readership and reach financial self-sufficiency. (We’ve already amazed many observers by attracting nearly 500 paid subscribers in just a few months -- almost enough to pay all our printing and mailing costs.)

In addition, we want to upgrade our desktop publishing system so that we can analyze and reproduce the latest computer-generated maps and graphics from local planning agencies.

Your tax-deductible contribution today will help us reach these goals. This is a once-a-year appeal to supplement subscription income. It’s an opportunity to invest in a unique resource -- a local, yet nationally-recognized, voice for sustainable cities. Please give generously and help us build on our initial success.

Best wishes for the new year,

David Beach, Editor, EcoCity Cleveland
Phil Star, CSU Center for Neighborhood Development
Robert Staib, Cleveland Division of the Environment
Chris Trepal, The Earth Day Coalition

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