

Pope: Sports, Yes, Stardom Cult, No

Lately there has been a great deal of talk about sports and their value and shortcomings. No less a personage than Pope Paul VI gave his viewpoints at an audience with delegates to the International Catholic Federation for Sport and Physical Education last week in the Vatican.

Affirming the value of participation in sports for a "balanced" personal development, a "healthy way" to occupy free time and foster "social relations," the pontiff said that today more than ever there is a need for sports.

But, the Pope added, "For sport to find its true significance," it must be freed from a "cult of stardom" and not be allowed to degenerate into being merely an "exaltation of neo-nationalism."

If sport is to achieve its true significance it must strengthen one's self-control and encourage respect for others, said the Pope.

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Meanwhile inside the Courier stories reflect the fact that the Time of Renewal is in full swing.

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Bishop Joseph L. Hogan today begins a series of eight meditations for the Resurrection-Pentecost season on the gifts of the Holy Spirit. The first article, in Pastoral Perspectives on Page 3 is entitled The Gift of Gifts and in it the Bishop talks of the renewed life the Spirit can bring to the world and how we can bring Divine Order to a world made ugly with disobedience and sin. Must reading, particularly during the Time of Renewal.

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This week's report on the diocesan Time of Renewal is concerned with how parents view Catholic schools. An interview with Sister James Lynch, assistant vicar for education, an analysis, and a report on the Southeast Region from coordinator Father John Philipps are all on Page 11.

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Freedom of the press has become a major issue even for those not directly concerned. So when Earl Caldwell, New York Times reporter and a central figure in a Supreme Court case, spoke in Rochester, the Courier was on hand to prepare a report. Page 7.

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Why convents? That is, why is the state so interested in buying old convents and what does it do with them? To find out turn to Page 7.

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A Miss Black Awareness will be chosen in Wayne County and will ride in the Apple Blossom Festival aboard a float designed to underscore the role of blacks in the apple industry. The Miss Black Awareness pageant will not be a beauty contest. Competitors will show fashions they themselves made and also will answer questions on black identity. Page 7.

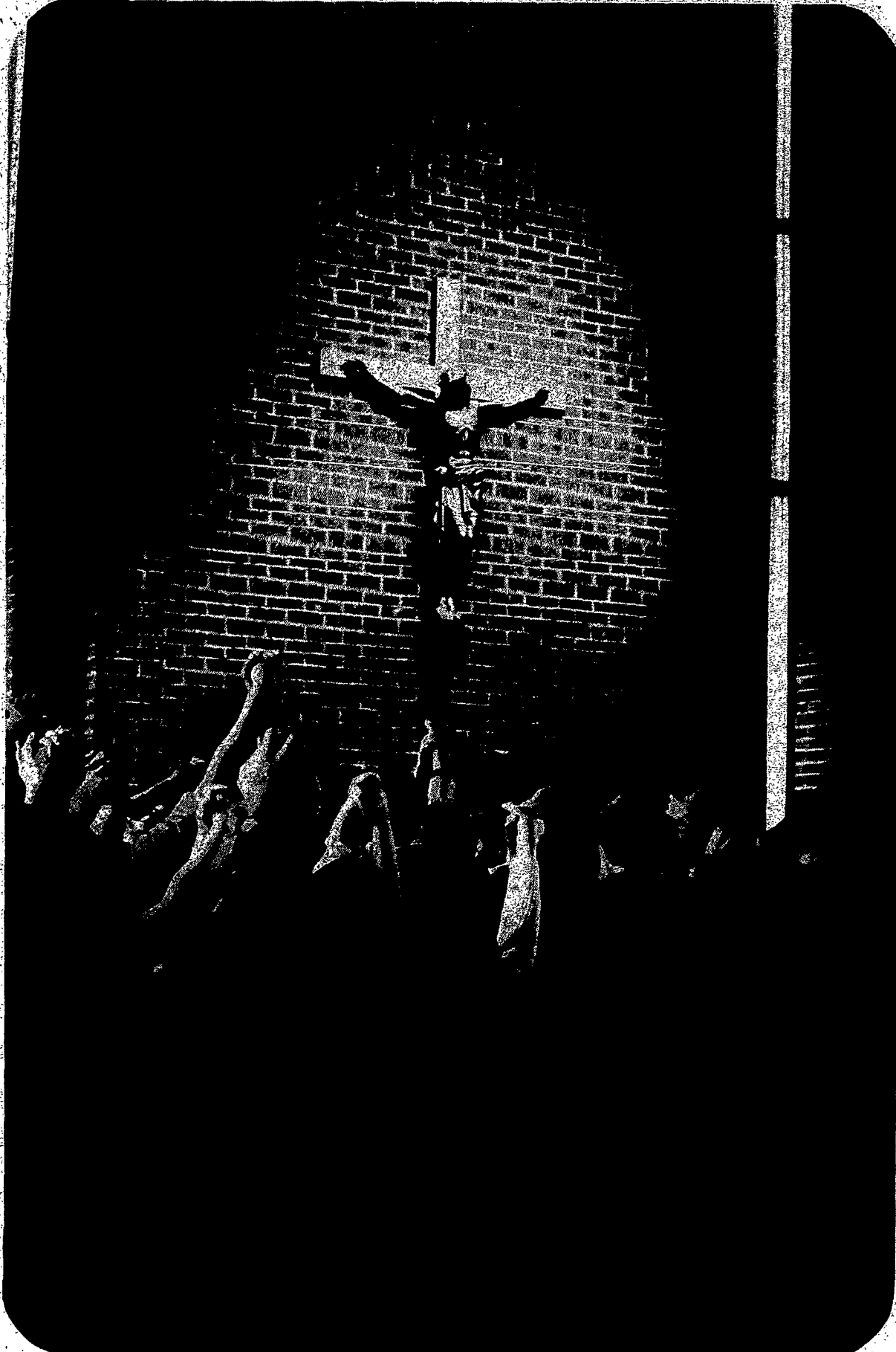


Photo by Laurence E. Keefe

Finale With a Flourish

This dramatic scene climaxed the final Mass of last week's Christian Seminar led by Father Robert Hammond for area teen-agers at Notre Dame Retreat House in Canandaigua. The event was attended by 37 young people, joined for the Mass by hundreds who made previous Seminars. Watch next week's Courier-Journal for a photo-essay on it.

Neighborhood Organizing

Charlotte Takes Lead With Holy Cross Group

By BARBARA MOYNEHAN

Perhaps it is dissatisfaction with officials elected to represent neighborhood interests. Or perhaps people are put off by the bigness of government that often seems unable to meet the human needs of the man on the street.

Whatever the reason, neighborhood organizations are popping up all over town, and the Charlotte Human Development Committee (CHDC) was one of the first.

CHDC grew out of the Holy Cross parish council established in 1971, according to one woman who has been involved with the organization since its beginning.

"To be effective in neighborhood work we had to include others in the area," said Mrs. Marcia Reynders, former committee chairman, explaining that they invited the other four churches in Charlotte to join them in their concern for their neighborhood.

"We were really floundering then," Mrs. Reynders recalled recently. "Some people were concerned about drugs, others about youth, but we didn't know which problem to work on or how to work on it."

The solution came with the Office of Human Development's parish council training course.

From the course, and the survey of neighborhood needs which is included in it, the ecumenical group of lay people learned of the unmet needs of the many senior citizens in their area. They decided the senior citizens should be their focus.

As a short term goal, the 30 active members of CHDC — from Holy Cross, the Church of the Master, St. George's Episcopal, Lakeside Presbyterian, and Lake United Methodist — decided an ambulance in the area was a must.

Their long term goal was an independent, senior citizen community group.

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