

# COURIER-JOURNAL

NEWSPAPER OF THE DIOCESE OF ROCHESTER

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NEWSPAPER OF THE DIOCESE OF ROCHESTER

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## Pope Not Resigning

Vatican City (RNS) — L'Osservatore Romano, the Vatican City daily, has sharply attacked reports that Pope Paul intends to resign when he turns 80 on Sept. 26, as unfounded, "irresponsible," and "highly uncivil."

Earlier, press officer Father Romeo Panciroli labeled such reports and rumors

as pure "fantasy" — the Pope does not have any intention of stepping down.

The Vatican paper, in a front page editorial, said it found "incomprehensible" the "dogged insistence of a large part of the Italian press in swooping down on the (Pope's) upcoming birthday to spread imaginary and eccentric news."

## Church's New Latin Image Pleases Brazil Missioner

By CARMEN VIGLUCCI

Father Edmund Leising, OMI, a native of Buffalo, has taken a different tack in helping people in underdeveloped lands as well as in the United States.

A missionary for 31 years in Brazil he has used much of that time to form organizations such as the Federation of Organizations for Social Education Assistance (FASE), which is a technical assistance organization devoted to community development. One facet of its work saw it "motorize" 1,280 parishes throughout Brazil after it learned that transportation was a common need of the parishes.

FASE motivated the formation of the Foundation for Community Creativity with headquarters in the United States and has given birth to NUCLAR-FASE, Father Leising's newest endeavor in Brazil.

Obviously Father Leising's views are somewhat revolutionary in the ecclesiastical sense and back in Brazil some probably feel they are in the political sense as well. But he is unabashed when he speaks of the Church's entry into the "social field" and of the "growing solidarity of the Church on the side of the marginalized."

With the advent of such new directions of the Latin Church, Father Leising said the consequences have been "greater separation of the Church from political power. The Church is now looked upon as defender of the other side."

Such developments are pleasing to the missionary. Taking a politico-historical look, he says that the missionaries came hand-in-hand with the explorers to colonial Brazil and thus were part of the ruling class. "Missionaries are no longer with the State," he said, "and religion has been returned to the people."

"Reprisals" crop up, he said. "Key people are warned, entrance to radio, TV and press are made difficult. In proportion as such warnings are not heeded, reprisals stiffen."

The Catholic Church's increased identification with the poor has paid ecumenical dividends, according to Father Leising. "As the Church moves from political power towards the poor, she gets closer to other Christian churches and these open up to her with greater solidarity, a basis for the growth of ecumenism."

He feels that historically "the division of Christian churches always had a strong political coloring, of struggle for power."

As for those who see a tinge of Marxism in some of the involvements of the Church or its representatives on the side of the poor, often in opposition to established governments, Father Leising says at least as far as he is concerned, "Nonsense!"

"Marxism denies God," he said. "And all that we do

is God-centered and religious. We strive for the recognition of God in every person which is the direct opposite of Marxism which sees each person as a piece of material."

"We may not try to impose our particular beliefs or institutions on people but we do search out their values. And values are religion. I find that people can't talk three sentences without getting into spiritual matters."

FASE Foundation for Community Creativity And there is more. There is Father Leising's latest undertaking, NUCLAR-FASE It takes as its starting point "persons grouped around socio-religious action."

While the work of FASE centered around economic needs, NUCLAR-FASE has as its goals: "1 to stimulate, among groups motivated by religion, a process of discovery of values in order to create conditions for in-depth growth in awareness and for a conscious carrying out of socio-religious action, and 2 to motivate groups to compare programs and ongoing action with their expressed, and or hoped for values, through a feedback educative process."

In the case of Father Leising it is probably not so much what he has done over the last 31 years as a missionary in Brazil. It is more pertinent to wonder just what is he going to do with the next 31



photo by Terence F. Brennan

### That Time of Year

With the opening of school, RapAround will resume its full coverage of the high school scene in the Sept. 14 issue of the Courier-Journal. The fall, of course, is almost synonymous with football, but there is plenty of other activity which the national prize-winning RapAround section will be covering. Complete sports, yes, but much more, such as individual student achievements, opinions, goals, faculty members, school departments and their work, behind-the-scenes stories, schedules — all showing that the nine diocesan high schools are not only educational facilities but also Christian communities.

## Newspapers Tightening Up On Pomo Movie Ads

Los Angeles — What is amounting to a newspaper trend in southern California to restrict or ban outright advertising of pornographic movies has gained strong religious support and the threat of freedom of speech suits from "adult" film interests.

The latest — and largest — newspaper to ban ads for smut films is the Los Angeles Times, a move that has won accolades from Cardinal Timothy Manning of Los Angeles who was in correspondence with Times publisher Otis Chandler to urge him to institute such a ban.

A spokesman at the chancery office said Cardinal Manning was "very pleased" about the action.

(In Rochester, Eugene C.

Dorsey, publisher of the Gannett newspapers, Democrat and Chronicle, and The Times-Union, said the two flagship papers of the Gannett chain "accept advertising from legitimate businesses." He said that the criteria for advertising in the papers are that the ads reflect good taste and that they indicate clearly what product is offered.)

In addition to banning ads for pornographic films, the Times announced it was publishing a Family Film Guide that would "explicitly assess" the content of films for family viewing.

Distributors of pornographic movies along with owners of X-rated theaters charge that the advertising prohibitions violate First Amendment guarantees of freedom of speech.

Others banning or restricting such advertising

include the San Diego Union and Tribune newspapers, which won't run pictorial ads for pornographic movies, and the McClatchy chain of "Bee" newspapers in Sacramento, Fresno and Modesto, which also won't accept graphics

In Van Nuys, the Valley News said it received a positive response after imposing its ban on hardcore pornographic movie ads. "We've been flooded with calls, and it's all been good," said a spokeswoman for the paper.

In Long Beach, publisher Daniel Ridder of the Independent-Press Telegram said in a statement that papers "will no longer carry advertisements for theaters or motels showing pornographic movies." He also insisted that theaters adhere strictly to audience age

Continued on Page 2

### Next Week

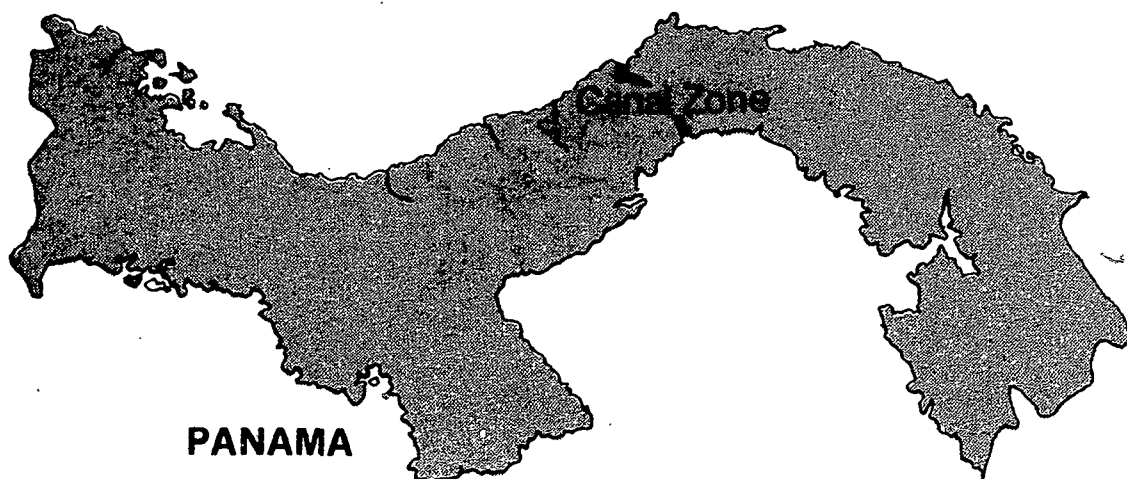
## Costa 'Soap' Review

Four major church organizations, including the National Council of Catholic Bishops, representing some 138,000 churches, have joined to mount protests generally against sex-oriented television in prime time and specifically the upcoming ABC-TV series Soap.

Soap will be seen locally at 9:30 p.m., Tuesdays, beginning Sept. 13, over WOKR-TV. The group of church organizations has advised all member churches to watch the show and then call or write the local ABC-TV stations to express their views on Soap, only after it has gone on the air Sept. 13.

Courier-Journal columnist Pat Costa has seen the first two episodes, although they since have reportedly been revised, and will report on them in next week's Courier-Journal.

An early Costa report on Soap takes it on the church is on Page 2.



### A New Treaty?

Panama is a Central American republic lying between Costa Rica and Colombia, South America. The Panama Canal, crossing the lowest and narrowest point of land between the

Atlantic and Pacific, bisects the republic from ocean to ocean. Panama runs east and west and is due south of New York City. The Canal Zone is 648 square miles. The canal is 51 miles long.

Background of the issue and an editorial, Page 4