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# COURIER-JOURNAL

NEWSPAPER OF THE DIOCESE OF ROCHESTER

20 Pages

Wednesday, November 12, 1980

OUR 97th YEAR

25 Cents



Photo by Terrance J. Brennan

## Love Hug

Dennis Fischer holds daughter Colleen, 3, who hangs on to one of the hundreds of balloons released Sunday as part of the closing ceremonies of the Marriage Encounter weekend at St. Agnes High School. It was billed as "the biggest love hug the diocese has ever witnessed," with nearly 300 people, ME couples and their children, participating. Workshops took place Saturday for the couples and Sunday's program, which included the closing Mass celebrated by Bishop Matthew H. Clark, was open for the whole family.

## U.S. Bishops Explore Variety of Concerns

Washington, D.C. — Statements on the role of the laity, on capital punishment, on higher education, and on Marxism/Communism, revised liturgical translations, a new edition of the present five-year Plan of Priestly Formation, and the election of a new president and vice president for their conferences are on the agenda of the annual meeting of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops (NCCB) and United States Catholic Conference (USCC) here.

More than 250 bishops from throughout the country are participating in the Nov. 10-13 meeting at the Capital Hilton Hotel.

The session began Monday, Nov. 10 with an address by outgoing President of the NCCB/USCC Archbishop John R. Quinn of San Francisco, who reported on the recently concluded Synod of Bishops in Rome.

A statement, "The American Catholic Laity: 1980," prepared to commemorate the 15th anniversary of the Decree on the Apostolate of the Laity by the Second Vatican Council, was aired at the meeting.

The statement asserts that a

growing sense of maturity in the faith among lay people presents new challenges to the Church's ministerial role.

"Thanks to the impetus of the Second Vatican Council, lay people feel themselves called to exercise the same mature interdependence and practical self-direction which characterize them in other areas of life," the statement says.

Prepared by the Bishop's Committee on the Laity, chaired by Bishop Albert H. Ottenweller of Steubenville, Ohio, and endorsed by the NCCB/USCC Advisory Council, of which Rochesterian John Crowe is chairman, the statement also discusses a number of continuing developments which "may require new concepts, new terminology, new attitudes and new practices."

A statement on the death penalty also was aired during the bishops' meetings. That statement, prepared by Buffalo's Bishop Edward D. Head's Committee on Social Development and World Peace, echoes a statement issued in 1974.

The present statement reads in part:

"We recognize that many

of our fellow citizens may believe that capital punishment should be maintained as an integral part of our society's response to the evils of crime, nor can we insist that this position is incompatible with Catholic tradition... (But) the question for judgment and decision today is whether capital punishment is justifiable under present circumstances... We believe that in the conditions of contemporary American society, the legitimate purposes of punishment do not justify the imposition of the death penalty."

A statement on Marxism/Communism is also being voted on during the meeting. According to NCCB/USCC spokesmen, "The statement contrasts Catholic and Marxist thought in terms of fundamental themes that are said to have a bearing on contemporary events. The document is analytical rather than political and seeks to be a philosophical teaching statement and not political commentary."

The bishops are also reviewing new translations into English of Eucharistic Prayers prepared by the International Commission on English in the Liturgy.



The parlor is dominated by a large drawing of a man in a sombrero.

## Ex-Inmates Halfway Home

By John Dash

Corpus Christi Church, thanks to the generosity of a former parishioner and the dedication of several present members, has launched a new venture, unique to the City of Rochester: Rogers House, a half-way residence for men formerly incarcerated in either Attica or Auburn State prison.

On a quiet residential street in the old 18th Ward, Rogers House (named for Father Harold Rogers, pastor of Immaculate Heart of Mary in Painted Post, who donated his family home to the parish), last week welcomed its first resident.

According to Nia Wyffels, head of the program, Rogers House will accommodate three men, volunteers and the program director.

Organizers expect the program to have its full complement by Jan. 1, 1981, Ms. Wyffels said. Residents commit themselves to a stay

of six months, with an additional six months negotiable.

A tour of the facility last week revealed renovation work yet to be completed, and

the organizers are asking for volunteers and materials to help with the labor.

Ms. Wyffels also noted that funding for the house program is at present coming

from individual donors. Program organizers, she said, are formulating proposals to foundations for necessary income.

Persons wishing to further the parish work have been asked to contact Ms. Wyffels, care of Corpus Christi Church, 80 Prince St. Rochester, N.Y. 14605.



Ms. Wyffels cooks up lunch. John MacDonald, program promoter, looks on.

## Bishop Named Knight

Bishop Matthew H. Clark will be installed as a member of the Knights of Columbus on Tuesday, Dec. 9, at the Rochester Council headquarters, 670 Thurston Road. According to John Nolan, K of C Grand Knight, more than 20 men will join the bishop in the 8 p.m. installation service.