

# COURIER-JOURNAL

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## Digging In ... And Crawling for Peace

By John Dash

At about 10 a.m. on Monday, Oct. 24, a small band of demonstrators rose from their knees on the wet grounds outside the main gate of the Seneca Army Depot.

Among them was Phil Barber, a young man who works and lives at St. Joseph's House of Hospitality. Another was a septuagenarian nun with a heart problem, Sister Margaret Smith.

The crew of 15 or so walked north to a one-lane dirt road skirting the chain link fence surrounding the depot.

Underneath a watch tower bearing a crudely daubed mark, "ET3," the band fixed a banner to the fence and began to work.

The demonstrators had brought their tools with them: a small garden shovel, a trowel, a few kitchen spoons.

Perhaps from a signal given by the watcher in ET3, two jeep loads of Military Police drove up on the other side of the fence. "Five or six of them stood in a line — very stone faced," said Sister Beatrice Ganley, SSJ. "We started to dig the hole."

The ground was wet clay. It had rained the night before and since before dawn a heavy fog and drizzle had blanketed the area. The clay would stick to the shoes of anyone walking on it, nearly impossible to scrape off.

As the band bent to its task, one of the military police called a warning, "Did you know you'll be trespassing on federal property?"

The band knew. That was the point. The digging proceeded.

"It took about an hour and a half to dig the hole," Sister Beatrice said. The diggers poked sticks through to reach the other side. Then, finally, there was enough room for someone to wriggle through head first, on the back, to trespass on federal property.

"While the members of the group were digging, I tried to talk to the MPs, Sister Beatrice said.

"We're doing this to make a statement. It saddens us to be separated from you by this fence. We would much rather have both our groups together sharing the apples we brought and having some conversation. But as it is, the presence of the nuclear weapons here divides us from each other. So in order to reach you, we must come in this unusual way.

"But the digging here and use of these small instruments, the spoons, the trowel and the farming shovel, is symbolic of our determination to dig in and work for peace and nuclear disarmament in a non-violent way.

"When we came here an hour and a half ago, it didn't look as if we would be able to dig through, but in fact we are going to be able to get through. So difficult tasks can be accomplished with determination and hard work."

Quite a speech, and an exhausting one. She would later recall trying to say her group "wanted to unearth the fact that the Cruise missiles and the Pershing II missiles, were there, and face up to it ourselves — a kind of accepting our

responsibility and making that known. Unearthing the reality of what's there."

But she was later uncertain of her words, whether they carried that sense.

"Then when the digging was finished, we stood in a semi-circle, lit candles, prayed..."

And they introduced the members of the group to the police. "The thing was, we had to stand there and look at each other for those 90 minutes. I don't think we'll ever forget those faces," Sister Beatrice said.

When Sister Margaret wriggled through the hole, the group was singing something. One man, Dick Mannix, told the police, "Please be gentle with this woman, she is 70 years old and she has a heart condition. She probably will have medication."

As it happened, Sister Margaret's peace button came off her coat during her efforts. "I'd like my button," she said; and one of the soldiers picked it up and pinned it on her.

Sister Beatrice remembers the police as "neither unkind nor rough. As we were standing, looking at them, Bob Palumbos read to them the section of the U.S. bishops' pastoral pertaining to military service."

In all, among this band, members of Rochester's Catholics Against Nuclear Arms, nine crawled under the fence. A few, veterans of such actions, will report to federal court Friday, Nov. 4.

The rest were eventually turned out with warnings not to repeat their actions.



Photo by Terrance J. Brennan

### Bishop Blesses Cornerstone

Bishop Matthew H. Clark anoints the crowd after blessing the cornerstone laid last Sunday in the new wing of St. Mary's Hospital. More than 600 attended the Mass and cornerstone ceremony that also marked the 350th anniversary of the Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul, who administer the facility. Sister Ann William Bradley, D.C., hospital president, deposited the time capsule in the vault, and Sister Mary Rose McGeady, D.C., Northeast Province Superior, spoke of the Sisters' founding. See related stories on Pages 17, 23.

## Shelter for the Homeless

By John Dash

Diocesan Catholic Charities expects it will be able to provide more than 5,000 evenings of shelter in Rochester this Winter for homeless and transient persons, through a network of area parishes, some providing funds, others volun-

teers and yet others the actual shelter facilities.

According to Eileen Early, network coordinator, Blessed Sacrament, St. Augustine's and St. Bridget's will all house the homeless.

This is the second year diocesan agencies have made a direct push to provide shelter. Last year, a housing crisis was averted, in part, by Catholic efforts. The crisis was occasioned by the closing of traditional centers for the homeless and transient in the past three years.

Ms. Early said there now exists a critical need for volunteers to staff the three parish centers, and a need for funds.

She said the network had applied for a New York State Department of Social Services homeless housing grant, but, as of last week, had not been awarded such a grant.

Ms. Early, a parishioner at St. John's Church in Clyde

and a graduate of SUNY Geneseo, was appointed to the parish network post two weeks ago.

Her plans are to ask parishes throughout the city

Continued on Page 4

### Dec. 15: Day of Prayer For Peace

Bishop Matthew H. Clark has designated Dec. 15 a Diocesan Day of Prayer for Peace. He will spend the day in prayer at a retreat center.

The diocesan Office of Liturgy in a letter to parishes has recommended some possible programs: declaring the day one of fast and abstinence to bring about a focus on peace through sacrifice; school programs or religious education programs which might encourage the discussion of peace; a liturgical prayer service whereby the parish community gathers in the evening to pray for peace; a forum for conversation and reflection

on peace; a day of renewal in which parishioners renew their commitment to peace; an ecumenical service of prayer for peace. Parishes also are encouraged to use their own creativity.

Referring to the Advent-Christmas-Epiphany season, the Liturgy Office suggests as "one avenue of reflection" for Sunday liturgies a concentration on the U.S. bishops' pastoral, "The Challenge of Peace: God's Promise and Our Response."

The office suggests that all dioceses read and study the document.

## DISTRUST

### Lebanon, Grenada Actions Assailed by Pope as Spurs To 'Catastrophes of War'

Vatican City (NC) — The massacres of more than 200 U.S. and French troops in Lebanon and the U.S.-led invasion of Grenada are signs of the distrust among world leaders which can cause wars, said Pope John Paul II Oct. 26 at his weekly general audience.

He prayed that world leaders be aware of their duty to search for peace and warned that lack of trust between nations can lead to "catastrophes of war."

"I cannot hide from you the fact that the international situation distresses and profoundly worries me," the pope said at the end of the two-hour audience attended by 80,000 people in St. Peter's Square.

"Last Sunday in Lebanon, two terrorist acts caused the deaths of more than 200 U.S. and French soldiers serving the multinational peace force," he said.

"On the other side of the world, in the Caribbean, a new crisis has formed with the grave events on the island of Grenada, scene of a recent coup and now, of a landing of military forces, both of which caused human victims," the pope said.

"At the same time, uncertainties and apprehensions are growing in Europe and the world over the delay in hoped-for positive developments in disarmament negotiations," he added.

While all these crises have their own individual causes, the pope said, the root cause is "more general and more serious: the lack of reciprocal trust."

"The lack of trust, as the sad experience of history

teaches, can lead to graver tensions and even to possible catastrophes of war," he said.

The pope asked for intense prayers that "God may inspire in the responsible world leaders a more vivid and determined awareness that peace, for them and for other nations, is a supreme goal that cannot be renounced."

On Oct. 25 Grenada was invaded by 1,800 U.S. troops and 300 troops from neighboring Caribbean countries.

President Ronald Reagan said the purpose was to protect about 1,000 U.S. citizens on the Caribbean island and to help restore law and order in the wake of a coup which resulted Oct. 20 in the establishment of a military government and in the death of Prime Minister Maurice Bishop.

Since the coup, Grenada has been run by "a brutal group of leftist thugs," Reagan said, referring to the Marxist orientation of the military leaders who overthrew Bishop.

The military rulers also had been criticized by other Caribbean leaders who accused them of being Marxists and of wanting to further strengthen the Cuban and Soviet political ties begun under Bishop. About 60 percent of Grenada's 114,000 people are Catholics.

On Oct. 23 two separate bomb attacks destroyed the U.S. and French barracks in the Lebanese capital of Beirut. The U.S. and French troops are part of a multinational force trying to help the Lebanese government control

Continued on Page 4



EILEEN EARLY