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'State of Union' Embraces Catholic Issues

"our traditional values," several major Catholic conthe Union message to Congress Jan. 25.

He called for legal protection of the unborn and for tuition tax credits for parents singled out a Catholic priest, Both those policies have ther Bruce Ritter, founder of strong public backing by the Catholic Church.

In words that sounded like they could have come straight from the Catholic bishops' war and peace pastoral, Reagan declared, "A nuclear war cannot be won and must never be fought. The only value in...possessing nuclear weapons is to make sure they will never be used."

The president also appealed again for voluntary prayer in public schools, a ly, neighborhood, freedom

Washington (NC) -- religious groups but Calling for a strengthening of approached cautiously by the Catholic hierarchy. He did President Reagan addressed not back a right to receive voluntary religious instruccerns in his annual State of tion in public schools, which Catholic officials see as the more fundamental issue, historically and constitutionally.

President Reagan also of children in private schools. Conventual Franciscan Fathe Covenant House for runaway chilren in New York City, as an example of the "unsung heroes" of American society whose private initiatives tackle social problems.

> Linking issues of school prayer, tuition tax credits, abortion and child pornography under the heading of 'strengthening traditional values," Reagan said that values of "faith, work, fami

makes us good and loving people."

He acknowledged that "efforts to restore protection of the law to unborn children'' are "very con-troversial."

"But unless and until it can be proven that an unborn child is not a living human being, can we justify assuming without proof that it isn't?" he asked.

"No one has yet offered such proof," he added. "Indeed, all the evidence is to the contrary.'

On education Reagan stressed a return to basics and parental control of education.

"I will continue to press for tuition tax credits to expand opportunities for families and to soften the double payment for those paying public school taxes and private school tuition," he said. "Our proposal would target assistance to low- and middle-income families."

The U.S. bishops, reflecting papal teachings, have argued that the double burden of taxation for public schools and tuition for private schools constitutes a restriction on religious freedom of parents who choose non-public education

for reasons of religious and moral conviction.

While parents of children in private schools of any kind would benefit from such leg-islation, those with children in Catholic schools would stand to gain most because Catholic schools are the largest element in the private school sector Addressing the controversy

over administration-backed efforts to reinstate voluntary prayer in public schools by an amendment to the Constitution, Reagan noted that Congress begins each day with prayer.

speaking of world peace, Reagan defended U.S. in-ternational policy, saying it is based on principles of peace and freedom. Addressing the people of the Soviet Union in language that was more conciliatory than he has used in previous speeches, he stated that the "only value" of nuclear weapons is to make sure that those weapons "will never be used"

"But then," he added, "would it not be better to do away with them entirely?"

When the U.S. bishops in their war and peace pastoral last year stated the principle that nuclear deterfence can only have prevention of use, not use, as its aim, one of the

direct conclusions the bishops drew from that principle was a rejection of any policy of nuclear first-use in response to non-nuclear attack.

Reagan did not elaborate on his statement to indicate whether or not it implied any changes in U.S. nuclear defense policy.

The president mentioned Father Ritter at the end of his speech in a paean to the convictions and values which he said make America the 'last, best hope of man on earth.'

"There are the unsung

SEED Offers Signing Class

Free lessons in sign language is being offered by Project SEED for persons wishing to communicate with the hearing impaired.

Classes are 10-11:30 a.m. and 7-8:30 p.m., Thursdays, beginning Jan. 26 at the Edgerton Recreation Center, 41 Backus St. The facilities are accessible to the disabled

Further information is available through Adele Carlson, Project SEED, 458-7994.

heroes: single parents, couples, church and civic volunteers -- their hearts carry without complaint the pains of family and commu-nity problems," said Reagan. 'They soothe our sorrow. heal our wounds, calm our fears and share our joy.

Blue Army Vigil

The monthly vigil in reparation to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and Immaculate Heart of Mary sponsored by the Blue Army of Our Lady of Fatima will be held 9 p.m.-midnight, Friday, Feb. at Holy Rosary Church. Leading the rites will be Fathers Robert Werth, Frederick Helfrich, and William Endres.

Gerould's **Pharmacies** S. Main St. and Church & Hoffman Elmira **Delivery Service** 733-6696

Diocesan Official Speaks At Ecumenical Gathering

Trumansburg -- As part of the celebration of the 20th anniversary of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, Christians of many denominations gathered at St. James Church here, Sunday, Jan. 22. Father Robert Kanka is pastor and the speaker for the event was Ms. Marge Nurenburg, diocesan director of the office of ecumenical and interreligious affairs.

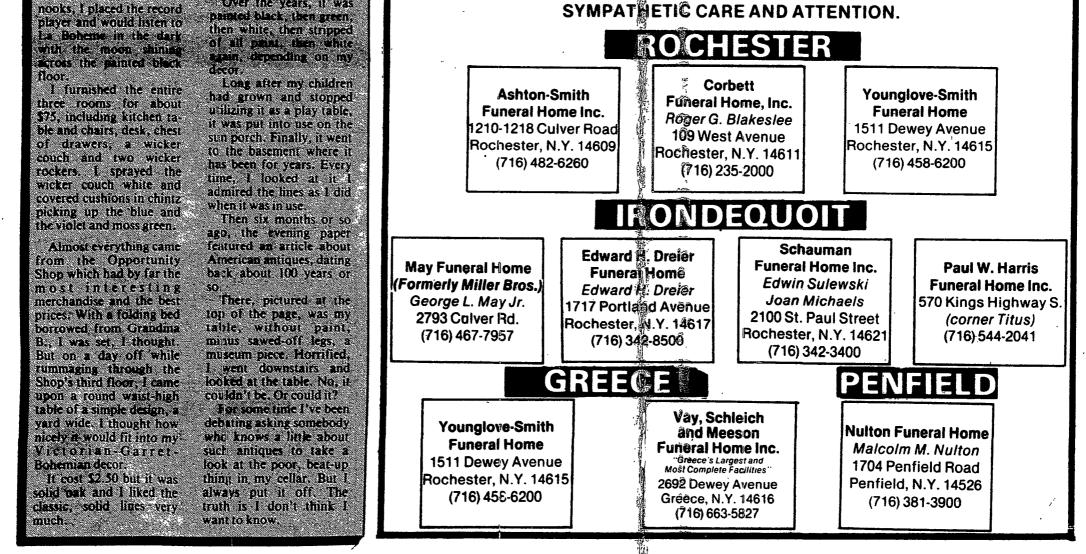
Ms. Nurenburg told the congregation that "the cross of Christ -- at the heart of this year's prayer for unity is

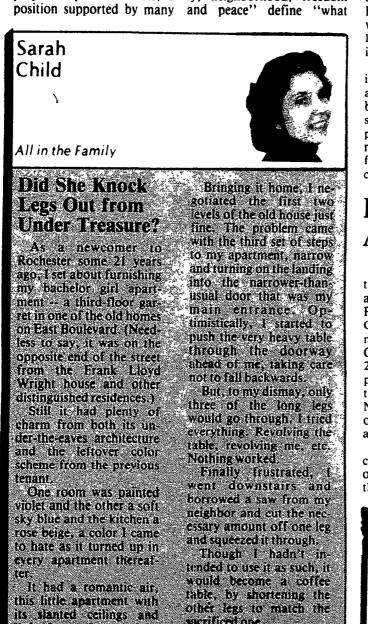
also at the meant of all the churches. It is the center of preaching, liburgy and wit-ness. The cross that reconciles us with God, our Creator, has the power to de-stroy our separation

"Our bapesm is our ecumenical starting point and is the most fundamental tool we have not consistently worked with. We need to remember that the existing bonds of unity among Christian communions are more important than the differences that separate them."



THOSE WHO WISH TO HAVE ARRANGEMENTS CARRIED OUT IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE IDEALS OF THEIR FAITH CAN RELY UPON THE FUNERAL DIRECTORS LISTED TO PERFORM THEIR DUTIES WITH SYMPATHETIC CARE AND ATTENTION.





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sacrificed one.

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