### COURIER-JOURNAL

### Wednesday, August 1, 1984

# 'Weeping' Virgin Statue Shot by Laughing Gunman

### By Christopher Gunty

By Chirstopher Gunty Chicago (NC) — Inree shots were fired July 25 at a statue of the Blessed Virgin that was said to have wept earlier this year in St. John of God Church. Some of the approximately

25 worshippers who witnessed the incident said the gunman was laughing as he fled the enurch.

One bullet lodged in the wooden statue about eight inches from the bottom. The other two shells hit the wall of the sanctuary behind, the statue.

Police said a man emered the church about 10:15 a.m. and walked to within eight feet of the statue. He then pulled a gun from his belt and fired.

The assailant was described by witnesses as a white male, about 25 to 30 years old, 6-feet tall with a slim build.

The church's statue of Mary the Mystical Rose gained notoriety after witnesses said it cried on four occasions in May. Since then, a steady flow of worshippers has visited the church, even though the statue has not been reported crying since the original incidents. Father Raymond Jasinski,

pastor of the parish, said the affirmation?' of the presence of God and Mary in the church. He said there are people who don't want to hear the message Mary wants to deliver. "The devil doesn't like

what the Blessed Mother is doing," the pastor told the Chicago Catholic, newspaper of the Chicago Archdiocese.

nature and we know the devil would want to stick his nose

About 100 people usually attend a nightly rosary at the church, but Father Jasinski said the evening after the statue was shot nearly 200 attended. He said the parish was trying to promote devotion to the Blessed Virgin and the rosary through the statue.

"People ask if it (the attention and devotion) is dying off. I say it's only just beginning," he said. The pastor and a police spokesman said there are no

plans to remove the bullet from the statue.

Father Jasinski also said there are reports of cures attributable to praying before the statue. One has been documented by a doctor, he said. He also said news of the statue has brought about many conversions.

Father John Curran, one of the members of an archdiocesan commission studying the crying incidents, said reports of cures have not reached the commission.







in accordance with the ideals of their faith can rely upon the funeral directors listed to perform their duties with sympathetic care and attention.



### 50 Attend **Depot Mass**

Mike Affleck, above, director of St. Joseph's House of Hospitality, speaks to a group of 50 from Corpus Christi Parish who gathered for Mass last Monday evening at the Seneca Army Depot main gate.



# **Bishops Urge Reagan Renounce** Document **Critical of CHD Policy**

### **By Mike Brown**

Washington (NC) - Two Texas bishops have called on the Reagan administration to renounce a document highly critical of the Campaign for Human Development which the bishops say was written by the head of ACTION, a federal agency which coordinates volunteer programs.

But a White House spokesman said it was "unlikely" the bishops' letters would receive any "significant" attention.

Bishop Charles V. Grahmann of Victoria and Bishop Joseph P. Delanev of Fort Worth each sent letters to President Reagan demanding action against the document, which attacks Campaign for Human Development grant recipients. The campaign is the U.S. bishops' domestic anti-poverty program funded by an annual nationwide collection.

According to the two bishops and a report in Our Sunday Visitor, national Catholic newsweekly, the document was circulated by Thomas W. Pauken, AC-TION director and longtime CHD critic.

Pauken, reached in Texas, refused to comment on the 16-page document and termed Our Sunday Visitor's July 8 article on the controversy "one-sided."

In a May 29 letter to Reagan, Bishop Delaney said he was "appalled by this attack on bishops of the Catholic Church in the United States" and called for the president to "immediately repudiate it."

"I assure you such an

A White House spokesman said presidential aides open between 15,000 and 20,000 pieces of mail sent to Reagan daily. While the bishop's letters may receive some attention, the spokesman said, it would be "unlikely" to come to the president's attention.

Bishop Delaney said he received the alleged ACTION document from Bishop Grahmann. He added that the document, which is unsigned and stamped as "draft," was given by Pauken to a priest in the Diocese of Brownsville, on the condition its contents would not be revealed until after it was published in final form.

The document then was

Photos by Terrance J. Brennan

The document said the grant recipients were "leftist political activists."

### enterprise is guaranteed to have very negative impacts on the credibility of your administration," Bishop Delaney said.

Bishop Grahmann told Our Sunday Visitor that he, too, had written a letter to Reagan.

obtained by Bishop John Fitzpatrick of Brownsville, Bishop Delaney said.

#### Deadline

The editorial deadline for the Courier-Journal is Thursday noon, preceding Wednesday publication. Copy should be sent to 114 S. Union St., Rochester, N.Y. 14607



present assignment is at St. Margaret Mary Parish on Rogers Parkway; Rev. Mr. Bradshaw is working at Nativity Parish in

Brockport; and Rev. Mr. Sullivan at St. Andrew's on Portland Avenue.

"It's good for me to be doing now what I want to do as a priest -- be around

people, visiting the sick," said Rev. Mr. Kacprzak. "It's a gratifying experience.

"This is an excellent opportunity as part of our ministry to experience what the priesthood holds for us in the future," Rev. Mr. Bradshaw said.

Deacons Kacprzak and Bradshaw were ordained

## **Jail Ministry**

**Continued from Page 1.** perspectives to criminal justice issues."

But on its basic purpose, visiting the pre-trial prisoner, "we have such a responsibility to be present," she said, "whether (the prisoner is) guilty or not. I feel it is primarily a ministry of pre-

sence, and you do make a difference. We're liberating, even in maximum security. You do see a tremendous amount of brokenness and pain, but you keep on building community.

**NEXT WEEK: Corpus** Christi parish and Rogers House.

on April 14, 1983 in Rome by Archbishop Jean Jadot. As a matter of coincidence, all the New York State bishops were in Rome at the time making their ad limina visits to the pope, thus Bishop Matthew H. Clark was able to join in concelebration.

Rev. Mr. Sullivan was ordained by Bishop Clark on April 28, this year at Sacred Heart Cathedral.

"I had heard a lot of this program from others," said Rev. Mr. Sullivan. "It provides a good chance to sit down and compare notes with each other, as well as be assisted in growth toward the priesthood.'

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