

Geneva Parish Launches Sesquicentennial Rites

Geneva — The sesquicentennial for St. Francis DeSales Parish will be launched at a Mass, 11 a.m., Aug. 19. The Mass will be concelebrated by Father Edwin Metzger, pastor, and Fater Eugene Eno, associate.

The liturgy will salute the founding families of St. Francis and will stress the theme of the sesquicentennial which is "Community Celebrating Commitment."

The Fourth Degree Color Guard from Council 272 of the Knights of Columbus will lead the procession.

Lectors during the Mass will speak in English, Italian and Spanish.

The St. Francis-St. Stephen's interparish choir, directed by Sister Janet Connorton,

and the Spanish Singers will provide the music for the Mass.

Refreshments will be served following the liturgy.

Frank Giardino and Arthur Means are general chairmen. Jay Feligno is chairman of the liturgical celebrations.

The parish was the fourth to be established in the area now making up the Diocese of Rochester; and can now lay claim to being the third oldest parish of the diocese. The first church cornerstone was laid in 1832, and two years later, its religious services were advertized in the Geneva Gazette.



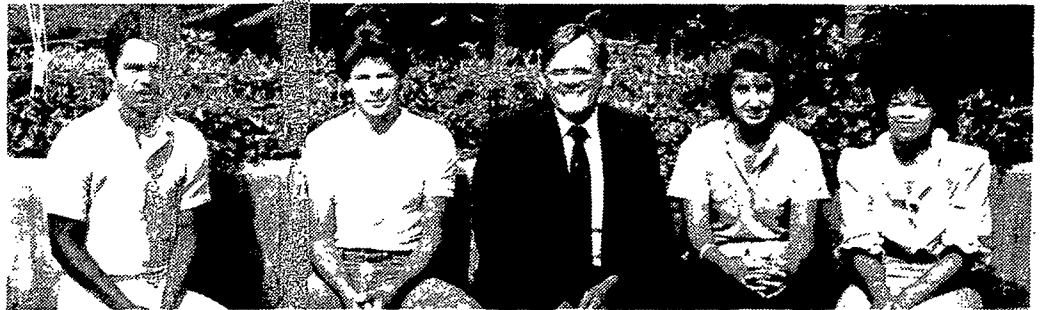
Time Capsule Buried

Father Lawrence Gross, Father Benedict Ehmann, Bishop Joseph Hogan and Msgr. Francis Burns preside at the ceremonies in which a time capsule was buried on the grounds of Holy Apostles Church, as part of the parish's centennial celebration. Many parishioners deposited memorabilia and pictures for future generations to see. An old-fashioned picnic followed the ceremonies. Other events slated include Masses for the repose of all deceased members of the Parish Aug. 12. A special Latin Mass celebrated by Msgr. Emmett Murphy, pastor emeritus, and featuring music by the parish choir and the Gregorian Chorale, will be 9:30 a.m. that day. Later in the day a family picnic will be held at Churchville park. Bishop Clark will preside at the major centennial celebration Mass 10:30 a.m., Oct. 28. Tickets for a dinner following at the Mapledale Party House are available at the Rectory. 254-7170.



Leaping to the Lord

Judith Erdesky, liturgical dancer, joins the rites at Holy Name of Jesus Church in Greece July 29. The Mass noted three parish milestones, the 20th anniversary of its founding, the 30th ordination anniversary of its pastor, Father John Rosse, and the tenth of its associate pastor, Father Robert Gaudio. Father Thomas Reddington, founding pastor, and Father Bruce Ammering, pastor of Blessed Sacrament Church, spoke at the event.



Xerox Program

Four area youths were chosen by Xerox Corp. for a four-day, all-expense-paid trip to the Olympics. The trip is part of Xerox's Summer Youth Employment Program for youths between 16 and 19 chosen from area high schools based on scholastic and athletic performance. Stan Zawacki, manager of Xerox Community Relations, said, "We randomly selected four city schools. Then I called the administrators and asked them to nominate a student from their school and as a result we have four excellent young people representing Rochester." In photo, from left, are Dale LaFrance of Jefferson High; Gregory Witorski of East High; Zawacki; Susan Sidore of Nazareth Academy, and Angela Hicks of Franklin High.

Bulgarian Link in Papal Plot Said 'Weak'

Washington (NC) — After nearly three years of work, Italian investigators have only a weak case for the alleged Bulgarian connection in Mehmet Ali Agca's 1981 attempt to kill Pope John Paul II, The Washington Post said July 22.

In a lengthy report from Rome, Michael Dobbs of the Washington Post Foreign Service said that

contradictions or lack of corroborating evidence mark key points in Agca's confessions from prison.

Those confessions, in which Agca claimed he was working under orders from the Bulgarian secret service, are the core of the assassination plot investigation.

Dobbs's story, based on interviews and analysis of a prosecutor's report that was

leaked in June, says that some Italian magistrates think the state has built a "convincing case" but one that will be hard to prove in court, while others remain skeptical of the whole plot theory.

Agca, a Turk, was captured in St. Peter's Square on May 13, 1981, after he shot and wounded the pope. The Italian jury that convicted Agca two months later said it believed that he was not a lone fanatic but the hired agent in an international conspiracy. Agca, sentenced to life in prison, refused to cooperate with investigators for about a year, however.

In November 1982 chief investigator Ilario Martella began to issue arrest orders for several Turks and Bulgarians that Agca named as co-conspirators after he began to cooperate with the investigation.

Martella is expected to make a decision whether to bring the case to trial later this summer.

According to the Post report, statements by Agca that his Bulgarian connections were to provide him a diplomatically protected getaway vehicle led prosecutors to focus on a truck that Italian customs officials inspected and sealed for the Bulgarian embassy in Rome the day before the assassination attempt.

But witnesses have allegedly told investigators that the truck was parked in

plain view outside the embassy, where it would have been impossible to open it, add cargo, and re-close it without attracting attention. Officials also questioned how the customs seal could be broken and then repaired so as to cross European borders without questions.

Agca has admitted that he obtained Rome phone numbers of some of his alleged co-conspirators from a Rome telephone book after he was in prison, although he first told investigators that he had received those numbers from operatives in Bulgaria, the Post said.

It also said that Agca had access to Italian newspapers which were investigating allegations of a Bulgarian connection, and it is not clear whether he had gleaned from the Italian media some of the details which he gave investigators to corroborate his story.

Testimony by an Italian customs official contradicts one of Agca's key claims, the Post said. Agca claimed that on May 12 he met with Todor Aivazov, one of the Bulgarian suspects, for lunch and a visit to St. Peter's Square. But a customs official says he was with Aivazov at the embassy, in connection with the loading, inspection and sealing of the diplomatic truck, in the late morning and again in the early afternoon.

Because of the embassy's

distance from the Vatican, the Post said, defense lawyers are expected to argue that Aivazov could not have gone to St. Peter's Square, had lunch with Agca, and returned to the embassy during the short time he was not with the customs inspector.

Investigators cannot prove that suspect Sergei Antonov knew enough English to have conversed with Agca in that language, as Agca claimed, the Post said.

On the other hand, the newspaper noted that much of the evidence Agca supplied regarding his alleged Turkish and Bulgarian contacts proved true. Two Turkish suspects who at first denied knowing Agca later admitted their contacts with him when confronted with the evidence.

Of the alleged Bulgarian conspirators, only Antonov is in Italian custody. Bulgaria has refused to extradite two other suspects.

Students of international terrorism believe that if a Bulgarian connection is established, it will mean — but will never be proved — that the order to kill the pope came from the KGB, the Soviet secret police.

The KGB may have taken such drastic action, the theorists say, because it feared that under the Polish pope's influence the then-burgeoning liberalization movement in

Poland would be uncontrollable and would spread to other Eastern European nations, threatening Soviet control in the region.

Terrorism specialists say the Bulgarian secret police are Moscow's chief puppets for covert actions abroad which Moscow cannot afford to be linked to. They say that the Bulgarians would never undertake something like a papal assassination without KGB approval.

World, Nation, People... in Brief

World

14 Missionaries Kidnapped

Rome — An Angolan rebel group kidnapped 14 Catholic missionaries during an attack in June on their mission in the city of Kiola, according to Fides, the news agency of the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples. The missing include two priests from Portugal and Colombia, eight nuns from Mexico, including one who is 84 years old, three nuns from Spain and one from Angola. The attack took place on June 12, according to Fides.

Nation

Fetal Pain Studied

Chicago — The human fetus can feel pain from as early as eight weeks gestation, according to a paper published by Americans United for Life, a Chicago-based pro-life group. The paper, "Fetal Pain and Abortion: The Medical Evidence," also said that by 13-and-one-half weeks gestation all neurological structures necessary for organic pain sensation are in place and the fetus responds to disturbing stimuli by turning away.

COURIER-JOURNAL

Bishop Matthew H. Clark
President

Anthony J. Costello
Publisher &
General Manager

Carmen J. Viglucci
Editor

Rev. Louis J. Hohman
Episcopal Advisor

Vol. 95, No. 43 August 8, 1984

Courier-Journal (USPS 135-580)
Published weekly except week after July 4 and Christmas, by the Rochester Catholic Press Association. Subscription rates: Single copy 35¢, 1 year subscription in U.S. \$15. Canada and Foreign \$20. Offices: 114 South Union St., Rochester, N.Y. 14607, (716) 454-7050. Second Class Postage paid at Rochester, N.Y. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Courier-Journal, 114 S. Union St., Rochester, N.Y. 14607.