

CROP Walk

Nearly 3,000 people participated in the 14 Monore County CROP Walks for Hunger Sunday, May 5, despite rainy weather — Page 2.

Facing Changes

Vatican II brought change and uncertainty to the Church, but several older members of the Rochester Diocese have adapted well — Page 3.

Father Cuddy's Back

Father Paul J. Cuddy's popular "On the Right Side" returns to the Courier-Journal — Page 11.

Kings Defeated

Bishop Kearney's Fighting Kings lose a lacrosse match with Penfield by a score of 6-3 — Page 11.

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As Reagan Visits Bitburg

German Priest, Bishop Stop SS Veterans Laying Wreath

By NC News Service The same day as President Reagan's controversial visit to a German military cemetery where Nazi soldiers were buried, a German priest and bishop prevented SS veterans from laying a wreath in a Catholic cemetery.

Reagan's May 5 visit to a cemetery in Bitburg, West Germany, had been protested by U.S. church officials.

In Nesselwang, a town in the extreme southern part of West Germany, Father Franz Gress barred about 200 former members of the Waffen-SS Death's Head Division from laying a wreath at a monument of German war dead.

Members of the division held a three-day reunion in the town, about 50 miles southwest of Munich. They made no effort to defy the ban, which had the support of Bishop Josef Stimpfle of Augsburg, West Germany.

Father Gress had joined members of the town council in condemning the reunion, asking that it be banned. However, legal experts said the group had a constitutional right to assemble.

In the United States in the weeks before Reagan's cemetery visit, U.S. church leaders added their voices to those protesting his visit.

On May 1 Cardinal-designate John J. O'Connor of New York said he told Reagan in an April 28 telegram that "he could make a significant contribution by changing his itinerary."

The cardinal-designate said he understood Reagan's desire for reconciliation by visiting the German cemetery. But he said laying a wreath at a burial ground that included SS members carried a symbolism that suggested

forgetting the Holocaust rather than forgiving those who caused suffering.

He said that "to seem to forget by seeming to pay honor to those who brought this about" was "asking an awful lot" of those subjected to the horror of the Holocaust, the Nazi extermination of Jews during World War II.

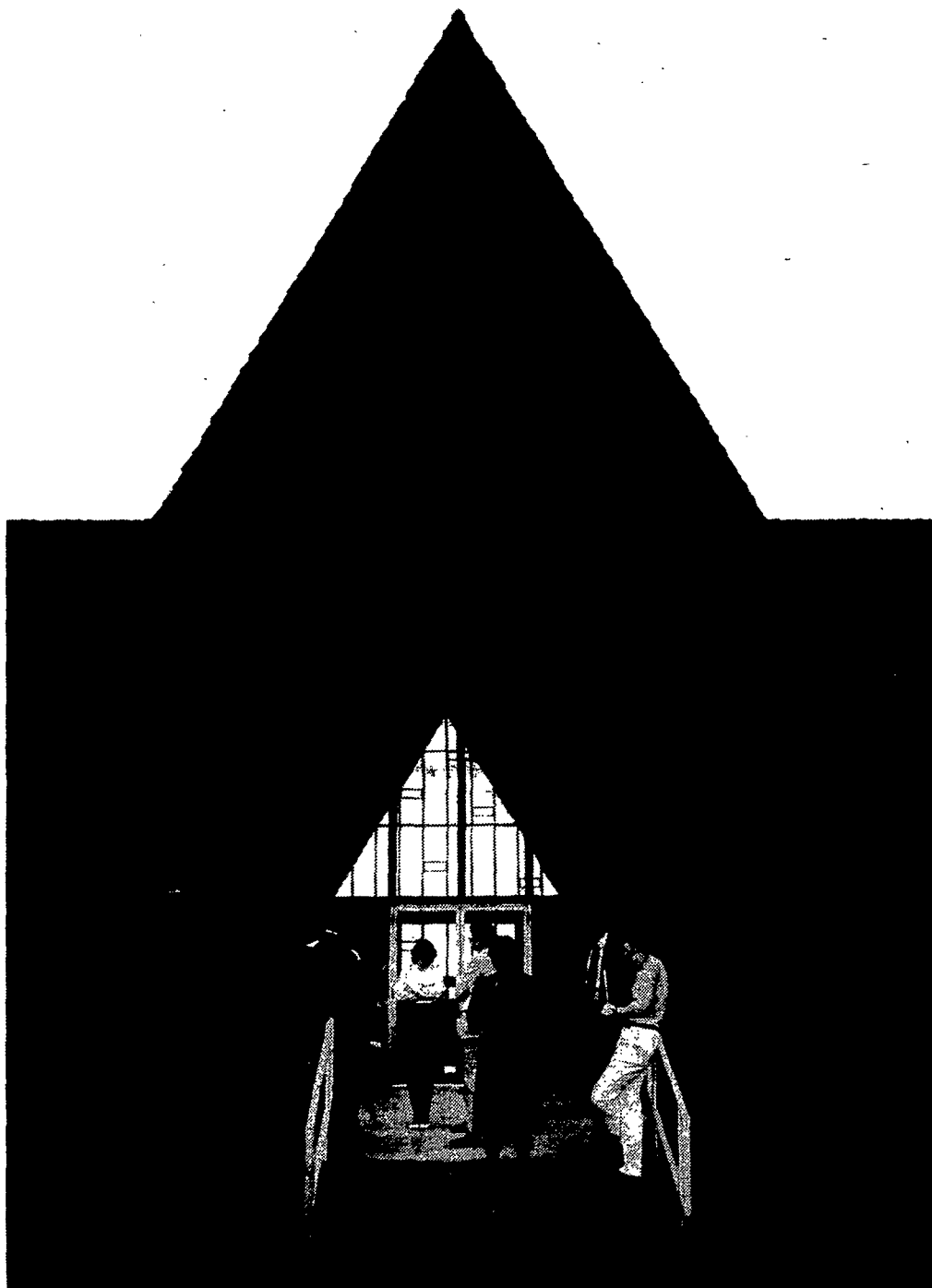
Before addressing a meeting of the American Jewish Committee in New York May 2, Archbishop Rembert Weakland of Milwaukee said he was "flabbergasted" by the president's decision to visit Bitburg. He said his feelings were even stronger than those expressed by Msgr. Daniel F. Hoye, general secretary of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops. In an April 29 statement, Msgr. Hoye said the cemetery visit was not "suitable" and asked the president to reconsider.

"President Reagan's observance of America's friendship with the Federal Republic of Germany over the past 40 years should be carried out in a way which is not divisive and which avoids unnecessary hurt to the survivors of the war and to the memory of its victims," Msgr. Hoye said in his statement.

David J. Zielinski, national commander of the Catholic War Veterans, wrote Reagan asking him to "forego any public demonstration on your part to pay homage in honoring the members of the German armed forces who fought to destroy humanity and freedom throughout the world."

Reagan spent eight minutes in Kolmeshoehe Cemetery, where 49 Nazi SS soldiers are buried among 2,000 war dead.

The president mourned the German war dead as human beings "crushed by a vicious ideology."



Celebrating 25 Years Jeff Goulding/Courier-Journal

The parish of St. Catherine of Siena, Ithaca, celebrated its 25th anniversary the weekend of April 27-29 with various events, including an ecumenical concert. For more, see Page 9.

Diocese Launches Study Of Future of Urban Schools

By Teresa A. Parsons Representatives of 20 Catholic elementary schools in the city of Rochester met with Bishop Matthew H. Clark, members of his staff, and a consultant from the Center for Governmental Research Monday evening, April 29, to begin centralized planning for the future of urban Catholic education.

Pastors, principals, parish council chairmen, finance committee chairmen and school board presidents gathered in the rectory of Sacred Heart Cathedral for a presentation by members of the study's steering committee, including remarks by Bishop Clark.

For the past 18 months, members of the divisions of Education, and Urban Services, Finance and Planning have collaborated with parish and school representatives, working to assure the stabilization and continuation of Catholic education in the area. From these discussions emerged the general agreement that centralized planning is necessary if

urban Catholic elementary schools are to survive.

After an introduction by Sister M. Edwardine Weaver, diocesan superintendent of schools, Bishop Clark addressed the group in a call to collaboration and stressed his own support of the study.

"If we plan only for ourselves, we plan for extinction," the bishop said, asking everyone present to join the effort to make all city Catholic schools better.

Sister Anne Guerin, assistant superintendent for planning, then reviewed the planning process, after which the proposed ratification process was outlined by Father John Mulligan, director of Urban Services.

Father Mulligan and other steering committee members stressed the need for accurate, honest evaluation and reporting of the existing situations within each school.

A survey, developed and described by Alan J. Taddiken of the Center for Govern-

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Mothers' Day Is May 11 Jeff Goulding/Courier-Journal

Joyce Kempka of Brockport Nativity Church holds son, Eric, age four months. The staff of the Courier-Journal wishes a Happy Mothers' Day to all.