

Suzanne Frew continues to illustrate the plight of Rochester's homeless in two new ventures — Page 4.

Older Americans Month ends at St. Ann's with frivolous fashion fun - a display of hot hat styles over the years — Page 6.

Father Shamon shares the history of the Feast of Corpus Christi. Father Cuddy responds to a letter — Page 19.

The life-long contributions of eight priests are honored at retirement celebrations in the area — Page 20.

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Raising Hopes for Peace

Upon their entrance to Pulaski Park, students from St. Andrew's School quietly counted down to simultaneously release their peace balloons as part of the school's Peace Day, Thursday, May 23. For story and more photos, see Page 5. The Courier-Journal wishes to thank the Rochester Fire Department and the crew of Battalion 3, Truck 9, for their cooperation in making this photograph possible.

Jeff Goulding/Courier-Journal

Local Participants Describe Peace Pentecost Activities

From Local and Wire Service Reports
Peace Pentecost, an ecumenical observance of Memorial Day weekend in Washington, D.C., was "a statement to our government of the message of Jesus — to choose life," according to Sister Janet Korn, RSM, one of eight Rochester-area participants.

Sponsored by Sojourners, an independent Christian community that includes Evangelicals, Catholics and Protestants, 1,000 people demonstrated opposition to the arms race, abortion, the death penalty, apartheid, and violence in Afghanistan and Central America at six sites in the nation's capital. Targets of the demonstration were "areas where life is destroyed rather than enhanced," said Sister Janet.

"The Rise of Christian Conscience Conference" held at the Catholic University of America Saturday through Monday, May 27, began the weekend's events with three days of prayer, discussion and training in Christian non-violence and civil disobedience, including the teachings of Mohandas K. Gandhi and the Rev. Martin Luther King.

Speakers at the conference included Father Henri Nouwen, professor of divinity at Harvard Divinity School; Jesuit Father

William Davis, co-director of the Christic Institute in Washington; and Notre Dame Sister Mary Evelyn Jegen, vice president of Pax Christi. Among the topics covered by speakers and workshops were the sanctuary movement, the anti-nuclear arms race campaign, the anti-death penalty movement and the free South Africa movement.

A highlight of the weekend for Sister Christine Wagner, who attended events through Monday, May 27, was a three-hour ecumenical peace service on Sunday night at the National Shrine, which she described as "packed" with several thousand people. Three homilies were given during the course of the service, with performances by a gospel choir and 50-60 children between the ages of 2 and 12, who marched in procession with flowers and large paper-doll collages to share a song, "Bright Morning Star," in sign language. "It was just incredible," Sister Christine said.

On Monday, a training session conducted by Phyllis and Richard Taylor, members of Witness for Peace, focused on the history and philosophy of non-violent protest and the practical aspects of arrest and imprisonment. In particular, the training focused on

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'Moral Imperative' Prompts Student's Apartheid Protest

By Karen M. Franz

At Cornell University, the moral and political question of investment in the government of South Africa has become a topic of heated debate and activism during the past three months. As has been heavily reported in the local and national media, a group of students and faculty members have joined together to sit-in at the university's administration building and to establish a ramshackle "shantytown" behind that building to symbolize living conditions for many of South Africa's black citizens who are discriminated against under that country's legal system of apartheid.

Cornell has investments approximated at \$112 million in some 30 U.S. companies doing business in South Africa, and protesters seek university divestment of that stock as a means of putting pressure on the Praetorian government to end the apartheid system.

Organizers of the Cornell divestment movement estimate that as of early last month, there had been over 1,200 arrests, involving more than 900 individuals protesting the university's refusal to divest.

One of the three members of the Cornell Catholic ministry team, Father Michael Mahler, notes that there are approximately 1,500 to 2,000 steady Mass goers among the nearly 6,000 Cornell students who technically constitute the Catholic "parish" at Cornell. A large number of these active parish members were involved in the sit-ins and mass arrests at shantytown, Father Mahler says, noting that most of these are "responsible, committed students" who "are taking their action out of a faith commitment."

"Some of our students have been very active," he says, citing in particular the parish's newest member, Richard Ryan, who was baptized into the Catholic Church in ceremonies the Saturday following Easter by Bishop Matthew H. Clark.

Ryan's involvement with the legal aspects of the movement is "what you call being filled with the Holy Spirit in baptism," Father Mahler says.

Although he holds the record for the highest number of arrests at the protests, Ryan is not a resident of Shantytown but is a member of the steering committee of the Cornell Divestment Committee. His specific role is that of legal coordinator, designing

strategies to maintain the presence of Shantytown in the face of university efforts to demolish it.

Ryan says the encampment has gained "almost a spiritual significance, almost the quality of a shrine." Through all of the conflict with the university, Ryan says, "we've had this one place, Shantytown, where people can always go for information."

Ryan says he became a Catholic because of his political activism, not the other way around. "It was not Catholic values that led me to become an activist ... but a spirit of political activism that led me to become a Catholic."

While living in Texas, he had worked with Catholics involved in sanctuary efforts for Latin and South American refugees. There, he was inspired by "the workers' devotion to spirituality." Also, at the University of Texas, Ryan was influenced by the social activism of Professor Tom Thilpott, whom Ryan describes as a "cradle Irish Catholic." To Thilpott, Ryan says, "the person of Christ was connected with suffering in the world," and urged action to end those sufferings.

Ryan says he had been interested in Christianity and the Catholic Church for many years and entered the catechumenate program, leading up to baptism at Easter. He was recently elected to serve on the Catholic Parish Council at Cornell.

Ryan calls himself a traditionalist whose activism is tied to the conservative values of Catholicism: "This is where Catholicism becomes so important," he says. "It's a moral imperative that you can't go beyond a certain point of debate — it's wrong. On an instinctive moral level, you recognize investment in South Africa as repugnant, just as you recognize abortion as repugnant."

In the divestment movement, he says, "in a very real way, the values you are espousing are traditional values — social welfare, concern for the lives of others, etc."

"The situation in South Africa is so appalling," he notes, "the rules of natural law and spiritual values are so violated."

Ryan says that the time for change in South Africa is now, that there is universal condemnation of the apartheid policies of that country, and that the U.S. policy of "constructive engagement" is not working.

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The Countdown Begins For Spirit Alive!

Spirit Alive is approaching ... and the word is out that the day promises fun for all. Late last week, several members of the Spirit Alive committee grouped together and staged a "phone-a-thon" to spread the word of Spirit Alive by phone.

Committee members called parish contacts, priests and Human Development Committee people to follow up on Spirit Alive materials sent out in the mail. Callers tried to get an idea of the level of parish enthusiasm and expectations of attendance for Spirit Alive.

"Most of the people I talked to have tried to make their parishes aware of and excited about Spirit Alive, and seemed very positive about it," said volunteer Andie Levy.

"I think people are really talking about it at this point," said committee member Mary Cronin. "The calls I've made were very encouraging, and people seem to be looking forward to the day."

Spirit Alive, a diocesan festival, will take place on Saturday, June 8 at St. John Fisher College, 3690 East Avenue, Rochester. The procession/parade begins at 10 a.m. with liturgy at 11 a.m. and a picnic at noon. Entertainers are needed for Spirit Alive; beverages will be available. Bring your own picnic.

St. John Fisher is off the Rt. 31F exit of Rt. 390. For more information, contact the Diocesan Communications Office at (716)328-3210.