

# COURIER-JOURNAL

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Jeff Goulding/Courier-Journal

Jubilant Mooney softball players embrace each other after capturing their first AA trophy Friday evening, May 7. For more, see Page 6.

## 'Segundo Encuentro' Adopts Local Delegates' Proposals

By Teresa A. Parsons

Social justice and youth programs were two priorities Rochester-area delegates brought to Philadelphia last weekend as participants in the Segundo Encuentro Regional. The gathering of more than 300 Hispanic delegates from 27 dioceses in the northeastern United States continued preparations for August's national convention in Washington, D.C. "Tercer Encuentro" will mark the completion of recommendations on Hispanic ministry to be presented to the National Conference of Catholic Bishops.

Local delegates who attended the encuentro at LaSalle University, Thursday, May 30, through Tuesday, June 2, included Father John Mulligan, director of the diocesan Division of Urban Services; Brother Luis

Ruberte, director of the Spanish Apostolate; Angel Rivera, associate director of the apostolate; Deacon Carlos Vargas; Sister Juventina Garcia; and Evelyn DeJesus.

Following colorful opening ceremonies on the first evening were two days of morning and evening sessions to form proposals in five areas: education, youth, social justice, leadership and evangelization. These resolutions will be consolidated with others during the national encuentro in Washington. The Segundo Encuentro closed on Sunday with final discussion and a Eucharistic celebration.

Chief concerns expressed in Philadelphia were for greater responsibility for Hispanic church leaders, more funding for youth programs and diocesan Catholic school

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## Charities' Exec Praises Change, Urges Advocacy

By Teresa A. Parsons

Describing himself as a "victim of Roman Catholicism," Father Thomas J. Harvey remembered how he used to think in his seminary days that becoming a priest meant the road to heaven was downhill the rest of the way. But the "real world" intruded rudely upon him when he found himself part of a team ministry to a Pittsburgh parish torn apart by the riots of 1968.

In an address to the annual meeting of the Catholic Family Center on Tuesday, June 4 titled "Undergoing Changes While Keeping Your Identity," Father Harvey related how a volunteer social worker brought his team a better understanding of the neighborhood they served.

During a children's liturgy in which the parable of the Prodigal Son was the gospel reading, a colleague asked the children to identify the "good guy and the bad guy." Neither his coworker nor the other team members could understand the youngsters' insistence that the father was the bad guy until the social worker noted that the majority of them were supported by single mothers.

"Be a leaven within the Church to speak back to it so that those in the pulpits see the world as it is," Father Harvey urged his audience. Just as Catholic Charities' predecessors St. Vincent de Paul and Louise de Marillac established minimum standards of food and shelter as rights in the 17th century, he said, today's Church must identify emerging needs of our society's most vulnerable people. In particular, he cited growing populations of the very old and lonely people of all ages, isolated by changing communities, for whom there is no history to draw upon.

Remaining current in a changing society requires constant questioning, he continued.

"It is a point of stability to be a questioning group...charities need the same openness...as Christ showed to his disciples when He asked 'Who do they say I am?'"

"When major change hits us, we become questioning people, and when radical change hits us, we become radically questioning people," Father Harvey added, noting Christ's concern for establishing His identity to those He came to serve.

Today's version of bringing the Good News to the poor, he said, lies in becoming bridge-builders between rich and poor, the educated and the deprived, those in control of their lives and those who have lost control.

Father Harvey has served as executive director of the National Conference of Catholic Charities in Washington since 1982. Prior to that appointment, he was assistant director for Catholic Charities in Pittsburgh for eight years. During that time he was active in parish social ministry and developed a coalition to meet the needs of the unemployed.

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The Aquinas Institute Marching Band leads the Spirit Alive parade through the campus of St. John Fisher College. For story and more photos, see Page 5.