

COURIER-JOURNAL

Newspaper of the Diocese of Rochester

Thursday, December 12, 1985

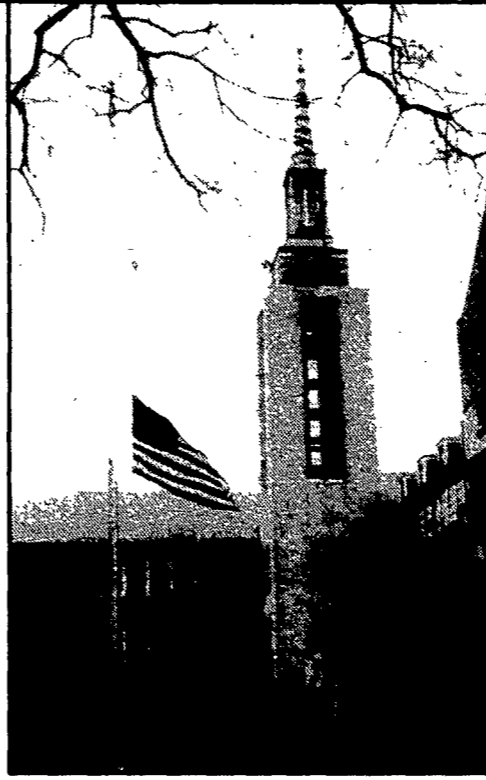
20 Pages 35 Cents

COURIER-JOURNAL/CATHOLIC
CHARITIES CHRISTMAS APPEAL
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In mourning

The flag on the campus of St. John Fisher College flew at half staff, Saturday, December 7, as the funeral procession of Father Charles J. Lavery, the college's former president and chancellor, passed on its way from St. Louis Church, Pittsford. At the Holy Sepulchre gravesite, below, Margaret Howe kissed Father Lavery's coffin in a final farewell. For more, see Page 5. (Photos: Jeff Goulding/Courier-Journal)



Filipinos claim self-defense in death of missionary

Kidapawan, Philippines (NC) — The attorney for eight defendants accused of murdering an Italian missionary priest has claimed his clients acted in self-defense.

He made the claim during a bail hearing in late November in Kidapawan, Philippines. The hearing was postponed until Dec. 26, and a trial date was set for Jan. 9.

Edilberto Manero and his brother, Norberto, are among those accused of killing Father Tullio Favali, a member of the Pontifical Institute for Foreign Missions. Father Favali was machine-gunned April 11 in Tulunan, Philippines, while on a pastoral visit.

The attorney said the priest had a knife hidden behind his back. He also claimed his clients were innocent since the priest's mother in Italy forgave them and would not have if she thought they were guilty.

The prosecution countered that forgiveness presumes guilt.

Prosecution witness Reynaldo Deocades testified that he saw Edilberto shoot the priest in the head at close range with an automatic rifle.

Deocades owns the restaurant in front of which the priest was killed.

The witness said when he saw Father Favali walk toward the Manero brothers just before the shooting, the priest's hands were empty.

The hearing was suspended Nov. 22 when Arsenio "Jun" Villamor, secretary of the mayor of Tulunan, failed to appear. Deocades and another witness identified Villamor as the mastermind of a plan that ended with the priest's death.

According to Deocades and Bantolo, eight local members of a paramilitary group, the

Civilian Home Defense Force, met that morning in the restaurant and planned a shootout by the river. The shootout was to have been between some of the defendants and people they claimed were supporters of the communist-led New People's Army.

The two testified that Villamor was the main plotter and that the hit list included an American priest, Father Peter Geremia, Father Favali's parish assistant and a member of the same order.

Deocades told the court Oct. 4 that some murder trial defense witnesses are living with Bishop Orlando Quevedo of Kidapawan because they fear they will be killed if they stay in their homes.

Bishop Quevedo said in a recent interview that people feared the rebels and the government. He also said his priests were deeply divided into pro-New Peoples Army and pro-government factions.

51 Mr. and Mrs. R. are senior citizens living on a small Social Security income. Because of a small increase in her check, Mrs. R. became ineligible for Medicaid and had to start paying for Blue Cross/Blue Shield. This has put a tremendous strain on the couple's budget.

52 G. is a young mother with two small children. She was recently thrown out by her husband. She is struggling to find a decent home for herself and her children. During this time of emotional upheaval, G. has needed a lot of support, both personal and financial.

53 Mr. and Mrs. L. are an independent older couple living in a rural community. When Mr. L. had a heart attack, he was scarcely able to pay the regular bills with his compensation check. Travel expenses to his doctor were impossible without some help.

54 Mrs. C. lives alone on a limited income. When she moved to a less expensive apartment, the water bill from her previous residence followed her. There was nothing in her already tight budget to pay it, so she came for help.

55 Mr. A. had to move his wife and two small children to a new location so he could look for a job. He quickly found work, but he needed help to house his family until his first check arrived.

56 T. is a young woman who has been unable to hold a job because of an unmanageable seizure disorder. She had moved from her parents' home because of abusive conditions, and required some help while awaiting her public assistance check.

57 Mr. S. was an irregular worker, and his wife struggled continuously to manage expenses for the family. Mr. S. recently left his wife and four children, and at the same time the landlord raised the rent. Without help, Mrs. S. would have been evicted.

58 The seven-year-old child in the D. family was hit by a truck and seriously injured. One week later, the family's home burned to the ground. Insurances paid most of the expenses, but the family was unable to manage the cost for the child to travel to the distant hospital for treatment.

59 Mr. and Mrs. M. are a young couple with small children. Mr. M. was injured at work, and his compensation case is still pending. Mrs. M. had to quit her part-time job before her last baby was born. The oldest child began school in September, and there was no money to buy her clothes or other necessities.

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Inside

Working

Students at Our Lady of Mercy High School presented the musical adaptation of Studs Terkel's book "Working," reflections by a variety of people on the work they do—Page 8.

Extraordinary Synod

The extraordinary Synod of Bishops, which concluded Sunday, Dec. 8, emphasized the successes of Vatican II reforms and illustrated what Pope John Paul II called "the variety in unity" of the Church—Pages 9-12.

Calendar

Check the Courier-Journal's weekly calendar for holiday events around the diocese, from prayer services to craft sales—Page 15.