



Whose mission is it?

The Urban School Study points to serious concerns about education and evangelization in inner-city schools. Who will carry the burden for maintaining Catholic education in the city? Story on Page 4.



Gearing Up

As the national holiday in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King approaches, the diocese urges celebration of his birthday, and local parishes plan a variety of events to commemorate the occasion. Story on Page 6.

COURIER-JOURNAL

Catholic Diocese of Rochester

35 Cents

Thursday, January 9, 1986

20 Pages

World & Nation in Brief from NC News

World

Vatican City (NC) — Pope John Paul II plans to visit a monument to Indian independence leader Mahatma Gandhi and tour a Calcutta aid center run by Mother Teresa's Missionaries of Charity during his Jan. 31-Feb. 10 trip to India, the Vatican announced Jan. 3. Pope John Paul plans to visit 14 cities, stopping longest in the capital, New Delhi.

(Undated) (NC) — Jesuit Father Renato Hevia said Jan. 3 in a telephone interview with National Catholic News Service that he believes the Chilean government made a big mistake when it tried to stop him from publishing Mensaje, a magazine run by Chile's Jesuits which is often critical of government policies.

Vatican City (NC) — A special papal envoy met Iraqi President Saddam Hussein before returning to Rome following the second leg of a visit to prisoners of war in Iran and Iraq, the Vatican announced Jan. 4. The Vatican did not say what was discussed at the meeting. "As he did in the preceding days in Iran, the papal envoy visited prisoners of war and brought them the encouragement and comfort of the Holy Father," said the Vatican.

Nation

New York (NC) — New York Mayor Edward Koch said he has agreed to help Mother Teresa find a farm for AIDS victims and seek release of more terminally ill prisoners to her care. Mother Teresa, founder of the Missionaries of Charity and winner of the 1979 Nobel Peace Prize for her work among the poor, made the requests in a meeting with Koch the first business day of the new year. Koch said afterward that he was "going to make a request publicly of people who have farms, estates" to lease or lend them to Mother Teresa.

Sacramento, Cal. (NC) — A new Medi-Cal pilot health-care project has sparked some controversy and concern whether Catholic hospitals in California can continue serving qualified recipients without providing abortion services. At issue are hundreds of millions of state and federal dollars which, if lost, could significantly affect the operations of Catholic facilities and possibly even force some to close.

New York (NC) — Cardinal John J. O'Connor of New York hopes to visit Lebanon sometime in January, according to an archdiocesan spokesman, but no date had been set. Cardinal O'Connor is chairman of the U.S. Catholic Conference Social Development and World Peace Committee and president of the Catholic Near East Welfare Association.

Chicago (NC) — The National Coalition of American Nuns has called for "retired and zealous Catholic bishops" to begin ordaining women priests. Retired bishops "have nothing to lose," the Chicago-based group said in a front-page editorial in the January edition of its monthly newsletter. NCAN says it has about 2,000 members.

Playback '85: Reviewing the local scene

Within the Diocese of Rochester, 1985 was marked by anniversaries of all sorts, by attempts at planning on a large scale and by evaluation. Look back with us as we review the major events of the last 12 months.

January

WHILE 1985 BEGAN with an abortion clinic explosion in Washington, D.C., tempers were a good deal calmer in the Diocese of Rochester. Area Catholics came from as far away as Piffard and Avon every Saturday morning to picket the Doctors' Office Building at 220 Alexander St. Two years earlier, the group had picketed a Hudson Avenue abortion facility that eventually closed its doors in May, 1983.

ALSO IN JANUARY, the Ministerial Review Committee warned members of the Diocesan Pastoral Council that the dwindling numbers of priests might have serious consequences for the diocesan budget. As the shortage of priests becomes more acute, MRC Chairman Ron Keller cautioned, the professionals that replace them will have to be properly compensated.

February

IN EARLY FEBRUARY, Bishop Matthew H. Clark convened the first diocesan Commission on Women, in response to a recommendation made by the follow-up task force on "The Fire in the Thornbush," his pioneering 1982 pastoral letter on the role of women in the Church. Bishop Clark said he established the commission in part to assist him in his participation in the U.S. bishops' planned national pastoral on women in the Church.

ON FEBRUARY 14, Father Thomas M. Reddington was killed in an automobile crash at the corner of Rt. 251 and West Bloomfield Road in Mendon. The founder and former pastor of Holy Name of Jesus Church, Father Reddington had served as a Navy chaplain from 1945-1946, and later served as pastor in a number of parishes throughout the diocese.

Continued on Page 9



Synod of Bishops shaped debates of 1985

By Jerry Filteau
NC News Service

Pope John Paul II caught the world by surprise last January when he announced an extraordinary world Synod of Bishops to review the state of the Church 20 years after the Second Vatican Council, and his decision sparked a debate that carried throughout the year.

Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, head of the Vatican's doctrinal congregation, stoked the fires of that debate when "The Ratzinger Report" appeared midyear. The main framework for presynod discussions was set by his comments about a mood of "self-destruction" and "a progressive process of decadence" in the Church after Vatican II.

His criticism of the role of bishops' conferences and negative comments on other aspects of post-conciliar Church life provoked wide discussion in Catholic newspapers and intellectual journals. Many bishops agreed that there was truth in his criticisms but argued for a more optimistic overall view of the state of the Church after the council.

The final document of the synod, Nov. 24-Dec. 8, included elements to watch for future developments:

• A call for a kind of universal catechism or compendium of Church teaching.

• A strong affirmation of bishops' conferences and a "collegial spirit" going beyond an "exclusively juridical" view of collegiality.

• A declaration by the synod that "the signs of our time are in part different from those of the time of the council, with greater problems and anguish" and that this new situation "requires a new and more profound theological reflection."

• A new emphasis on the spiritual renewal called for by Vatican II, with an affirmation of a "tremendous need" for saints today.

In mid-December, Cardinal Silvio Oddi, head of the Vatican's Clergy Congregation, noted that a catechism has been in the works for five years and was about to be presented to the pope.

Catholics did not spend all of 1985 contemplating their Church alone. Events and controversies that involved the Church or its moral and religious concerns spanned a wide spectrum.

The famine in Ethiopia, which claimed thousands more lives despite unprecedented efforts by Catholic Relief Services and other aid agencies, continued to be one of the major humanitarian concerns in the world. CRS received an unprecedented \$50 million

in donations for Ethiopia and other African nations. The Catholic agency was also a target of allegations that it misused funds, but it was cleared of the charges by a committee of bishops named to investigate the issue.

In September-major earthquakes hit Mexico City, and in November a volcanic eruption in Colombia caused a mudslide that destroyed a whole town, killing 20,000 people. In both cases CRS took a lead in disaster aid.

In the U.S. Catholic Church, debate continued most of the year about the first draft of a planned national bishops' pastoral on the economy. It was the main topic of discussion at a meeting of the bishops in Minnesota in June. In October a second draft was released, and the bishops discussed it further when they met in Washington in November. A final draft is due next year, to be debated and voted on next November.

A projected pastoral on women's concerns also drew wide attention in 1985 although a first draft had not yet been issued. The writing committee, headed by Bishop Joseph Imsch of Joliet, Ill., held preliminary hearings in March and August for input from national Catholic women's organizations. In

Continued on Page 12