

Playback '85: Reviewing the local scene

Continued from Page 9

July

ST. JUDE was the focus of local attention in July when the solution to a year-old mystery collided with what many termed a miracle. In February, 1984, \$10,000 in cash was left by an anonymous donor at the foot of St. Jude's statue in St. Jude's Church, Gates. But by the time the donor notified Father John Steger, the pastor, the plain white envelope had disappeared.

On July 14, the mystery was solved when Father Steger learned that Margaret Burke, 37, had taken the money. Burke had found the envelope on the ninth day of a novena to St. Jude and steadfastly claimed that it was a miraculous answer to her prayers. Although police were notified, charges against Burke were later dropped.

ONE OF THE OLDEST churches in the diocese, St. Bridget's in Rochester, celebrated 131 years with a full week of special liturgies celebrating the parish's multicultural heritage, from Irish to Afro-American.

On July 20, St. Bridget's hosted a gospel

music workshop sponsored by St. Vincent DePaul Parish in Churchville.

THE CHURCHVILLE parish also celebrated an anniversary — the 100th of their church building — at an outdoor homecoming Mass July 21. More than 500 families gathered at Churchville park for a rollicking gospel celebration.

August

TO COMMEMORATE the 40th anniversary of the World War II bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Bishop Matthew H. Clark and a crowd of more than 300 celebrated a diocesan Mass for Peace Friday, August 9, at St. Stephen's Church in Geneva.

Nearly 500 people gathered for a peace rally the following day at Sampson State Park. After an interfaith prayer service in the morning, demonstrators braved sweltering temperatures to hike around the perimeter of the Seneca Army Depot, then returned to the park for a rally. Featured speakers included Elizabeth Holtzman, Brooklyn district attorney, and two survivors of the atomic bombings.



AUGUST — Several events — a diocesan Mass for Peace with Bishop Matthew H. Clark, and a march and rally at the Seneca Army Depot — commemorated the 40th anniversary of the dropping of the atomic bomb on Hiroshima and Nagasaki.



JUNE — Members of Nicaraguan Invasion Contingency Action (NICA) staged mock "terrorist acts" throughout the Rochester area to give Americans a sample of what life is like in a war-torn land.



JUNE — Members of the Mooney girls' softball team rejoiced after winning their final game against Hilton, 17-2. The win earned them their first AA softball championship.



JULY — Several diocesan parishes marked anniversaries this year. Among them was St. Vincent DePaul, Churchville, which celebrated its 100th birthday.



AUGUST — Sister Carol Cimino returned from California after winning two of three games on "Jeopardy."

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