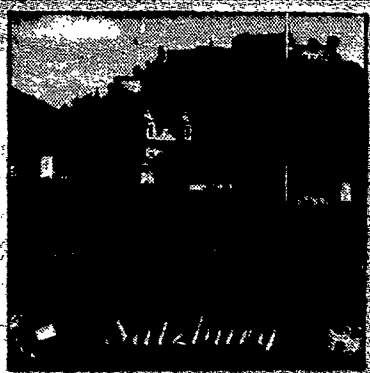




Special help at Holy Cross

Learning disabled students at Holy Cross School no longer have to travel to nearby schools for help with their studies. Story on Page 6.



Avoiding vacation blahs

This week's Echo feature will take you on a sightseeing trip to Germany with members of McQuaid's German Club. Story on page 8.

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World & Nation in Brief from NC News

World

Archbishop made an 'error'

Brescia, Italy (NC) — An Italian archbishop has said he made an "error" in trying to illegally take 30 million lire (about \$17,500) out of Italy to African missions. Archbishop Bruno Foresti of Brescia, who faces charges of attempted illegal exportation, said he was taking money from a special Christmas mission collection personally to the missions because banks were closed for Christmas holiday. Archbishop Foresti and an assistant were arrested Dec. 27 at an airport in Milan, Italy, as they prepared to leave for a two-week visit to African missions.

Editorial accuses Sandinistas

Vatican City (NC) — The Sandinista government is trying to silence the Nicaraguan church as part of its "totalitarian design," said a front-page editorial in the Jan. 26 edition of the Vatican newspaper, L'Osservatore Romano. "A priority objective is the reducing of the church to silence, neutralizing through subtle and insidious means every pastoral action and activity," the editorial said. "The desire is to suffocate the liberty of the church in order to suffocate the liberty of an entire population."

Pope charges media

Vatican City (NC) — People in the media should help turn public opinion against the spreading practices of abortion, divorce and birth control, Pope John Paul II said Jan. 24. The pope said in a World Communications Day message that Christian communicators have a special responsibility to fight for laws that protect the sick, the handicapped and the unborn.

Nation

Mob reaps porn's profits

New York (NC) — Franciscan Father Bruce Ritter, founder of Covenant House and a member of the U.S. Attorney General's Commission on Pornography, said in an interview Jan. 24 that the "tens of millions of God-fearing Americans" who patronize the "sex industry" are "putting money in the pockets of organized crime." And they should know it, he said, or their failure to know is "a deliberately sought ignorance."

Tridentine Masses halted

Syracuse, N.Y. (NC) — Bishop Frank J. Harrison of Syracuse has halted an experiment with Tridentine Masses in his diocese. During discussions which followed the four experimental Tridentine Masses last fall, a number of participants voiced "attacks on the integrity of church officials and on the orthodoxy of church teaching pertaining to the Mass of Pope Paul VI," the bishop said.

Salvadoran refugee finds Tucson trial biased

By Teresa A. Parsons

The trial of 11 sanctuary workers underway in Tucson, Arizona, is weighted heavily against the defendants, according to Salvadoran refugee Alejandro Gomez.

Speaking to members of the Rochester Sanctuary Committee and friends last Wednesday evening at the Downtown United Presbyterian Church, Gomez described his recent experience as the second witness to testify at the trial.

The judge is treated as if he were omnipotent, Gomez said, but not the witnesses or the jury. "Witnesses can't speak about reasons or feelings, just answer yes or no," he added. "The questions were directed at obtaining evidence that would condemn the witnesses."

Alejandro and his wife, Leticia, who are living in sanctuary at a Rochester church, testified for three days before U.S. District Judge Earl Carroll in the Tucson trial of 11 sanctuary workers accused of illegally bringing Salvadoran and Guatemalan refugees into the U.S.

Among the defendants are Sister Darlene Nicgorski, a School Sister of St. Francis from Phoenix, Ariz., and Father Anthony Clark of the Diocese of Davenport, Iowa, who is in residence at Sacred Heart Parish in Nogales, Ariz. Two sanctuary leaders, the Rev. John Fife, pastor of the Southside United Presbyterian Church in Tucson and Quaker activist Jim Corbett are also on trial.

Since the trial began in October, Judge Carroll has maintained that the defendants cannot base their defense on religious or humanitarian motives. Nor will he allow testimony about international law or conditions in El Salvador to be presented to the jury. Judge Carroll ruled Friday, Jan. 17, that the jury could not hear Gomez's testimony about his torture and imprisonment at the hands of rightist factions in El Salvador.

"In the trial they are trying to leave an impression that Latin Americans are dirty ... that the Church is trying to help people who don't deserve help," Gomez said.

"Our position was ... to go there and say the truth," Gomez explained. He and his wife described the conditions in El Salvador that prompted them to leave, including the suffering and the psychological torture they and their four children underwent.

Defense attorneys, meanwhile, requested for the second time January 16 that Judge Carroll disqualify himself. The earlier request was based on a presumed conflict of interest. The latter was based on what they termed a prejudicial remark he made in court Wednesday, Jan. 15. Carroll reportedly said: "I think people from Latin America perhaps have a difficulty in just answering questions 'yes' or 'no' by nature of their personal attitudes."

Gomez agreed with Carroll, saying that by nature he was unwilling to respond with one-word answers. "We are not computers that will say yes or no. We are people who are able to reason," he said. "So every time there was an opportunity to say something, we did."

"The meaning of his (Carroll's) opinion doesn't really interest me a bit," Gomez added.

A coalition of Rochester churches, including Corpus Christi Parish, has offered the Gomez family refuge since 1984.

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Jeff Goulding/Courier-Journal

Alejandro Gomez fielded questions from the audience during a January 22 press conference on his participation in the Tucson, Ariz., sanctuary trials.

Pastors' support increases local participation in march

By Teresa A. Parsons

No one agrees on how many demonstrators attended this year's March for Life in Washington, Wednesday, Jan. 22. Police officials estimate the crowd at 36,000, down from 71,000 last year. Right to Life officials and demonstrators from the Diocese of Rochester dispute that claim, arguing that the 60-degree weather brought out closer to 100,000 people.

If the turnout from the Diocese of Rochester was any indication, the police must be wrong. Nearly 450 people, almost twice as many as in past years, made the trip from such areas as Rochester, Brockport, North Chili, Hamlin, Geneva, Waterloo, Seneca Falls, Auburn, Ithaca and Apalachin.

Two parishes in particular were responsible for the dramatic increase — St. Margaret Mary in Apalachin and St. John of Rochester in Fairport.

Last year, only 15 people from St. John's went to Washington. This year, the parish sent 75, including 31 teenagers who found it a positive experience.

"Sometimes it's very frustrating to openly demonstrate for what I believe in," said high school student Julie Botelho. "But at the

March for Life I found not only the support of other people from the parish but the whole country."

"I really found out how precious life is and how many people care," said Kim Kazmarek, another young marcher.

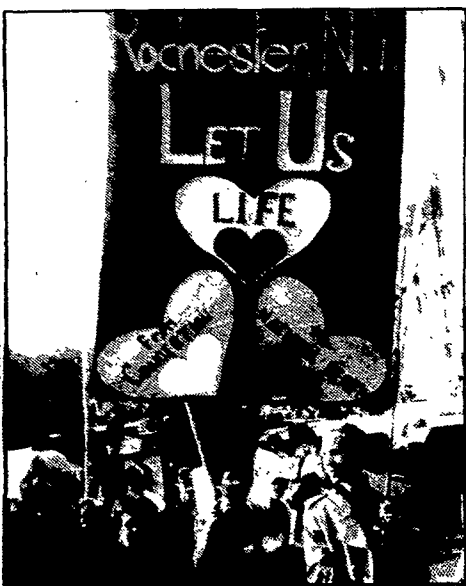
"I hope that I have helped to stop the needless killing," yet another teen added.

The Fairport Knights of Columbus sponsored each parish youth who went to the march by paying half the bus fare to Washington.

The seeds of this year's turnout were planted back in 1984, when the parish was selected by the Legislative Task Force of the now-defunct diocesan Human Life Commission as a model for highlighting life issues. With leadership from such parishioners as George Green, who heads Right to Life in the greater Rochester area, and Phil Brockmeyer, a member of the commission's task force, a six-month series of pro-life events was planned to inform and involve parishioners.

The series got off to an inauspicious start with a September picnic that flopped because of rain. Nevertheless, the picnic raised

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This picture, taken by a representative of St. John of Rochester Parish who participated in the March for Life, shows the beginning of the Rochester delegation.