



**Tried on technicalities**  
Sister Darlene Nicgorski, one of 16 sanctuary workers on trial in Arizona, discusses the case during a local visit. See page 7.



**St. Paddy's Day nears**  
As the traditional Irish gala approaches, the parade committee puts the finishing touches on plans for area residents. See Page 10.

# COURIER-JOURNAL

Catholic Diocese of Rochester

35 Cents

Thursday, March 13, 1986

6 Pages

## World & Nation in Brief from NC News

### World

#### Report cites 'class struggle'

Rome — Some views on the lay ministry, including the notion that all church roles are equal, have led to a "class struggle" between some priests and lay people, a report of the Secular Franciscan order said. The report appeared in the first 1986 "Letter from Rome to the Assistants," the Rome-based publication of the Secular Franciscans. It was written to prepare for the 1987 world Synod of Bishops, which will discuss the vocation and mission of the laity 20 years after the Second Vatican Council. The Secular Franciscans were known as the Third Order of St. Francis. Franciscan Father Benet Fonck, an American and former assistant general to the Secular Franciscans, prepared the report, which also criticized what he called the "over-churching" or "clericalization" of lay ministry.

#### Pope wants to reform Curia

Vatican City — Pope John Paul II has appointed a commission of six cardinals to implement a seven-year effort to reform the Roman Curia, the church's central administrative body. It was the first formal announcement of the existence of the new commission. Its membership was not made public by the Vatican. According to a well-informed Vatican source who asked not to be identified, the new commission will address some basic issues and criticisms about Curia operations raised during a meeting of the College of Cardinals last November.

### Nation

#### Bishop responds to ad

Washington — On the objective moral evil of direct abortion "there is no such thing as legitimate dissent by a Catholic," Bishop James Malone of Youngstown, Ohio, president of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops, said. The chief spokesman for the U.S. bishops said he was making his statement in response to questions raised "because of a recent advertisement in The New York Times." Bishop Malone called abortion "a complex issue" in which there can be some diversity about questions of public policy or pastoral practice.

#### Bishops to accept citation

Washington — The nation's bishops will accept a contempt-of-court citation rather than turn over documents subpoenaed by an abortion rights group seeking to have the Catholic Church's tax exemption revoked, the National Conference of Catholic Bishops announced. Msgr. Daniel F. Hoye, general secretary, said the NCCB and its public policy arm, the U.S. Catholic Conference, would not comply with the subpoena for records of its pro-life activities, finances and related material sought in a lawsuit by Abortion Rights Mobilization.

## TGA shortfall causes diocesan budget cuts

By Teresa A. Parsons

Urban ministry grants, lay volunteer programs and new resource materials are among the areas hit so far by a total of \$255,000 in diocesan budget cuts that are taking effect halfway through this fiscal year.

The cuts, representing slightly more than seven percent of the total diocesan budget, result from the failure of the 1985 Thanks Giving Appeal (TGA) to meet its goal of \$3.5 million. The appeal fell \$400,000 short of that mark.

In late January, Bishop Matthew H. Clark asked division directors for an immediate budget reassessment. Responding to his request, diocesan department heads and division directors evaluated their current programs and recommended possible cuts. Most directors said they focused on reducing operating costs and on better coordination of services, rather than on eliminating programs or staff positions.

Where possible, such diocesan programs as seminars and workshops are being combined on an interparish or inter-regional level. Programs are also being re-evaluated with the aim of making them either self-sufficient or income-producing.

"No department or division is not involved, but the cuts are more apparent in some areas," said Father George Norton, director of communications.

"No staff cuts will be made to my knowledge," he added. But several vacant diocesan positions will not be filled, including those of the director of the Office of Family Life in the Division of Social Ministry, the assistant superintendent for personnel in the Division of Education, and the peace and justice issues coordinator for the Genesee Valley Office of Social Ministry. The responsibilities of those positions will be shouldered by other staff members in each division.

"Someplace along the line some things will not be done as quickly as they were before," Father Norton summarized.

At the Pastoral Center, custodial maintenance will be cut back, as will the number of mailings and the number of trips by staff members to out-of-town meetings and conferences.



#### D.C. Rally

Eleanor C. Smeal (right), president of the National Organization for Women, which sponsored the march, joins in a chant as the procession moves past the White House. For story see page 5.

"I've tried to cut back in ways that will affect parishes only indirectly," said Claude Lester, director of the Office of Parish Services. "I want to be able to maintain the level of personal contact with parishes."

Because of the cuts, Virginia Stanton, consultant for the Southern Tier Office of Religious Education, said she will not purchase new audio-visual or printed re-

source materials this year. "It limits how much I have to offer parishes," she said. "The smaller parishes especially have less of their own resources and have to depend more heavily on our library."

"I would cut materials before I would cut my ability to go out to parishes and present programs," she explained.

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## Father Curran discusses meeting with Congregation

From NC News and other reports

Prominent U.S. theologian Father Charles Curran, a critic of church teachings on sexual ethics, participated in a two-hour "informal meeting" March 8 with Vatican doctrinal congregation officials to discuss "his positions on moral theology," the Vatican announced.

The one-paragraph Vatican announcement, issued March 10, said the meeting was requested by Father Curran. It was not a formal request from the Vatican Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith for him to defend his views, the Vatican said.

Father Curran is a moral theology professor at The Catholic University of

America, Washington. He specializes in moral theology. The university was founded by the U.S. bishops and is under their control.

The Vatican announcement said the meeting was "sincere and useful," but it did not say what specific issues were discussed. The meeting came after "the Congregation had been in correspondence with Father Curran" about his views, the announcement said.

In a Washington, D.C., press conference Tuesday, March 11, Father Curran expressed a willingness to abide by a compromise he had earlier proposed to the Congregation, but insisted "I cannot and do not retract" the position that "dissent from authoritative, noninfallible Church teaching is possible and in certain cases is justified."

An exchange between Father Curran and the Vatican began in July, 1979, when the Congregation informed him that it was investigating some of his theological writings. At that time, the Congregation

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### Noted theologian has roots in Rochester

Father Charles E. Curran, nationally known for his liberal stance on moral theology, was born in Rochester on Good Friday, March 30, 1934.

Determined he was going to be a priest early in his life, he acted on his father's advice and entered St. Andrew's High School preparatory seminary, right after finishing the eighth grade at the Nazareth Hall Cadet School.

Because of his strong academic performance at St. Bernard's seminary in Rochester, Father Curran was sent to Rome to finish his studies for the priesthood at the North American College. He was ordained on July 13, 1958, at the St. Alexis Church in Rome.

Three years later, in 1961, Father Curran received two doctoral degrees in moral theology, one from the Pontifical Gregorian University and the other from

the Accademia Alfonsiana, the graduate school of the Redemptorist Fathers.

In the ensuing four years, he taught Moral Theology and Canon Law at St. Bernard's Seminary in Rochester.

The author of 16 books and numerous articles dealing with questions of moral theology, Father Curran was appointed assistant professor at Catholic University in Washington, D.C., in September, 1965. Since then, he has advanced to the rank of professor (1972) and has also served as a senior research scholar at the Kennedy Center of Bioethics at Georgetown University.

In 1972, the Catholic Theological Society of America named him the first recipient of the John Courtney Murray Award for Distinguished Achievement in Theology. Currently, Father Curran serves as treasurer of the American Theological Society.

For the statement of Bishop Matthew H. Clark on Father Curran's case, see Page 14.