



## A ministry of faith

The Covenant Players presented their 'sermons through drama' in a recent visit to St. Michael's Church in Newark. See Page 7.



## Curran debate persists

Father Charles Curran continues to gather both support and criticism over the 'right' to theological dissent. See Page 8.

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## World & Nation in Brief from NC News

### World

#### Vatican may publish budget

Vatican City (NC) — Vatican officials are hoping to publish "as soon as possible" a complete set of budget figures which "is acceptable to the public and which does not put into doubt the credibility of the Vatican," said Cardinal Giuseppe Caprio, the official responsible for preparing the annual Vatican budget.

The Vatican has been publishing partial budget figures since 1979 but has never published a full budget listing all sources of income and expenses.

#### Competition in ministry

Rome (NC) — A sense of competition between priests and nuns for ministries is one of the tensions impeding the church's work, a U.S. sister told Religious and Vatican officials. "Collaboration, not competition, is the call of our times," said Divine Providence Sister Charlene Wedelich March 12 at the 20th assembly of the U.S. Conference of Vicars for Religious.

"Religious do not want to compete with the clergy but to collaborate with them, to free them for priestly functions which only they can perform," she said.

### Nation

#### Sanctuary defense rests case

Tucson, Ariz. (NC) — The defense in the smuggling conspiracy trial of 11 sanctuary movement workers rested its case March 14 without presenting any witnesses because "the prosecution presented our case," said attorney Robert Hirsch. James Rayburn, chief Immigration and Naturalization Service agent on the case, was on the witness stand when the defense rested its case. Rayburn was to be the first defense witness.

Defense lawyers said after the court session March 14 that the government's case has serious flaws and cited repeated contradictions in the testimony of the prosecution's main witness.

#### Women excluded from rite

Pittsburgh (NC) — Bishop Anthony Bevilacqua of Pittsburgh has informed the priests of his diocese that women cannot be included in the traditional Holy Thursday washing of the feet, the symbolic re-enactment of Christ's action at the Last Supper.

After several groups in the diocese criticized the order, Bishop Bevilacqua apologized for the stir but stood by his position.

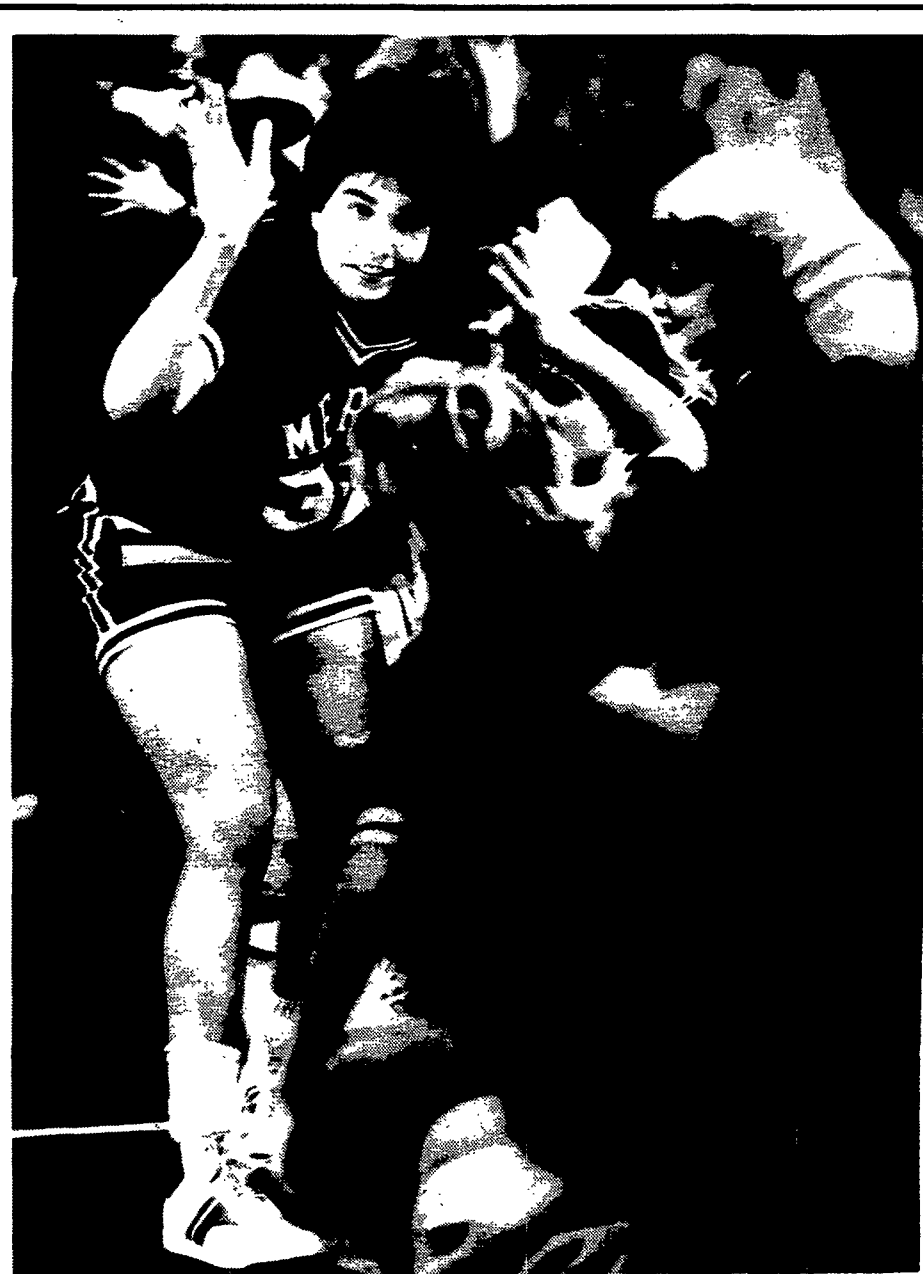
The bishop suggested that parishes might consider "other forms or gestures which will express the concept of universal Christian service and at the same time allow for the participation of all the members of the community."

#### Average seminarian older

Washington (NC) — Catholic seminarians in graduate studies are considerably older today than their counterparts were in the 1960s, said a research report released in March.

The new research report, "Seminarians in Theology: A National Profile," said that a 1966 survey found only 7 percent of the nation's theology-level seminarians were 31 or older. By 1984, the survey year for the new study, that figure had jumped to 30 percent.

One commentator called the age shift "radical," and another said it could involve significant changes in how seminaries approach formation for the priesthood.



Jeff Goulding/Courier-Journal

## High hopes dashed

Mercy center Colleen Sheehey gives a "high five" to a teammate after Mercy's girls' basketball team captured the Section 5 AA championship in a game against Rush-Henrietta on Wednesday, March 12. The Mercy Monarchs lost to Lockport in the Far-Western Regionals. For more on Mercy as well as DeSales girls' basketball, see Page 10.

## Diocese beset by liability insurance crisis

By Teresa A. Parsons

This year, St. Stanislaus Parish in Bradford has been forced to allocate 8 percent of its whole budget to pay for liability and property insurance payments. Those payments were up 75 percent from last year, according to the pastor, Father Gerard O'Connor.

Fortunately, Father O'Connor doesn't worry about money as a rule. "It's God's parish and He'll take care of it," he said.

But an insurance company was responsible for taking care of a fire at the church three years ago. For that reason, Father O'Connor and many fellow pastors and business managers are convinced that the insurance coverage is a must, regardless of the cost.

Churches and church-sponsored agencies are among the newest victims of the liability insurance crisis, which has left hospitals, doctors, municipalities and day care centers screaming for relief.

This year, the Diocese of Rochester paid more than \$1.12 million in premiums for property and liability insurance coverage this year, an increase of more than 112 percent. Simultaneously, excess liability insurance coverage was reduced by 40 percent, from \$25 to \$15 million dollars, and the loss reserve or deductible amount paid by the diocese rose 23 percent.

Other dioceses throughout New York state and across the country face a similar dilemma. The Diocese of Syracuse paid 85 percent more for 50 percent less coverage. In the Albany and Ogdensburg dioceses, premiums rose 66 and 60 percent respectively, and cuts were equally dramatic.

Parish billing shot up 64 percent across the diocese as a result. St. Alphonsus Parish in Auburn paid \$6,000 more this year, up 75 percent. The bill at St. Michael's in Penn Yan went from \$8,500 last year to \$15,000 this year. St. John the Evangelist in Spencerport paid 78 percent more.

"We're still trying to pay it off," said Ken Baert, a parish finance committee member at St. John's. "The way the courts are giving these exorbitant amounts of damages, you have to have it."

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## Schools 'did their best' with Chapter I

By Teresa A. Parsons

When the last class bell rings in June, principals of Chapter I-designated Catholic schools all over the diocese and the country will sigh with relief. Joining them will be administrators of private schools as well as public school Chapter I directors. All of them are likely to long remember the chaos and confusion provided during the 1985/86 school year by the U.S. Supreme Court.

When the court ruled last summer in Aguilar vs. Felton that remedial teachers paid by Chapter I federal funds could no longer hold classes in private or parochial schools, officials on both sides were left scrambling with only two months to implement the decision.

The scramble produced mixed results in the Diocese of Rochester.

At St. Mary's in Waterloo, a bus was rented by a volunteer and parked near the school to serve as a neutral site. "We're grateful for the service we do have," said Sister Catherine Judge. "It's better than what some schools have to work with."

In Canandaigua, Chapter I students continue their 10-minute walk each way to a neutral site. In Geneva, a dispute continues over who will pay for a crossing guard to supervise students on their way to a neutral

site.

Children from Guardian Angels and Good Shepherd in Henrietta schools are being bused after school to one of three different public school sites, depending on grade level. But of 18 eligible students, five have dropped out of the program. "The extended day is just too difficult, especially for first-graders," said Sister Barbara Kuhn, principal.

Meanwhile, nearly a dozen students from the two schools were deemed ineligible for remedial services because they do not live in areas designated by Chapter I. Teachers at Guardian Angels and Good Shepherd have since volunteered their time after school to provide those students with remedial help. Although she would like to eliminate those extra demands on teachers next year, Sister Barbara doesn't foresee any alternative.

"We're just trying to do the best we can in a difficult situation," she said. "This year, things worked out better than I anticipated, but it was still disappointing."

In Auburn, Sister M. Felicia, principal of St. Hyacinth School, has reached the most satisfactory solution she believes is possible under the circumstances. Last November, Auburn City School District officials finally agreed to bus her Chapter I students to a

neutral site. Earlier in the fall, nearly 20 students from St. Hyacinth were walking three-tenths of a mile each way to a public school for remedial classes because the city's busing limit is three-quarters of a mile.

"I feel it's so much safer, especially once the weather turned bad," Sister Felicia said. "But the children are still gone for 40 or 50 minutes and the rest of the class has to keep moving on, so they're still missing things."

Although James McAuliffe, diocesan assistant superintendent for public affairs credited most of the public school districts in the diocese with doing their best under difficult circumstances, implementation of the ruling has put Catholic schools at a clear and consistent disadvantage.

Financially, diocesan parochial school students were at a disadvantage because most remedial programs didn't begin on schedule. As a result, some of the money allocated to those Chapter I students is unspent. Parochial school officials have been assured that those funds will be placed in escrow for next year, McAuliffe said.

Whether the remediation takes place before, during or after school hours, requiring Catholic school students to go to another school building is unfair, he noted. They can

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