



Light of Christian life

Representatives of parishes throughout the diocese attended the annual Chrism Mass celebrated by Bishop Matthew H. Clark. See Page 4.



Easter parade

The Easter Bunny made an appearance at St. Boniface's Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday to the delight of about 200 children. See Page 10.

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World & Nation in Brief from NC News

World

Vatican plans for Lebanon?

Beirut, Lebanon — A papal envoy's recent visit to Lebanon has left a wake of predictions that the Vatican is preparing to take leadership of the strife-torn Lebanese Christian community, the information arm of the Lebanese Catholic bishops' conference said. Reactions from Christians and Moslems to the March 8-13 trip of Archbishop Achille Silvestrini were mixed. Lebanon's Moslem prime minister Rasheed Karamah called the trip a failure because of "inter-Christian divergences."

Brazilian bishops to meet

Sao Paulo, Brazil — The Vatican's new document on liberation theology and Brazil's imminent constitutional reform are expected to be key issues when the Brazilian bishops' conference meets in April. More than 300 of Brazil's 357 bishops are expected to attend the April 9-18 meeting. The theme of the meeting is "Christian Demands of a New Constitution."

Bulgarians, Turks released

Rome (NC) — An Italian court has released three Bulgarians and three Turks accused of complicity in the 1981 shooting of Pope John Paul II, saying there was "insufficient proof" of their involvement. The March 29 verdict of "not proven," an Italian legal formula that falls short of full acquittal, left some doubt about whether or not there was an international plot to shoot the pope. The prosecutor, Antonio Marini, said he would appeal the verdict in the case of the Turks, but would not contest the acquittals for the Bulgarians. Attorneys for all the defendants said they would appeal for full acquittals.

Nation

Church, state face off

Washington — The State of Ohio March 26 told the U.S. Supreme Court that government has the right to enforce civil rights laws against a religious school accused of sex discrimination. But an attorney for Dayton Christian Schools said state intervention "makes the religious institution (participate) in breaching its own doctrine." The case pits the Ohio Civil Rights Commission against the fundamentalist Dayton school system, whose teachings include using a "biblical chain of command" to resolve disputes internally and the belief mothers belong at home with their children.

Pastoral on women begun

Washington — A committee of U.S. bishops has begun writing the first draft of a "pastoral response" to the concerns of Catholic women, the National Conference of Catholic Bishops announced March 27. The project, organized in 1983, has 1988 as its target date for completion. The planned document will have to confront such controversial issues as sexism, women's ordination, and abortion, birth control and sexual preference, said Sister Mariella Frye, staff aide to the bishops' drafting committee.



Jeff Goulding/Courier-Journal

Living Stations at Mt. Carmel

Mary, played by Maria Martell of St. Michael's Parish, Rochester, cradles Christ, played by Ramon Perez of Mt. Carmel, in her arms. For more on the Living Stations at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church, see Pages 8 and 9.

Vigil marks a beginning for 'fledgling' Catholics

By Teresa A. Parsons

Christians are made, not born, it is said. Last Saturday evening, the creation of hundreds of Catholic Christians was celebrated around the diocese in the Easter Vigil — the highlight of the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA).

"It was the greatest night of my life," said Norma Anne Hutchison, who was among 13 people initiated at St. John the Evangelist Parish in Greece. "I feel I've really made an achievement." Hutchison, 26, was baptized and confirmed and received Eucharist for the first time Saturday evening.

Although it is not the end of the RCIA process, the Easter Vigil certainly marks the climax of what is for some people more than a year of intensive preparation. On Holy Saturday, candidates (those who receive sacraments other than baptism) and the elect (previously unbaptized persons who have been "elected" by the bishop during Lent) are received into the Roman Catholic Church before the whole community. They are then

called neophytes, or fledgling Catholics.

Ever since childhood, Hutchison said, she had attended Mass with her sister, who is Catholic. "Being baptized was something I always wanted to do," she said. "I just called St. John's — at the time I knew nothing about the RCIA."

From Easter to Pentecost, a period termed "mystagogia," the neophytes will continue to meet, strengthening and deepening their understanding of faith, the Mass and the sacraments. The formal RCIA process concludes after Pentecost, usually with another celebration.

"I'll miss the classes," Hutchison said. "But we will be getting together every so often to talk about our experiences and to keep that relationship with each other."

Like Hutchison, many RCIA participants were drawn to the Church by attending Mass with relatives, spouses or friends who are Catholic.

His late father, a friendly pastor and an encouraging girlfriend were the influences

Budget cuts threaten young adult ministry

By Teresa A. Parsons

Budget cuts may undo five years of hard work and steady growth for young adult ministry in the diocese.

At least that's what members of the Commission on Young Adult Ministry fear since learning last week that no one will be hired to replace Karen Rinefield, the coordinator of the commission. Rinefield resigned in January.

"We've always had low visibility, but without a coordinator our visibility will be even lower," said Maureen Schnorr, a member of the four-year-old commission. "My concern is that people will hear that the coordinator's position is gone and assume that young adult ministry is gone as well."

Commission members are simultaneously facing the possible elimination of *Focus*, the diocesan young adult newsletter.

"That scares me even more than losing the coordinator," said Schnorr. "We'll still function as a commission, at least for a year, without a coordinator ... but losing *Focus*, even for a year, would really set us back. It's our only means of reaching young adults and helping them know what's going on. Most of the people who come to any event we sponsor get *Focus*."

"If the people on the commission stay, they will be really frustrated if we don't get the support back at the end of a year," Schnorr added. "And because they are all volunteers, they will definitely burn out over time."

Since it was established more than two years ago, *Focus* has been the primary means of communication for people between 18-35 — estimated to be one of the largest and least-tapped groups of Roman Catholics in the diocese.

The young adult newsletter has been included in a general memorandum on diocesan ministry groups' newsletters, according to Father George Norton, director of communications, who said a diocesan committee has been appointed to study a possible consolidation of the publications. Father Norton cited budget concerns and a duplication of information as the reasons consolidation is being considered.

"There's a consensus among the directors that it wouldn't be a bad thing for everyone from specific constituencies to be exposed to the general news of the diocese," Father Norton said.

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William Schreiber, 22, cited for his decision to join the RCIA at St. Joseph's Parish, Rush. "It was just a wanting from years back," he said. "My father was a Catholic and belonged to that parish, and my girlfriend goes to the parish down in Avon. She told me Father O'Connell was nice and easy to talk to, so I called him up and he said the class was just starting."

In fact, the program was just starting as well, and RCIA coordinator Judy Clark said she had to "stop evangelizing at 14 participants."

"It's gone very well. It's totally new to the majority of the parish and we had to do a lot of educating just in terms of vocabulary and the dynamics of the process," Clark said. "Some people were really caught up and touched by it, and others still see it as a program rather than an experience of lived faith."

Hunger for the Eucharist was what convinced Auburn resident Wendy Ferro, 34, to

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