



Future leaders

Campuses have outgrown the stereotypes of the 1960s and 1970s and so have campus faith communities. At Ithaca College, students learn leadership by running their own parish. See Page 4.



Sensational sophs

Thanks mainly to a dynamic duo of sophomores, the Nazareth Academy girls' softball team rattled the Lady Kings of Bishop Kearney in a Private-Parochial League showdown. See page 7.

COURIER-JOURNAL

Catholic Diocese of Rochester

35 Cents

Thursday, May 29, 1986

16 Pages

World & Nation in Brief from NC News

World

Italy investigating Opus Dei

Rome — Italian authorities are investigating allegations that Opus Dei, the international Catholic organization, violates laws against secret societies, an Italian newspaper reported. The investigation was initiated in March, the Turin newspaper La Stampa said May 23. An Opus Dei spokesman in Rome, Giuseppe Corigliano, said he knew nothing about an investigation. Recently several Italian parliamentarians have requested an investigation into Opus Dei's bylaws and structural makeup, alleging that Opus Dei pledges its members to strict secrecy about the organization's activities.

Two ad signers in jeopardy

Vatican City — By their position on abortion, Notre Dame de Namur Sisters Barbara Ferraro and Patricia Hussey "are putting themselves out" of their order, said a Vatican official familiar with the controversy. The two are the only women religious involved in a lengthy abortion controversy who have maintained their positions on the doctrinal issue, said the source, who asked not to be named. The source commented after the two U.S. nuns, who are co-directors of a day shelter for the homeless in Charleston, W. Va., said they have told the Vatican that they support a "woman's right to choose" abortion.

Bishops to speak out for poor

New York — Haiti's Catholic bishops are determined to help their people keep new-found political freedom and will "speak out for the poor no matter what it may cost," said Bishop Emmanuel Constant of Les Gonaives, Haiti. Bishop Constant was in New York in May for the fourth annual conference of priests and laity who minister to the estimated 800,000 to 1 million Haitians living in the United States. Haiti's current junta "is acting somewhat passively in instituting reforms," the bishop said. "That is why we do not hesitate to recommend a housecleaning of all ministers in government who can't carry out the changes necessary."

Nation

Milwaukee begins divestment

Milwaukee — The Milwaukee Archdiocese is divesting itself from holdings valued at \$700,000 in four U.S. companies that have not signed the Sullivan Principles, a set of economic standards for companies operating in South Africa. The companies include Perkin Elmer Corp. of Norwalk, Conn., Air Products and Chemicals Inc. of Allentown, Pa., GTE Corp. of Stamford, Conn., and Ogilvy Group of New York.

Council issues new policy

New Orleans — The National Council of Churches has adopted a new policy statement on public elementary and secondary education that gives primary attention to values. Adopted by the council's governing board May 22 in New Orleans, the statement said "the schools must offer not only a body of knowledge, but also the tools of thinking and interpretation which allow learners to reflect on their values and the values of the larger society, and to bring those values to bear in the quest for knowledge."



A tribute to a veteran

Iva Leone of St. Vincent de Paul Parish, Churchville, pauses to say a prayer beside her son's grave. She and her husband, George, placed a wreath alongside a flag, which veterans had placed a week earlier.

Jeff Goulding/Courier-Journal

Hands Across America

Gates parish youth group stretches an extra mile

For members of the senior high youth group from St. Helen's Parish, Hands Across America was something like the miracle of the loaves and fishes.

Thirty-eight parents and young people arrived at their assigned segment in Gaithersburg, Md., about 25 miles north of Washington, D.C., at about noon on Sunday. That's when they learned that they were responsible for filling a full mile, which organizers said took an average of 1,320 people.

"I hope the kids won't be too disappointed," one organizer told David Whalley, who came with his wife, Pat, and son, Danny.

"But they didn't have time for disappointment; they had work to do.

"We sent 'em out to haul people off the street," Whalley said. "They waved cars down with signs and T-shirts, yelling 'We need your hands!' They went to nearby homes and knocked on doors. Some people went home and got their families to come back and stand in line."

And by 3 p.m., when people across the country joined hands, singing three songs and to show their concern for the nation's hungry

and homeless, the youth group from St. Helen's had somehow filled their mile.

"The highlight for me personally was when I could look down this road in both directions and see people as far as the eye could see when an hour before there were only 38 of us," said Father Dennis Sewar, a priest intern at St. Helen's who helped organize the trip. "There were no gaps in the line."

"It was just an indescribable feeling when we joined hands," Whalley said. "You realized you were part of a group and whether or not it went across the country without gaps wasn't really important. It was kind of an eerie feeling."

The kids recruited television cameramen, a man in a tuxedo and a man with a boa constrictor to join the line. They stopped a woman on her way to the grocery store and a man on his way to a job interview. "It'll only take 15 minutes," they told that man. Two hours later, he was still there and he wasn't sorry.

One student from a nearby college came dressed in a clown suit and stood in the street recruiting participants. They got a woman with a stroller, dogs, anything they could

Gomez freed after churches raise \$47,000

By Teresa A. Parsons

Rochester's coalition of sanctuary churches raised more than \$47,000 in 24 hours last weekend to release a Salvadoran refugee being held in federal custody in Buffalo.

Sanctuary supporters were surprised and outraged when officials from the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) arrested Alejandro Gomez on Friday evening, May 23, while he was walking with his wife downtown. He was taken to the Erie County Holding Center in Buffalo, where his bail was set at \$50,000.

"I am offended by the U.S. government speaking out against terrorism and then taking this kind of terrorist action," said Jake Nelson, a member of the Downtown United Presbyterian Church, one of six Rochester sanctuary congregations. "How can we allow our government to do this?"

Despite the difficulty of raising money over the holiday weekend, sanctuary supporters translated their anger into action, gathering \$47,000 in cash by Saturday evening. More than 60 people then drove to Buffalo to hand over the bail money, which in addition to \$3,000 posted after a previous arrest, was enough to obtain Gomez' release.

The Gomez family — including Alejandro, 43; his mother; his wife Leticia, 41; and four children — have been living in Rochester since June, 1984, when two churches — the Downtown United Presbyterian Church and Corpus Christi Church — offered the sanctuary. Since then, four other local congregations have declared themselves sanctuary churches.

Although Gomez has filed for asylum with the INS as a political refugee, immigration officials said they arrested him Friday as an illegal alien, for reasons of national security.

In reports published after his arrest last week, Gomez was alleged to have traveled to the Soviet Union and Cuba before he came to the United States. Rochester Sanctuary Committee member Isabel Morrison told the congregation at Downtown United Presbyterian Church last Sunday that "the source for the Cuba/Moscow tale was the INS."

Continued on Page 3

find. "They were even going to put the bus in line, but we didn't need it," Whalley said.

"I was just full of amazement that these young people could muster up that much enthusiasm," Father Sewar said. "There was just an incredible sense of cause."

It's no wonder, considering that youth group members have been washing cars and babysitting and selling tickets for months to raise funds for the trip. With encouragement from St. Helen's religious education director, Pat Whalley, and Father Sewar, more than a dozen young people each collected the \$105 necessary to pay for the chartered bus and the hotel accommodations.

The group returned to Rochester Monday evening at about 7 p.m., but Whalley said his 15-year-old son, Danny, was still flying high. "I'm just glad they went out and did their part. They accomplished more than they set out to do," Whalley said.

"It's an experience I'll remember for a long, long time, and I think the kids will too," Father Sewar said.