



Friendly legacy

As he returns to his native El Salvador and the challenge of a new parish, Father Nicolas Menjivar leaves behind a legacy of friendship. See Page 4.



Final curtain call

Cardinal Mooney ace Julie Staub reflects on a distinguished pitching career, which saw the Cardinals reach the final of the tournament three times. See page 11.

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World & Nation in Brief from NC News

World

Agency's offices returned

Managua, Nicaragua — The offices of a Nicaraguan Catholic social agency, known as Coprosa, have been returned to the church after an eight-month occupation by the government.

When the offices were returned to the church June 19, they were stripped bare of everything from telephones to a printing press donated by German Catholics and used to print the church publication, Iglesia. An estimated \$500,000-worth of equipment was missing, according to archdiocesan officials.

Apparition investigated

Vatican City — Responding to worldwide interest, Vatican agencies have offered assistance to local church authorities investigating the validity of reported Marian apparitions in Medjugorje, Yugoslavia.

The apparitions to six young people were reported to have begun in 1981 in a field outside Medjugorje, a small village in western Yugoslavia, and later moved to a small chapel in St. James Church.

Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, head of the Vatican Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith said the congregation discourages "official church pilgrimages" to Medjugorje "because it is still an open question" whether the apparitions are valid.

Paper call for negotiations

Vatican City — The Vatican newspaper has called for negotiations between the South African white-minority government and opponents of its apartheid system of racial segregation. Negotiation is the best way to break the current "chain of violence," L'Osservatore Romano said in a June 22 front-page editorial. It asked for international solidarity with those South Africans who seek negotiations and who put human dignity above skin color. The editorial called apartheid "morally unsustainable" and criticized the government for using force to try to maintain it.

Nation

Reagan nominates Catholic

Washington — In nominating Judge Antonin Scalia to the U.S. Supreme Court June 17, President Reagan appointed a Catholic who opposes abortion and supports tuition tax credits.

Scalia, who would be the seventh Catholic to serve as a Supreme Court justice, would replace William Rehnquist, nominated by Reagan as chief justice upon the retirement in July of Chief Justice Warren Burger.

If confirmed by the Senate, Scalia also would be the first American of Italian descent to sit on the Supreme Court and, at 50, would be its youngest current member.

Bishops study vocations

Washington — Confusion over the nature and purpose of the priesthood and the value of priestly celibacy have contributed to the decline in vocations, Archbishop Daniel Pilarczyk of Cincinnati told fellow U.S. bishops at Collegeville, Minn. Archbishop Pilarczyk's presentation June 14 was one of several given at the June 9-16 meeting at St. John's University in Collegeville on vocations.

There has been a blurring of the relationship between the ordained priesthood and the priesthood of all the faithful in recent years, Archbishop Pilarczyk said.



Hugs 'n Kisses

James Sadler, 4, hugs "Butterfly Grandma" Jennie Neufegage, 90, during a recent visit of Corpus Christi Day Care classes to Goodm in Gardens nursing home. For a story and more photos on the children's visits, see page 6.

By H. G. G...
Courier Journal

School plan travels an uncharted course

By Teresa A. Parsons

If the loss of their school has taught parents and parishioners at St. Augustine's anything, it is that raising funds is a lot easier than closing a school.

The lesson comes too late for their school, but Chris Schramm, a parent and parishioner there, hopes that by participating in planning for the future of Monroe County's Catholic elementary schools, she can help ensure that other schools and parishes avoid St. Augustine's fate.

"It's been just a brutal year for everyone here," she said. "But we would like to share with other parishes — if they want to listen — what to watch for, the little bits of wisdom we have gained through this."

"It's not just an urban issue — it's county-wide," she added. "The problem is trying to make suburban parishes and even those in the city that are relatively well-off realize that this can happen to them."

Most of the diocesan plan for Monroe County schools has just begun to be implemented. But with the closing of St. Augustine's this week, the work of at least one

committee appointed by the plan was all but finished.

A transition committee was charged with overseeing the transfer of students, staff and materials from St. Augustine's to other diocesan schools. As of last week, all but one teacher and all of those students who wished to stay within the Catholic school system had been placed. The majority of the school's instructional materials had been dispersed among other area schools.

The parish has yet to decide the future of the school building, but Sister St. Luke Hardy, the school's principal, has decided to stay with the parish as pastoral assistant for the near future.

"In this building, the transition has had very few wrinkles," she observed. "I'm feeling exhausted and weary, but very good about the placement."

"It's been sorrowful, but if it has to be, I honestly feel all levels have worked hard to make it go as smoothly as it could go. We have some very good memories," she said.

Schramm, meanwhile, is putting her painful wisdom to work as one of 15 members of a committee appointed to oversee the im-

plementation of the diocesan Catholic elementary school plan released last February.

The committee — which includes parents, diocesan administrators, and one representative each for principals, pastors and teachers — began meeting in May. Already the committee has drawn up a calendar to track the activities of the variety of task forces and planning groups called for by the plan.

Over the summer, members of the implementation committee will near reports on-

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Notice to subscribers:

In accordance with our postal permit, the Courier-Journal **WILL NOT PUBLISH** an issue on July 10. We will resume publication with the edition of July 17.

If it is essential that you publicize an event occurring between July 7 and 17, please bring a press release to our offices — 1150 Buffalo Road, in the rear — by Friday, June 27. We will try to squeeze this material into the issue of July 3.