



Dramatic gold mine

Don't miss Charabanc Theatre Company's current production of *Gold in the Streets*, a trilogy that "explodes the myths" about Northern Ireland. See Page 7.



Looking back

Parishioners of Webster's Holy Trinity Church celebrate a long history of community and involvement, as the parish marks its 125th anniversary. See Page 8.

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World & Nation in Brief from NC News

World

Pope appeals to bishops

Vatican City — Pope John Paul II has told the Philippine bishops to avoid partisan politics in their efforts to help reconstruct Philippine society in the post-Marcos era. "The Church is called not to take positions of a political character or to take part in partisan conflicts," the pope said in a letter to the bishops. At the same time, he encouraged their efforts to help solve the country's social, economic and political problems by preparing the laity to work for "the political construction and organization of social life."

Pope asks for sisters' release

Pope John Paul II has asked for the safe return of 10 cloistered Carmelite nuns kidnapped July 11 in the Philippines, and President Corazon Aquino pledged not to endanger them while attempting a rescue. "I address a pressing appeal to those responsible for this incredible act, that they hasten the release, unharmed, of these good sisters," the pope said July 13 during his Sunday noon Angelus talk at the papal summer residence at Castel Gandolfo, Italy. The pope expressed "profound sorrow and dismay" at the kidnapping and called it an "outrage."

Detainees gain protection

Durban, South Africa — A Catholic community worker's efforts may have helped South Africans detained under emergency rules gain court protection from police abuse. Elizabeth Mkame's petition on behalf of her detained granddaughter was among three which moved a Durban court to allow doctors to examine three teenagers imprisoned during the country's continuing state of emergency. Observers said the court's action could set a precedent allowing emergency detainees who allege ill treatment to gain court protection through such visits.

Nation

Order sues member's estate

West Palm Beach, Fla. — The Franciscans have sued the estate of a deceased member of their order who, although under a vow of poverty, apparently accumulated \$873,000 in cash, bank accounts and a \$300,000 beachfront Florida home. According to court records and information from the Franciscans, the wealth was accumulated by Franciscan Father Angelus DeMarco, 68, who died of a brain tumor in 1984 in a hospice in Arlington, Va. Franciscan Father Cassian Miles, New York provincial communications director, said "nobody knows" how Father DeMarco got so much money or the \$300,000 house.

Report: 'teaching misapplied'

Washington — The Diocese of Providence, R.I., wrongly excommunicated Mary Ann Sorrentino, a Planned Parenthood official, said Father James A. Coriden, a member of the board of governors of the Canon Law Society of America. In a 10-page advisory opinion written on his own initiative, Father Coriden said the diocese misapplied Church laws on Catholics who are involved in abortions. Bishop Louis Gelineau of Providence, said Father Coriden's advisory opinion "has no authoritative weight" and called Sorrentino's role with Planned Parenthood "a horrible moral evil."

Group demands apology for cartoon of pope

By Karen M. Franz

A cartoon of Pope John Paul II, published in last Wednesday's Democrat and Chronicle, irked a number of Catholics in the Rochester area. But for a small group of lay men and women, that cartoon has become the focus of protests and a potential boycott of the Gannett newspaper.

Led by John Wagner, an associate editor at the Lawyers' Cooperative Publishing Co., and his wife, Helen Ann, the group has gathered outside the paper's offices at lunchtime every day but Sunday since the July 9 publication.

The six-panel cartoon was penned by syndicated columnist Patrick Oliphant. Initially, it depicts a benevolent-looking John Paul II speaking to Colombian crowds about his efforts to intercede with nations to which Colombia is indebted. The last two panels, however, show the pope as menacing. He brandishes a cross while telling the crowd: "In return, just don't let me hear in the future about you Colombians using birth control — Get that population up!!!"

"Obviously it is an insult to the Holy Father," said Richard Tickner, a parishioner at Our Lady of Victory. "So the only way to protest is to picket until they publish an apology to the Catholic community."

Tickner, the Wagners and other protesters — ranging in number from seven on the day of publication to nearly 70 on Saturday, July 12 — plan to continue their noon demonstrations until they get a formal apology. As they picket the newspaper's Exchange Boulevard offices, protesters pray the rosary and distribute flyers and postcards to passers-by.

The postcards are to be used for a circulation boycott of the paper, which protesters hope will strengthen their demand for an apology. According to John Wagner, "several dozen" people have returned the cards to Gannett, promising either to cancel their subscriptions or to boycott newsstand sales until an apology is published.

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During a demonstration in front of Gannett's offices on Exchange Boulevard, Richard Tickner of Our Lady of Victory Parish, Rochester, protests the Democrat and Chronicle's publication of a cartoon criticizing Pope John Paul II.

Gomez seeks safety outside U.S.

By Teresa A. Parsons

Alejandro Gomez and his family have abandoned their fight for asylum in the U.S. to seek safe haven in another country.

Members of the Rochester Sanctuary Committee revealed at a press conference Monday, July 14, that Gomez, 43, his wife Leticia, 41, their four children and Leticia's mother left the U.S. for an undisclosed country, which they entered legally.

Committee members said they learned of the Salvadoran family's departure by letter, but refused to say where the Gomezes have gone, when they left, or who delivered the

letter.

Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) officials believe the family went to Canada, but would not comment on when the family left or how. INS District Director Benedict Ferro said the Gomezes' attorney informed his office Monday that the family was gone.

"If they have indeed left the country, the INS would have no interest in pursuing them," Ferro said.

Gomez's departure means sanctuary supporters may forfeit \$50,000 in bail money — \$47,000 of it raised last month when Gomez

was arrested by INS agents.

Much of the money was donated, but sanctuary committee members pledged to repay the portion that was loaned. "We are committed ... to raising the funds necessary to repay all those who intended their contributions as loans," they wrote in a prepared statement released Monday. The INS has yet to decide whether to refund the bail money or not.

Despite being left with a sizeable debt, sanctuary committee members said they did not feel betrayed by the Gomezes. "Their decision is their decision," said spokesman Isabel Morrison. "We're just glad they are safe."

Committee members said Gomez lost confidence in the American judicial system after he and his lawyer, Margaret A. Catillaz, were denied access to documents the INS presented as evidence in his asylum hearing last month. INS lawyers claimed that the classified documents proved Gomez was a threat to national security.

His arrest in May was also a factor in the family's decision to leave, supporters believe. As he walked downtown with his wife May 23, Gomez was picked up by INS agents without warning and detained in Buffalo until the sanctuary committee raised \$47,000 in cash for bail. Since then, Gomez believed he and his family were under constant government surveillance. Fearful of being whisked away by authorities at any time, the family has lived under virtual house arrest.

Sisters leave Most Precious Blood

By Teresa A. Parsons

For the second time in 20 years, the foundations of Most Precious Blood School have been rocked by an order of sisters withdrawing from the school.

The principal and two teaching sisters resigned their positions June 28, charging that their efforts to run the school had been undermined, but not specifying by whom.

All three were members of the Adorers of the Blood of Christ order, which has served the school for 17 years.

In notifying the diocesan Division of Education of the decision by letter, Sister Ann Louise Allwein, ASC, provincial coordinator, wrote that "a continual undermining of the school" and a lack of personnel for replacements prompted her action.

"We have never felt fully supported or ac-

cepted," Sister Ann Louise wrote. "While we regret any difficulties which will be caused by our decision, we feel at this time that the spiritual, physical and psychological welfare of our sisters is of primary importance."

Neither Sister Ann Louise nor Sister Agatha Marie, ASC, the former principal, would comment further.

By the time Most Precious Blood's pastor, Father Ronald Mahon, CPPS, notified parish leaders last Thursday of the sisters' withdrawal, all three had already returned to their provincial motherhouse in Columbia, Pa. At last weekend's Masses, he announced to the rest of parish the sisters' decision to pursue other ministries.

Most parents were surprised and taken aback by the news.

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