



### Pentecostal praise

Hundreds of worshippers praised God without words at a workshop on the gift of tongues during the Upstate Catholic Charismatic Conference. See Page 5.



### Back in time

History came alive for youngsters at Transfiguration Parish's innovative children's Bible school during a fanciful journey back in time. See Page 7.

# COURIER-JOURNAL

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## World & Nation in Brief from NC News

### World

#### Vatican squelches protest

Mexico City — The Vatican squelched a plan by northern Mexican bishops to hold a Massless Sunday July 20 to protest alleged election fraud. The Mass "can never be an instrument of politically motivated pressure," said the apostolic delegate in Mexico, Archbishop Girolamo Prigione, the day of the planned protest. Archbishop Adalberto Almeida Mareno of Chihuahua previously announced that the 62 churches in his archdiocese would be closed "as a sign of protest" of July 6 gubernatorial and municipal elections. On July 20, however, the archbishop said he had received Vatican instructions to keep the churches open.

#### Religious workers deported

San Salvador — An interfaith group of Americans, Canadians and Australians helping to resettle war refugees in El Salvador was arrested July 16 and later deported. The group accompanied about 600 war refugees trying to return to their homes near Aguacayo, about 30 miles north of San Salvador, July 15. According to a Jesuit priest who led the group, soldiers told the 19 Americans, two Canadians and two Australians they could pass into a restricted area. Arrested July 16, they were detained overnight at police headquarters in San Salvador, then were taken by bus across the border into Guatemala July 17. Army officials said the group was arrested for being in a war zone without permission and was expelled for endangering civilians.

### Nation

#### Cut red tape on hunger aid

Washington — A Catholic relief official told members of Congress July 17 that overseas hunger relief agencies need more money and less bureaucratic interference if they are to achieve long-term success. Lawrence A. Pezzullo, executive director of Catholic Relief Services, in written testimony for a hearing of the House Select Committee on Hunger, criticized a "plethora" of paperwork in government-funded overseas programs. A thick layer "of bureaucratic procedures and practices has accumulated around food programs over the last 30 years," he said.

#### Extradition treaty approved

Washington — After impassioned debate, the U.S. Senate July 17 approved a treaty that will make it easier for Great Britain to extradite Irish Republican Army fugitives from the United States. The treaty modifies the long-standing "political exception" policy of the United States. It says political motivation will not be accepted as a rationale for asylum if Great Britain seeks to extradite someone for such violent crimes as murder, kidnapping, hijacking and the planting of explosives.

#### Cardinal defends gay rights

Chicago — Cardinal Joseph L. Bernardin of Chicago in mid-July became a central figure in a Chicago homosexual rights battle. In a series of public statements he defended the "basic rights" of homosexuals and sharply condemned "virulently anti-gay" attitudes and actions. The cardinal stated opposition, however, to the language of a city council proposal on civil rights for homosexuals because "the term 'sexual orientation' is not defined in the amendments and, therefore, may be interpreted to imply acceptance or approval of homosexual activity or advocacy of a homosexual lifestyle."

## Fire wrecks 'six-figure damage' at church

By Teresa A. Parsons

St. Theodore's Church in Gates was heavily damaged by an early morning fire Sunday, July 20. Fire investigators said the fire was started by a faulty cable in the building's roof or attic.

Three Gates fire companies responded to a call from a passer-by at 2:23 a.m. Sunday. Firefighters had the blaze under control by 3:40 a.m.

By then flames had heavily damaged the roof and rear of the building at 170 Spencerport Road, charring several of the main beams. Part of the ceiling in the choir loft has since collapsed from a combination of fire and water damage, but most other damage to the interior was caused by smoke. Gates Assistant Fire Chief Ralph Rossi estimates the loss at "six figures."

The fire has been judged accidental by Michael Fantigrossi, an investigator with the Monroe County District Attorney's office. "I found evidence of a malfunctioning electrical cable in the roof or attic area," Fantigrossi said shortly after completing his investigation Monday. "It could have smoldered for hours," he added.

Several parishioners noticed a strange odor in the church Saturday afternoon after the 5:30 p.m. Mass. Louis LoMaglio, a parishioner and retired firefighter, said he smelled what he believed was burning insulation. "I looked around and walked all over the church, but I couldn't find anything," he said.

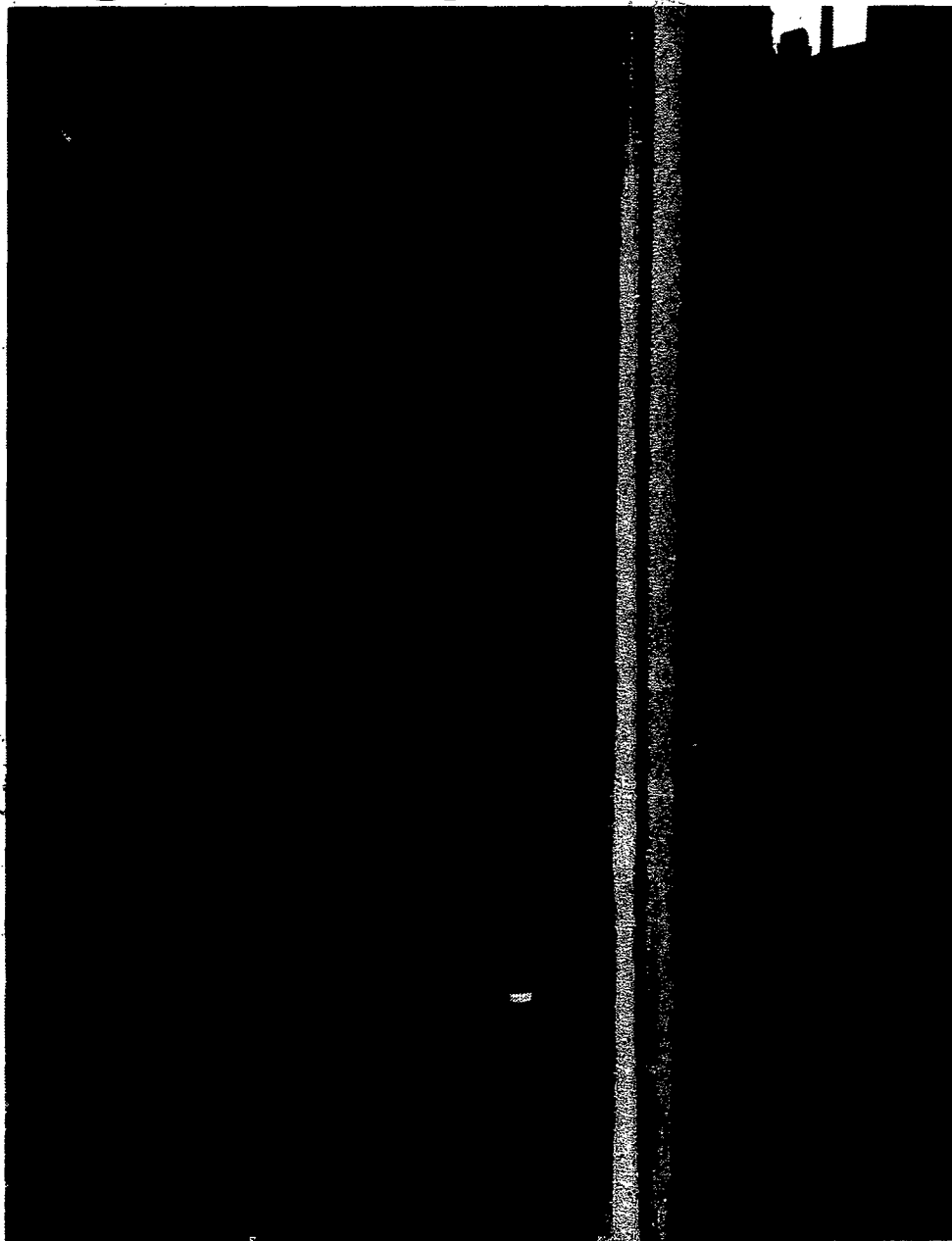
"There was no air at all that day," recalled Father Gerald Dunn, the pastor. "We thought it was probably firecrackers or something."

Father Dunn was returning from a hospital visit when he saw the fire trucks around the church. "It was a sinking feeling," he said.

Immediately after arriving on the scene, firefighters helped Father Joseph W. Dailey, the associate pastor, remove the Blessed Sacrament from the sanctuary. "In any church fire, that's one of the first things we're instructed to do," Rossi said. Vestments and altar vessels were also recovered.

"We could have had the fire under control in 20 minutes," Rossi said. But firefighters used water sparingly to minimize damage to

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Jeff Goulding/Courier-Journal

St. Theodore's Church in Gates sustained "six-figure" damage in a fire early Sunday morning, July 20. Later the same day, maintenance man George Weed and parishioner Louis LoMaglio inspected the debris.

## Liability insurance crunch cripples Alabama clinics

By Teresa A. Parsons

Sisters from Rochester will continue to serve the poor and sick of rural Alabama, thanks to generous supporters of the Edmundite Southern Missions.

But it is not yet clear for how long or how often this service will be offered.

Unable to find malpractice insurance coverage, the Fathers of St. Edmund, who operate health clinics in Alberta and Vredenburgh, Alabama, were on the verge of closing the clinics last month. The clinics are staffed by sisters from across the country, including several Rochester Sisters of Mercy and Sisters of St. Joseph.

When Edmundite Father Roger La charite finally found a company willing to provide coverage, the rates were nearly three times what the clinics had paid last year.

At the end of June, the mission director sent an appeal to supporters all over the United States, outlining the clinics' dilemma. In less than a month, he needed to raise \$10,000 per clinic.

"Unless you help out right away, the clinics you set up, clinics that have done so much to help the sick poor of rural Alabama, will close in August," he wrote. "I have nowhere to turn but to you. Please help."

Thanks to a good response, it appears that

the clinics will remain open. Hours, however, will be limited because the insurance coverage applies only when a doctor is on the premises.

That amounts to once every two weeks at the Vredenburgh clinic where Sister Shirley Cassler, SSJ, is director. "We don't want to cut down on the hours," she said. "One possibility would be to get another doctor."

A young doctor who has not yet completed her training will help to fill the gap for the next three months. But she will only be available two days a week, Sister Shirley said. And the clinics could use her help for at least a year.

Sister Shirley and Sister Claude Loeb of the Rochester Sisters of Mercy opened the Vredenburgh clinic last September in half of a renovated school building. The other half serves as a nutrition center for senior citizens. Next door, the sisters live in a mobile home along with Sister Helen Alder, CSJ, a nurse practitioner from Kansas City, Mo.

A town of less than 500 people about 65 miles south of Selma, Vredenburgh was once the center of a thriving timber industry. But in 1980, the mills closed. "There is no industry at all here now," Sister Shirley said. "Unemployment is very high."

Before the Vredenburgh clinic opened, Sister Shirley was director of the clinic in Alberta, a farming town with about 300 residents.

The clinic there opened in 1982.

At each site, the staff treats an average of 40 to 50 patients a week for illnesses ranging from diabetes and hypertension to respiratory infections among children. Patients come from a 15-mile radius surrounding the towns.

"Transportation out here is always a problem," Sister Shirley explained. "Many people don't have cars or the money to get around any other way."

Rochester Sisters of St. Joseph also serve at a rural outreach center in Pine Apple, 45 miles south of Selma.

Since 1941, sisters from Rochester have served in the Edmundite Southern Missions. Until the late 1960s, they worked as nurses and teachers in such Selma institutions as Good Samaritan Hospital and St. Elizabeth's School. Both have since closed, but Rochester sisters still work at Queen of Peace, an integrated parish in Selma.

Meanwhile, they expanded care for the sick through the rural clinics. Those clinics are no longer facing an immediate crisis, but the long-term problem of funding both insurance and physicians' salaries remains unsolved.

"We hope not to close," Sister Shirley said. "If we would lose, some would go to another clinic. But a lot of them would go untreated, which they had been doing before we came."