



Priestly prophet

A prophet with a Third World perspective, Father Enrique Cardona will lend a multitude of gifts to Corpus Christi Parish and its Hispanic community for the next several years. See page 5.



School supplement

How do Catholic schools deal with children having children? What's new in regional junior highs? Can a small town support Catholic education? Find out in School Days '86, page 1A.

COURIER-JOURNAL

Catholic Diocese of Rochester

35 Cents

Thursday, August 14, 1986

28 Pages - 2 Sections

World & Nation in Brief from NC News

World

Church decries military aid

Davao City, Philippines — Filipino Church leaders joined foreign missionaries in a message calling for an end to U.S. military aid to the Philippine government. "Though cloaked in terms of promotion of democracy for Filipinos, policies aimed at preserving American military bases and commercial interests in the Philippines have actually been detrimental to the Philippines and its peoples," they said. The message, drafted by 50 American missionaries, was endorsed by Cardinal Ricardo Vidal of Cebu, president of the Philippine bishops' conference, along with 68 other Filipino Church leaders and 42 Australian, Canadian, Dutch and Irish missionaries.

Moslems cite Christian gains

Bandung, Indonesia — Catholic concern for the poor is behind Church gains in Indonesia during the past two decades, said the country's largest Islamic magazine, Panji Masyarakat (Society Banner). In a special report on population, it urged Moslems to adopt some Christian methods of proselytizing. Unless Moslems follow the Catholic example by paying more attention to poverty, unemployment and injustice, the Catholic Church will become more influential and convert many poor people, it said.

Nation

Anti-nuke protestors arrested

Oscoda, Mich. — Ninety-eight people — including 32 priests, ministers and religious — were arrested Aug. 6 for trespassing at Wurtsmith Air Force Base, Oscoda. They entered the base as an act of civil disobedience protesting nuclear weapons on the 41st anniversary of the atomic attack on Hiroshima, Japan. The act of civil disobedience followed a silent vigil service across the street from the base.

Detroit archdiocese sees red

Detroit — Urban parishes in the Detroit Archdiocese are headed toward a cumulative deficit of \$19 million by 1990, an archdiocesan task force announced. The task force recommended that 115 urban parishes in Detroit, Hamtramck and Highland Park — nearly one-third of all parishes in the archdiocese — carefully reassess their viability in light of the deficit projections. Population shifts and "adverse racial attitudes" were cited as factors in urban parish losses.

Cardinal leads anti-drug rally

New York — Cardinal John J. O'Connor led an evening prayer vigil and rally Aug. 7 in front of St. Patrick's Cathedral to launch a new campaign to unite New Yorkers against drugs. The Fifth Avenue block in front of the cathedral was closed to traffic for the event, which drew thousands. Lights were dimmed at the Statue of Liberty and doused at the Empire State Building to symbolize the destructiveness of drug abuse.

CANA marks birth of 'Original Child'

By Teresa A. Parsons

Catholics Against Nuclear Arms (CANA) marked two anniversaries on Wednesday, August 6. One was the organization's fifth year; the other was the 41st birthday of a "child": "Little Boy," the first atomic bomb, was dropped on Hiroshima, Japan, on August 6, 1945.

"The name Original Child was given to it (the bomb) by the Japanese people, who recognized that it was the first of its kind," wrote Thomas Merton, the late Cistercian monk and social activist. Merton gave the title "Original Child Bomb" to his graphic, prose-poem account of the birth of the nuclear age.

Last Wednesday, eight members of CANA — dressed in black with whitened faces — commemorated the anniversary of Little Boy's debut by staging a dramatic performance of Merton's poem for an audience of 50 at St. Mary's Church in downtown Rochester.

Written in 1962, the piece was what one Merton biographer termed "his first challenge to complacent thinking about nuclear war." The title left people confused. Some bookstores placed it in the children's section.

The language is simple and almost childlike, but the images are wrenching. Beginning with the death of Franklin D. Roosevelt in April, 1945, "Original Child Bomb" traces the final stages of the first atomic bomb's development, its first test, and debate among Allied leaders and U.S. officials over whether to use the weapon on Japan.

The most crucial event in that debate was the successful bomb test in the New Mexico desert on July 16. Narrator Marie Bellavia, who directed and adapted the production, read Merton's description of the "devout" atmosphere surrounding the test, which was code-named "Trinity."

"It (the bomb) was suspended from a 100-foot steel tower, which evaporated. There was a fireball a mile wide. The great flash could be seen for a radius of 250 miles. A blind woman miles away said she perceived light.

"Many who saw the experiment expressed their satisfaction in religious terms. A semi-official report even quoted a religious book — the New Testament. 'Lord I believe, help thou my unbelief!'"

As actors silently mimicked the discussion between American officials and scientists over whether to use the bomb and what target to choose, artist Kristin Malone, covered a simple grey backdrop with illustrations of the narrative.

"On August 1, the bomb was assembled in an air-conditioned hut on (the island of) Tinian. Those who handled the bomb referred to it as Little Boy. Their care for the Original

Continued on Page 11



To commemorate Hiroshima Day, August 6, eight members of Catholics Against Nuclear Arms (CANA) traced the development and use of the first atomic bomb in a dramatic performance of "Original Child Bomb," written by Thomas Merton.

U.S. bishops deny Ortega's request for talks

By NC News Service

The U.S. bishops' conference turned down a meeting with Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega during Ortega's late-July visit to the United Nations. The bishops cited Nicaragua's recent actions against Catholic clergymen as the reason for refusing the meeting.

A spokesman for the conference noted the Sandinistas' exiling of the vice president of the Nicaraguan bishops' conference, Bishop Pablo Antonio Vega of the Juigalpa Prelature, and of Monsignor Bismarck Carballo, director of communications for the Managua Archdiocese.

"The decision not to meet with President Ortega was based on the conference's concern" over the clergymen's "unresolved" situation, said Russell Shaw, the bishops' public affairs chief.

According to a variety of sources, the meeting would have taken place in New York on the morning of July 30, had the U.S.

agreed to talk to Ortega.

Shaw also said that the Vatican was involved in the discussions leading to the decision against meeting with Ortega.

He said that consulting the Holy See "would just be standard procedure ... in a matter involving another hierarchy."

The impetus for a meeting came from the Nicaraguan Embassy in Washington, Shaw said. There had been "an indication on the part of the embassy" that a meeting might be arranged involving Ortega, Bishop James W. Malone (president of the bishops' conference) and others, he said.

A member of the embassy staff confirmed that the Nicaraguan government was interested in making contact with the U.S. bishops.

There was a "good deal of discussion back and forth within the U.S. conference, following the embassy's initiative, Shaw said.

Cardinal John J. O'Connor of New York, head of the conference's Social Justice and

World Peace Committee, was involved in the discussions.

During a brief August 4 appearance in New York City to open a forum sponsored by the Northeast Catholic Pastoral Center for Hispanics, the cardinal said his committee is reassessing the Nicaraguan situation "constantly."

Cardinal O'Connor said he was currently reviewing a paper to be sent to the U.S. Senate in connection with its upcoming action on military aid to the contras, the anti-government guerrillas in Nicaragua.

He said the U.S. bishops' position would reflect the Nicaraguan bishops' April 6 statement, which said: "It is our judgment that any kind of help, whatever the source, that leads to the destruction, sorrow and death of our families, to hatred and division between Nicaraguans, is to be condemned."

Both Bishop Vega and Monsignor Carballo were originally scheduled as

Continued on Page 3