

# St. Mary's strives

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what we should do is . . . because . . . Afterward, cards were passed from person to person, from pew to pew, until each participant had read what was written on 10 or 12 different cards. Responses included the following:

"Change seating arrangement . . . Redesign central worship space . . . Take out balconies and communion rail . . . Modernize as much as possible . . . Be aware of money . . . Change colors . . . Make space more efficient, while retaining its integrity . . . Community comes from people, not physical plan . . . Renovate, but don't put pews too close together, because I have a personal aversion to crowds and don't like to be in the middle of one."

As the ensuing sessions took shape, say Worship Space Committee organizers, it became apparent that a very general consensus was beginning to emerge. A general issued by the committee included such listings as keeping the focus on worship and enhancing participation

in the liturgy, thinking along the lines of restoration and authenticity, and preserving church treasures (rediscovered during a "treasure hunt" initiated by Bill Brown during the second set of workshops).

Others suggested being prudent about changes and particularly about their costs, since the members of a downtown church should always be mindful of "world hunger and the homeless only yards away." Another element of the growing consensus was an admonition to "be visionary about parish life in the future and what the needs of today's young people will be then."

By the end of the six scheduled sessions, more definite areas of structural consensus had become clearer. The parish was beginning to agree that certain areas should be assigned top priority, including seating, lighting, carpeting, repainting, changing the altar and presider's area, full access for the handicapped, elimination of safety hazards, removal of confessional, and creation of both a reconciliation chapel and a gathering area in existing space.

In the absence of an overwhelming consensus as to exactly how these goals should be accomplished, however, Bill Brown agreed to return July 8 for a decision meeting. The session, unfortunately, resulted in a continuing stalemate. While the group of about 100 parishioners rejected the notion that nothing beyond normal maintenance should be undertaken, group members were unable to decide what renovations should ultimately be made.

"Consensus doesn't come easily," wrote Worship Space Committee members in a parish bulletin insert, "especially in a society reared on the principle of majority rule — and when the issues involved reach deeply into the hearts, as well as the minds, of a community as diverse as the St. Mary's congregation."

The group did decide, however, to have Rochester architect Michael Doran prepare a series of preliminary design sketches delineating all of the proposed renovations that had been assigned high priority by parishioners who took part in the last three Bill Brown meetings. When those design concepts have

been completed, parishioners plan to reconvene in September or October, and once again attempt to arrive at consensus on ideas the congregation has found difficult to visualize.

Should consensus be achieved in the near future, St. Mary's parishioners can look forward to a winter of interior construction — in the words of Bill Brown, the phrase in which, "every Sunday when you go home, you have to take three showers."

While pews are being refinished and the altar rail is being removed (if these goals are indeed chosen, parishioners might keep in mind Brown's good-natured admonition that "plaster dust is the smallest particulate matter in the universe. No amount of mask to man or woman can keep it out of the pores.")

Perhaps consensus will remain elusive enough that hope may spring eternal in April or May, when at least the windows can remain open during blowing and spackling. God works in miraculous ways when human methods fall short of the mark.

## Vatican representative to United Nations says nuclear arms deter chance of third world war

**Turin, Italy (NC)** — Without nuclear deterrence there might have been a third world war, the Vatican's chief U.N. representative said.

Archbishop Giovanni Cheli also said the nuclear disaster at the Chernobyl power plant in the Soviet Union showed nothing new about the dangers of nuclear power. Nuclear power cannot be "disinvented," he said, describing calls for its abolition as "unreal."

Archbishop Cheli is head of the Permanent Observer Mission of the Holy See to the United Nations, where he has served since 1973.

His comments were part of an interview published Aug. 4 in the Turin newspaper La Stampa.

While expressing concern about the arms race, Archbishop Cheli said everyone is convinced that no one wins a nuclear war.

"The reciprocal deterrent exercised until now by the two greatest nuclear arsenals has served, good or bad, to avoid a third world

war; an affirmation that one may not like, but that is absolutely realistic," he said.

If the world was armed only with conventional weapons, he added, "probably the strongest would have already taken the initiative" of attacking its rivals.

The debate over the morality of deterrence has engaged Catholic leaders in the Vatican and in the United States for several years.

In a 1982 message to the U.N. special session on disarmament, Pope John Paul II said, "in current conditions 'deterrence' based on balance — certainly not as an end in itself, but as a step on the way toward a progressive disarmament — may still be judged morally acceptable."

The U.S. bishops' 1983 pastoral letter on war and peace, while adopting this papal statement on deterrence, added that it is a "transitional strategy justifiable only in conjunction with resolute determination to pursue arms control and disarmament."

A new commission of U.S. bishops headed

by Chicago Cardinal Joseph Bernardin is re-examining the concept of deterrence in the light of recent arms control efforts.

Concerning the peaceful use of nuclear power, Archbishop Cheli said the Chernobyl nuclear accident "added nothing to what we already know about the dangers and benefits of atomic energy."

Calling the possible abolition of nuclear energy "an unreal hypothesis," the archbishop said it is a discovery that cannot be "disinvented."

He said he hoped, however, that the "cleaner" process of fusion energy will be made available as an alternative to currently used forms of nuclear power.

Archbishop Cheli said that during his 13 years as Vatican representative to the United Nations, "the world situation has grown worse. He said he most worried about the lack of a nuclear arms accord, the Third World debt crisis and such "extremely dangerous conflict" as those found in the Middle East.

## Senate Appropriations Committee OKs bill providing abortion funds in rape, incest cases

**Washington (NC)** — Proposing a change in a five-year-old federal policy on abortion funding, the Senate Appropriations Committee Aug. 15 voted 13-12 to allow government-funded abortion for rape and incest victims.

Father Edward M. Bryce, director of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops' Office for Pro-Life Activities, strongly criticized the vote, calling it a "great disappointment."

But Sister Deborah Barrett, coordinator of the Justice Campaign, an ecumenical group seeking to add abortion funding for cases of rape and incest, said her group was "very pleased" by the committee vote, which now goes to the full Senate. Sister Barrett is a member of the Sisters of Christian Community, which does not have official church recognition.

The committee action came during deliberations on a bill providing \$114 billion in funding for fiscal 1987 for the federal departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education.

Sen. Lowell Weicker, R-Conn., made the proposal to add funding for "medically necessary abortions" (in cases of rape and incest) to the annual Hyde Amendment, which allows federal funding of abortion only to save the life of the woman.

Funding for abortions for rape and incest victims was cut off by Congress in 1981 deliberations over the Hyde Amendment,

named for its original sponsor, Rep. Henry Hyde, R-Ill.

The vote "to weaken the Hyde Amendment is a great disappointment," Father Bryce said in a statement. "This is all the more true because the committee's 'rape-incest' amendment is worded to create a vast loophole in abortion funding policy — providing, for example, free abortions for whatever reason to young teen-agers in every state with a 'statutory rape' law."

Statutory rape is sexual relations with a girl below the legal age of consent.

The NCCB official expressed confidence that "Congress will not tolerate enactment of this destructive amendment into law."

He said the rape-incest vote was approved only because two supporters of the Hyde Amendment failed to participate in the committee session while a third, Sen. Thad Cochran, R-Miss., "reversed his earlier stand in opposition to federal abortion funding."

The two senators who failed to attend the committee meeting were identified by another pro-life source as Sens. J. Bennett Johnston, D-La., and John Stennis, D-Miss.

Sister Barrett said the Justice Campaign knew the vote "would be very close." She said the group will now attempt to get the funding approved by the entire Senate.

Sister Barrett is a Chicago attorney. Other leaders of the Justice Campaign include Methodist and Episcopal bishops, rabbis and other religious officials.

## Theologian urges black Catholics to be active

**Philadelphia (NC)** — Be "not just spectators but active participants" in the church, a black theologian told members of the National Office for Black Catholics and the National Black Lay Catholic Caucus.

The theologian, Father Edward K. Braxton of Chicago, addressed the joint biennial conference of the two organizations Aug. 6 in Philadelphia. He told them to "provide a united black Catholic front" supporting a request for a permanent secretariat within the National Conference of Catholic Bishops in Washington for black Catholics.

The nation's 10 black bishops called for the permanent secretariat at last November's general meeting of the NCCB.

"The Gospel of Jesus Christ isn't pro-

black or pro-white. It's pro-human," Father Braxton said, urging his audience to become "catechists, apostles and evangelists."

"We can't assume bishops, priests and sisters are going to do it all," he said. "All of us must work collectively."

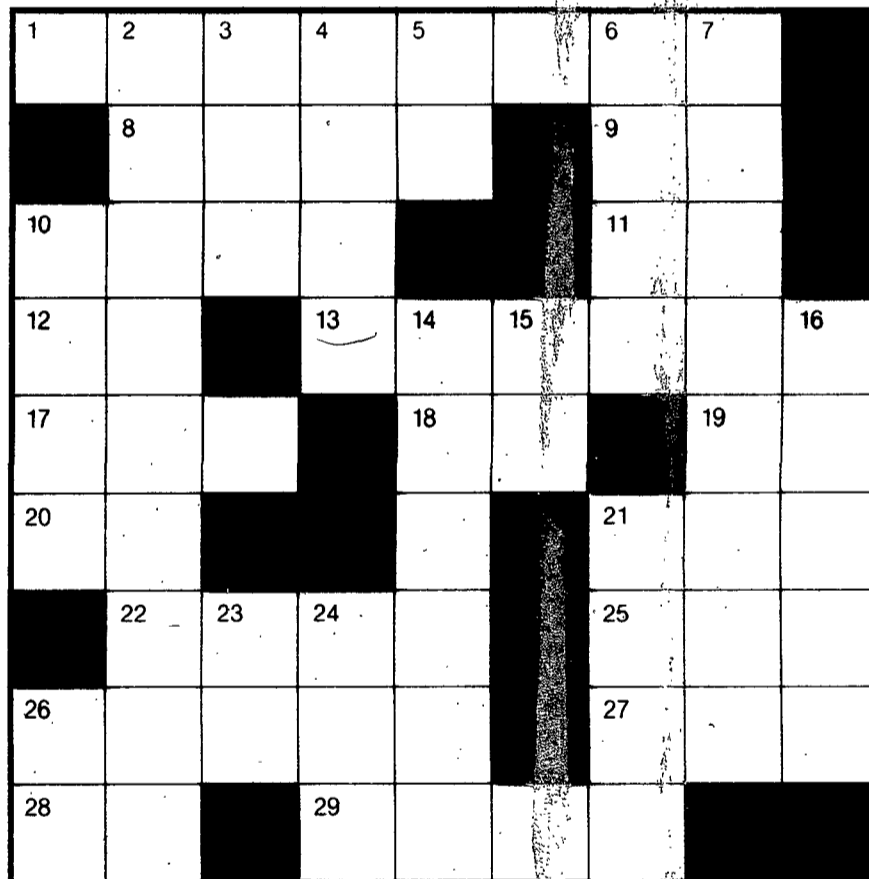
Father Braxton urged his listeners to "unite with the larger black community" to solve the problems that plague them.

"The young must be effectively taught the importance of growing to maturity, obtaining an education, seeking employment, and marrying before starting families," he said.

He told black Catholics to pool their resources and be proud of their successes. "We must never forget that we've come this far by faith," he said.

## The Courier-Crossword . . .

Our monthly crossword puzzle! Give it a try and see how well you do. Answers will be printed in our next issue. Good Luck!



ACROSS

DOWN

- 1. Creatures Francis "preached" to.
- 2. The 2nd Order of Franciscans.
- 3. Appropriate.
- 4. Package of typing paper.
- 5. Kind of nurse.
- 6. "Up" to do bin.
- 7. Francis' special, miraculous gift.
- 8. "Brother Su" "Sister ----"
- 9. 33rd U.S. Pres.
- 10. Baseball's pinch-hitting champ.
- 11. "vay!" Yiddish expression.
- 12. Room where surgery is done.
- 13. What John McNamara does for the Red Sox.
- 14. Francis' home town.
- 15. Negative.
- 16. Mother ----, Sister Death.
- 17. Francis' feast is --- 4th.
- 18. "in Love" from "Kiss Me Kate."
- 19. Mother, familiarly.
- 20. symbol for Holland on European cars.
- 21. Telegram.
- 21. Spanish Affirmative.
- 22. Spanish or Civil.
- 22. Sparking-wine center of Italy.
- 22. U.S. telecommunications giant.
- 23. Christmas devotion credited to Francis.
- 24. Turner's Superstation: W---
- 24. Athletic cheer.
- 24. Radio used by truckers.
- 25. U.S. telecommunications giant.
- 25. Christmas devotion credited to Francis.
- 26. Christmas devotion credited to Francis.
- 26. Radio used by truckers.
- 27. Athletic cheer.
- 27. Father.
- 28. "I Goita -- Me."
- 28. Father.
- 29. Father.