



Family of faith

Despite obstacles that still confront interfaith couples, Deaconess Debra and Lynn McNulty attest that for their family, sharing different faiths is more advantage than problem. See Page 4.



Respect life

Choosing life today challenges people of faith to understand a range of issues, from abortion to drug abuse, euthanasia and economic oppression. See supplement inside.

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World & Nation in Brief from NC News

Nation

CHD grants total \$6 million

Washington — An economic development program in Epes, Ala., and a low-income housing coalition in El Paso, Texas, are among 220 self-help projects awarded a total of \$6.34 million by the Campaign for Human Development. The 1986 grants, announced Sept. 25 in Washington by Bishop Arthur N. Tafoya of Pueblo, Colo., bring to \$95 million the total the campaign has given to more than 2,400 anti-poverty projects since it was established in 1970.

Family life pastoral issued

Cleveland — Each individual is the church's "most effective family life minister," wrote Bishop Anthony M. Pilla of Cleveland in a recently released pastoral letter on family life.

The bishop, who spent three years surveying family members, marriage counselors, attorneys and family physicians, acknowledged in the letter that family lifestyles include single-parent home, the blended family, the person living alone, and the multigenerational home. Nevertheless, he wrote, the conventional family "remains the norm and is, in fact, the goal of every person who enters into marriage in the first place."

World

No Mass for monarch

London — Prince Charles compromised his position as heir to the British throne and potential head of the Church of England by attending a Catholic Mass in northern England, according to an evangelical church leader.

The prince, a supporter of efforts to reconcile the Anglican and Roman Catholic churches, attended Mass at a church in Kirkby Stephen, Cumbria, Sept. 21, with a Catholic family he was visiting.

David Samuel, head of the traditionalist Church Society, called the action "very unwise."

"If he goes on like this he could precipitate a constitutional crisis," Samuel said. By Act of Parliament, no one can succeed to the throne who "is or shall be reconciled to or hold communion with the See or Church of Rome or shall profess the Popish religion or shall marry a Papist."

Pope laughs at prediction

Vatican City — Predictions from a 16th-century astrologer have fueled concern over Pope John Paul II's visit to Lyons, France, Oct. 4-7.

Michel Nostradamus foretold that a pope would die a tragic death at a place where two rivers meet and roses are in bloom. French supporters note that Lyons is located at the confluence of the Rhone and Saone rivers.

While roses do not bloom in Lyons during October, aficionados point out that the rose is the symbol of the French Socialist Party, which is in political bloom since it holds the presidency.

The pope — who has faced two assassination attempts, one of which seriously wounded him — laughs at the prognostications, according to Vatican officials.



Jeff Goulding/Courier-Journal

CHOCOLATE DRIVE '86 — Most of the senior class at Nazareth Academy leapt to the stage during the school's chocolate drive assembly Friday, Sept. 26. The theme for this year's assembly was "Peter Pan," and students staged skits that included various characters from the play. Nazareth had led chocolate sales throughout the nation for the past seven years, according to statistics compiled by the Nestle Corporation. Students have sold 45-50 tons of chocolate throughout the 23 years of chocolate drives, for a total of \$1 million in sales. After the first day of this year's drive, students had sold \$7,000 of chocolate. To date, the freshmen are leading the interclass sales competition.

Committee asks for dialogue on education

By Teresa A. Parsons

A diocesan education committee has invited parish leaders to a series of five dialogue sessions next month, which are aimed at gauging the commitment to Catholic education in Monroe County.

Organizing the sessions is the implementation committee, charged with carrying out steps described in Catholic Elementary School Planning for the City of Rochester and Monroe County, the document released by Bishop Matthew H. Clark last February.

"We are trying to get maximum involvement on the part of Catholics in Monroe County," said William Dillon, chairman of the committee. "No one person or group has the answers but through this process all of us together can find some of them."

During the month of October, committee members are asking parish leaders to devise ways of gathering reaction from all segments of their communities to the following statements and questions:

● The primary purpose for the existence of Catholic schools is to teach Catholic doctrine and values. How does this priority fit in with your educational goals (for your children)? Do you see yourself committed to this for three to five years? Long-range?

● Patterns of diminishing class size affect quality education, impair adequate social development and undercut a suitable funding base. In Monroe County, approximately 15 percent of the classrooms fall into this category. (As parents), what do you believe can be done to improve this situation over the next five years?

● There are some parishes in Monroe County that are finding it extremely difficult to support and maintain their Catholic schools. Do all Catholics have an obligation to help our brothers and sisters transcending parish limits? What structures do you think will facilitate this?

At the dialogues in November, a parish representative will be asked to present a summary of each community's responses. Representatives will include pastors, principals and members of parish councils, finance committees and school boards or

Christian Formation Committees. Also present at the dialogues will be members of the implementation committee, including Dillon, the chairman; Sister Roberta Tierney, director of the Office of Education; and Father John Mulligan, director of Urban Services.

After the initial presentations, the floor will be opened for discussion between representatives and the committee members.

Meetings are planned for: November 10, St. Stanislaus; November 12, Holy Rosary; November 13, St. Francis Xavier; November 17, St. Philip Neri; November 18, St. Anthony.

Parishes without schools are being asked to participate, as are Catholic high schools. "We want to hear from each parish," Dillon said. "Basically, it will be left up to each parish to see that everybody gets a copy of

committee, in turn, will recommend proposals to Bishop Clark.

To date, task forces on financial reform and certification have already met several times. A task force on multicultural programming will begin its work this month, several weeks ahead of schedule. Members have also been appointed to a central marketing team and to a task force on fundraising.

Meanwhile, planning clusters are meeting in the southwest and northeast areas of the county. So far the planning process has hardly stretched beyond city limits.

Participation in some phase of planning was required of every school and parish by the February 3 planning document, Dillon pointed out.

"We will have to count on the moral authority of the bishop to move those who haven't moved yet," he said.

By including suburban schools, education officials hope to help them head off such problems as declining enrollment and rising costs that will eventually strike them as well.

"Everyone will feel it. The only question is when. Now is the time to do something about it, not when you're in a crisis," Dillon said. "The hard part is to make the entire community aware of the problems and questions, so as to arrive at a consensus."

Apart from geographic distinctions, Dillon said he also hopes to hear from parents without children in Catholic schools — particularly those whose children are grown. "We want to have in our reports as much of the people's thinking as possible," Dillon said.

Through their consultative efforts, the implementing committee hopes to dispel the lingering notion that the diocese has a preordained plan in regard to schools. "I can't say strongly enough that that is just not true," Dillon said. "We have no answers yet."

The implementing committee will make a preliminary report to Bishop Clark at the end of September. Thereafter, they will present the bishop with annual reports derived from

'If we want our schools to truly be Catholic, then we have to balance our own needs with our commitment as our brother's keeper.'

William Dillon

the questions and responds to their Christian Formation Committee or school board by a certain date.

"How they do it is up to them. That they do it with the greatest amount of exposure possible is not up to them," he added.

Since last May, 15 members of the implementation committee have met each month to oversee the work of committees and task forces appointed by the diocesan elementary school plan. The task forces are developing recommendations in areas from finances to marketing, which are passed on to the implementation committee. That

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