



Follies frenzy

The Cardinal Mooney Follies, which is marking its 10th anniversary, offers a collection of the best of the show's past performances. See Page 9.



Mission impossible

Unable to stop Mike Bianchi from scoring three times, Aquinas falls to Greece Arcadia in a Class B soccer playoff at Spencerport. See Pages 10 and 11.

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World & Nation in Brief from NC News

World

IRA claims bombing of train

Dublin, Ireland — A freight train was damaged in a Northern Ireland bombing while world religious leaders were praying for peace in Assisi, Italy. The bombing defied appeals for a truce from Pope John Paul II, who called the Assisi prayer summit, and from Ireland's bishops. The Irish Republican Army, which had conditionally agreed to observe the truce, claimed responsibility for the bombing. The bomb exploded on a line running between Dublin and Belfast, Northern Ireland, on the northern side of the border. No injuries were reported.

Pope condemned for summit

Rome — Pope John Paul II has condemned himself to hell when he organized a day of prayer for peace with leaders of other religions, according to dissident French Archbishop Marcel Lefebvre.

Followers of the rebel churchman, who was suspended from the active ministry in 1976 by Pope Paul VI after he ordained priests against a papal order, passed out leaflets with that message in Rome several days before the October 27 prayer summit in Assisi, Italy. Drawings in one leaflet had the pope blocking Jesus and Mary from entering Assisi, and Christ blocking the pope from entering the gates of heaven.

Nation

Fordham head blasts report

New York — Jesuit Father Joseph A. O'Hare, president of Fordham University, said Oct. 25 that if a proposed Vatican document puts Catholic universities under ecclesiastical authority, Fordham would have to declare "we are not a Catholic university in the sense of that document."

Most Catholic colleges and universities of the United States would probably find themselves in the same situation, he said, because they, like Fordham, turned control over to independent boards of trustees in the 1960s and '70s.

Churches' status changing

New York — The top Soviet religious affairs official told a U.S. ecumenical group that the legal status of churches in the Soviet Union is changing under a "democratization" campaign launched by General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev.

Konstantin Kharchev, chairman of the Soviet government's Council on Religious Affairs, said the government is committed "to democratization in the sphere of ... policy toward religion."

The Soviet Union, he said, has religious freedom "in the framework of our constitution," and he denied specifically that there was any repression of Catholics in the Ukraine, as has been charged.

Catholics must confront AIDS

Chicago — All Catholics should reach out to and care for those suffering from AIDS without making moral judgments about their behavior, Cardinal Joseph Bernardin of Chicago said in an October pastoral statement. "It is not our task to make judgments but to call ourselves and those to whom we minister to a deeper conversion and healing." The Catholic community is called to confront AIDS — acquired immune deficiency syndrome — courageously and put aside fears, prejudices and "whatever agendas we may have in this regard," said Cardinal Bernardin.

At SJFC inauguration:

Governor makes case for the liberal arts

By Karen M. Franz

The executions of St. Thomas More and John Fisher became the framework for an address by Gov. Mario Cuomo on the need for liberal-arts education.

Gov. Cuomo made his point during the inauguration ceremonies for St. John Fisher College's fourth president, Dr. William L. Pickett, the first non-Basilian to lead the 38-year-old college. The occasion was the governor's first public appearance since being re-elected governor Tuesday, Nov. 4, by an overwhelming margin.

Though the inauguration marked the governor's first visit to St. John Fisher, he said he felt he was "visiting with friends of a very close friend."

Gov. Cuomo recalled that when he became a St. Thomas More Scholar at St. John's University, he adopted the English saint as his patron. Gov. Cuomo noted that both St. Thomas More and St. John Fisher were beheaded during the summer of 1535, were beatified on the same day in 1886, were sainted on the same day in 1935 and share the feastday of July 9.

Moreover, he noted, in their treason trials before King Henry VIII, the two saints shared the same prosecutor, Thomas Cromwell. "Cromwell regarded Fisher and More as obstacles to a new age in which the truth would be meaningless," Gov. Cuomo said.

St. Thomas More and John Fisher "had an unshakeable sense of what the world was about and what they were about," the governor said. "They refused to accept Henry VIII's fiat that the truth was whatever the king said it was."

"Both struggled too hard and too long to sacrifice their convictions on the altar of conformity," he continued.

Today, we see the two English martyrs as heroic, the governor said. But, he added, such veneration is dangerous because it hinders us from seeing their lives as models for our own.

The governor related Cromwell's plan to wed Henry VIII, a devotee of female beauty, Continued on Page 5



Michael N. Aydogan

WELCOME TO THE FAMILY — Dr. William L. Pickett is congratulated at ceremonies installing him as the fourth president of St. John Fisher College.

Dialogue reveals support for Catholic schools

By Teresa A. Parsons

Bristling with statistics, nearly 100 parents, principals, pastors and other representatives from 14 northeast-area schools gathered Monday night for the first of five regional dialogues on Catholic education.

Organized by the diocesan implementation committee charged with acting on last February's Catholic Elementary Plan for Rochester and Monroe County, the series of dialogues is aimed at answering three basic questions about the future of Catholic schools.

Although there were few surprises, speakers at Monday night's session in St. Stanislaus School seemed to raise as many questions as they answered.

"I really think this is going to be very typical," said Sister Roberta Tierney, director of the Division of Education. "The criteria that they came up with are things that time and time again come up in surveys from parents."

Parishes with and without schools in both city and suburban areas were asked to survey parishioners and school parents. Implementation committee members left the methods up to each community. Most sent questionnaires to parents either with students or by mail and to parishioners through bulletin inserts.

Many parish leaders rephrased the questions, either to make them more objective and easier to enumerate or more understandable to a

broader range of people. During the first portion of Monday night's meeting, parish representatives reported their survey results. Afterward, they were able to ask questions and offer comments.

Responses within parishes ranged from barely a dozen to several hundred. One of the largest responses came from St. Stanislaus Parish, where nearly 500 people completed survey forms after Father Andrew Grzela explained the process during weekend Masses.

"I was disappointed in a sense that some parishes didn't get broad responses from their people, but others did," said Implementation Committee Chairman William Dillon. "It seems to me that I heard a great deal of openness tonight to new structures."

Most parishes reported overwhelming support for Catholic education's role in teaching Catholic doctrine and values, but many also named quality education as a close and often equally important purpose.

Parishioners and parents said they were committed to that purpose for varying lengths of time, from "as long as I am able" to "as long as my children are in school" to "three-to-five years."

Virtually all parishes reported at least a mixed response, and in some cases, open disagreement with the statement that diminishing class size adversely affects quality

education. On the contrary, parents indicated that small class size was one of the reasons they sent their children to Catholic schools.

"On class size, I think you can get as many opinions about what's ideal as you have class sizes," Sister Roberta said. "Our concern is that the size has to be fundable."

Suggestions offered to ease the financial burdens of Catholic education varied from tax relief, to greater efforts at marketing and recruiting, to a larger subsidy from the Thanks Giving Appeal or a diocesan school tax. Several speakers advocated some kind of diocesan school system or a regional system similar to that being studied in the Archdiocese of Baltimore.

"We are all functioning for the same purpose. We can't function as an island. Therefore we need to have a diocesan system and we don't have one now," said Grace Fischer, chairwoman of St. Ambrose School Board.

While most parishes responded that Catholics have an obligation to help those beyond their parish boundaries who are in need, they were not willing to do so at the expense of their own programs.

"What we have is a committed bunch of people who sacrifice to put their kids there (in Catholic school)," said Tony Meritano of St. Andrew's Parish. "There's a worry in the minds

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