



Downplaying divisions

En route to Bangladesh, Pope John Paul II put aside talk of divisions between the Vatican and U.S. Catholics; bishops approve new rules for RCIA. See page 5.



Home at last

Mount Carmel school is once again serving its neighbors, but in a new incarnation — as a home for 12 tenants who moved in just in time for Thanksgiving. See page 6.

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World & Nation in Brief from NC News

World

Bishops raise concerns

Wellington, New Zealand — In a one-hour working session with Pope John Paul II Nov. 23, New Zealand's bishops raised concerns about their dealings with Vatican congregations and suggested an expanded role for women in the Church, one of the bishops said. The bishops had requested the meeting, said Bishop Peter James Cullinane, because they wanted the pope to be able to listen as well as give speeches during his Nov. 22-24 visit to New Zealand. Bishop Cullinane, head of the Palmerston North Diocese and secretary of the New Zealand Episcopal Conference, spoke to reporters following the evening meeting in Wellington.

Pope asks Catholics to unite

Vatican City — Pope John Paul II has asked Nicaraguan Catholics to unite with their bishops in the search for national peace and reconciliation. This unity must involve "sincere obedience to the magisterium," the church's teaching authority, he said in a letter to Cardinal Miguel Obando Bravo of Managua, Nicaragua. The letter was written to mark the Nov. 17-23 national Eucharistic congress in Managua. It was dated Nov. 12 and released at the Vatican Nov. 24.

Nation

University omits Curran

Washington — The name of Father Charles E. Curran, a controversial moral theologian from Rochester, has been omitted from the list of instructors in a new course schedule for next semester at The Catholic University of America in Washington. Father Curran, a tenured professor at the university told by the Vatican in August that he can no longer teach as a Catholic theologian, said Nov. 20 there was no justification for omitting his name. But a university spokeswoman, Anne Smith, said that the chancellor, Archbishop James B. Hickey of Washington, can choose to delete the name of a faculty member who is involved in internal university procedures over a teaching position.

Pastoral letter draws fire

Los Angeles — A pastoral letter by Archbishop Roger Mahony of Los Angeles objecting to school-based health clinics met with counterobjections from the Los Angeles Times newspaper and prompted a school-board member to offer to debate the archbishop. The Times called the archbishop's pastoral an "unwarranted intrusion into a purely secular matter." A spokesman for Archbishop Mahony said the archbishop would not take up school board member Roberta Weintraub's offer to debate because some moral issues are non-debatable. The archbishop suggested instead that Catholic parents who have children in public schools might want to debate Weintraub. Health clinics that offer family planning counseling and dispense birth control devices are scheduled to open next year at three Los Angeles high schools.

Bishop withdraws handbook's imprimatur

Vatican finds book 'defective' on morality

By Karen M. Franz

In response to an October 17 letter from the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, Bishop Matthew H. Clark has removed his imprimatur from the sex-education manual "Parents Talk Love: The Catholic Family Handbook About Sexuality."

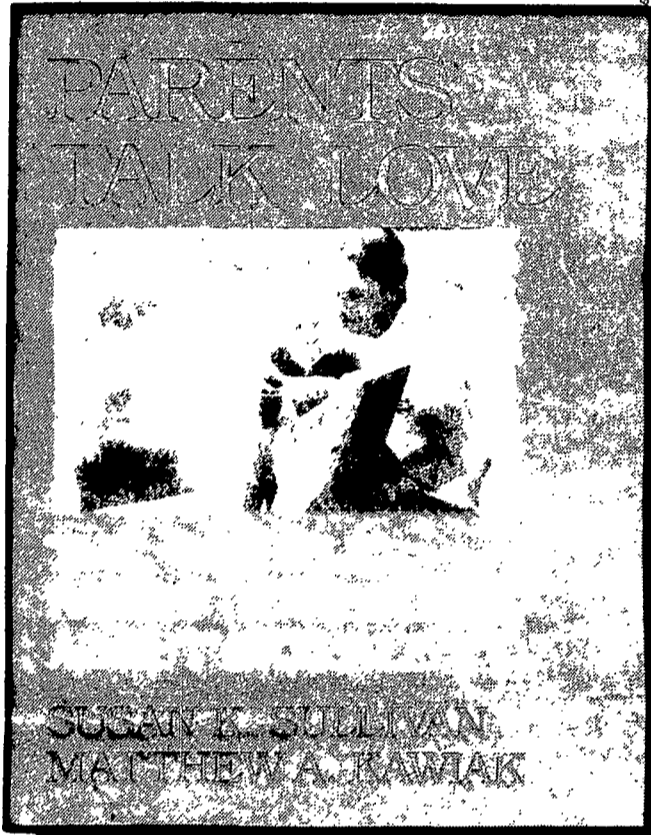
Released in 1985, the book was co-authored by Susan K. Sullivan, a science teacher at Cardinal Mooney High School, and Father Matthew A. Kawiak, a priest of the Diocese of Rochester who is currently serving as associate pastor at St. John the Evangelist, Greece.

In a written statement announcing the withdrawal of the imprimatur ("let it be printed"), Bishop Clark said, "While including positive assessments of this book — especially its readability, the centrality in presentation of the role of parents in the sexual education of their children as well as helpful presentations in developmental psychology — the Congregation has expressed reservations concerning its doctrinal content."

"After reviewing this text and the comments of the Congregation concerning possible confusion in some areas such as contraception, homosexuality and masturbation as discussed in this text, I have accepted the decision of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, and am withdrawing the Imprimatur granted June 27, 1984," the bishop concluded.

"Parents Talk Love" is the third U.S. book since 1984 to lose Church approbation as a result of Vatican criticism. In early 1984, the Congregation instructed Archbishop Peter L. Gerety of Newark, N.J., to remove his imprimatur from the 1967 book "Christ Among Us," Anthony J. Wilhelm's popular catechetical text for adult converts. Also in 1984, Archbishop Raymond Hunthausen of Seattle was instructed to withdraw his imprimatur from "Sexual Morality" by Philip Keane.

All three books were published by Paulist Press, a major U.S. Catholic publishing house owned and operated by the Paulist Fathers in Mahwah, N.J.



Authors say the risk was worthwhile

By Teresa A. Parsons

Susan K. Sullivan and Father Matthew A. Kawiak had a simple goal when they set out to write "Parents Talk Love" three years ago.

They aren't theologians, and they weren't trying to argue the merits of views that dissent from Church teaching.

They just wanted to help parents find the courage and the words to talk to their children about sex and sexuality, love and Catholic Christian values.

Through their own pastoral experiences, each became convinced that many parents wanted and needed support and education for that task.

Sullivan, 37, taught for 14 years in diocesan elementary schools and earned a master's degree from Nazareth College. Currently, and for the past three years, she has been teaching science at Cardinal Mooney High School.

Ordained in 1977, Father Kawiak, 36, has earned a D.Min. degree in marriage and family studies from Colgate

Rochester Divinity School and is a member of the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy. During the past nine years, he has served in many parishes throughout the diocese. Since last June, he has been associate pastor at St. John the Evangelist in Greece.

They met while working at the same parish in 1977. When Father Kawiak learned that Sullivan was teaching the parish school's sex education curriculum, he offered to help.

"We did a few things together with the kids," Sullivan recalled. "I had often heard from parents, 'Gee, I'm glad you told them that because I haven't been able to. I was very much aware that parents needed help, even though they never asked for it.'"

As Father Kawiak helped adults struggle to find and maintain healthy sexual relationships through pastoral counseling and marriage preparation, he encountered the same need for support and information.

Their book "Parents Talk Love" had its roots in a 16-hour workshop Sullivan and Father Kawiak developed in 1979 for the U.S.

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1 Alice is an 80-year-old woman who lives alone. She's nearly blind, so she doesn't see the layers of dust collecting on her favorite knickknacks. Alice was once a perfect housekeeper, but it's hard for her to find the energy these days. "When you're depressed," she says, "it's enough to climb out of bed and make a pot of tea." A volunteer visitor might give her some holiday cheer, and perhaps tidy up the apartment.

2 Al is 54 years of age. He walks with the help of two crutches. Al's hands and feet are deformed, so it's hard for him to do the simple things like dialing the phone or writing out checks to pay his bills. He's a fiercely independent man who will no doubt be seen this winter trying to make his way to the bank through the ice and snow. It took some time to convince him to accept help. Now we need a volunteer to provide the service.

3 Helen is 85. She has terminal cancer, but that's only part of the problem. Helen is also blind and isolated. She can't see to crochet anymore, so her days consist of doctor appointments and lonely hours with nothing to do. Helen is a friendly woman who would love a visitor to help pass the time. Helen won't be able to see the visitor's smile, but she doubtless will feel it.

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With this edition, we begin the 1986 Courier-Journal/Catholic Charities Christmas Fund drive. Established in 1969 as a joint project of this newspaper and the diocesan Catholic Charities office, the fund has helped Courier-Journal readers to assist hundreds of needy families and individuals throughout the diocese.

As part of the drive, the Courier-Journal annually publishes a listing of the "100 Neediest Cases" being handled by various offices of the diocesan Division of Social Ministry. Although the names of the needy people profiled below have been withheld, they and their needs are both real and documented.

But these 100 cases represent only a fraction of the poor people throughout the diocese who desperately need help to survive the winter and to enjoy Christmas.

Contributors are welcome to designate the case numbers of individuals or families they wish to assist. But because some cases may receive multiple gifts while others receive none and because there are many more needy people in the diocese, Catholic Charities reserves the right to distribute gifts to those most in need.

Contributions should be sent directly to:

Courier-Journal/Catholic Charities Christmas Fund
c/o Catholic Charities Office
1150 Buffalo Road
Rochester, N.Y. 14624