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A matter of choice
The League of Women Voters...
Project Life, a non-profit...
group that operates the...
Pregnancy Center. See Page 5.



Nail-biting finish
Aquinas edged Division 2 oppo-
nent Marshall in yet another close
match for the Little Irish; the girls'
roundball season is ready to roll.
See Pages 8 and 9.

COURIER-JOURNAL

Catholic Diocese of Rochester 50 Cents Thursday, January 15, 1987 16 Pages

World & Nation in Brief from NC News

World

Group opposes constitution
Manila, Philippines — The National Democratic Front, the dominant opposition group in the Philippines, said it will vote against the proposed new constitution in the country's Feb. 2 referendum. But other major Filipino organizations said they will vote "yes." Members of the front, which includes the Communist Party of the Philippines and the communist-led New People's Army, said they oppose the constitution, not President Corazon Aquino. They said her firing of Defense Minister Juan Ponce Enrile has lessened the threat of a coup d'etat, so it would not be destabilizing to vote against the constitution.

Pope warns of 'real poverty'
Vatican City — Pope John Paul II, warning of a "real poverty" in French Catholicism, urged the French bishops to revitalize the Christian message in their society. The pope outlined what he called a "condition of contrast" in the French church — between the dynamism shown by some of the faithful and the diminishing of religious practice by many others. He spoke Jan. 12 with four bishops from central France.

Arbitrator needed, pope says
Vatican City — The destructive power of modern weapons requires nations to make "the most radical rejection possible of war as a means to resolve conflicts," Pope John Paul II told a group of diplomats. The pope said the world needs "an international authority having sufficient powers" to arbitrate conflicts among nations. He did not elaborate. Each government should have only the arms necessary for "legitimate defense," the pope said Jan. 10 during his annual beginning-of-the-year greeting to diplomats.

Nation

Cardinal addresses criticism
New York — New York Cardinal John O'Connor said Jewish criticism of his recent trip to the Middle East would make it more difficult for him to continue working for greater understanding for Israel and Judaism. At an impromptu press conference, he also told reporters that Pope John Paul II could not be pressured into establishing diplomatic ties with Israel, and that attacks on the Vatican by Jews supporting such ties would not advance that cause.

Housing needs called 'urgent'
Rockville Centre — Housing needs on Long Island are immense and urgent, Bishop John R. McGann of Rockville Centre said in a pastoral letter released on January 8. Denying people their right to affordable housing is "a serious moral problem," the bishop added. The pastoral called for rezoning in Nassau and Suffolk counties, to permit two-family houses in appropriate areas in every town. He urged government officials on every level to review and correct ordinances that "have been formulated to defend the privilege of a few and create unnecessary obstacles for the many."

School to close at St. Anthony

By Teresa A. Parsons

Low enrollment and high costs claimed another urban Catholic school this week, as parish leaders at St. Anthony of Padua announced that they will not reopen their school at 15 Costar Street next year.

Parishioners, students and their parents were saddened, but not surprised. Each of the past eight years has been a struggle to fill classes in the transient neighborhood northwest of Rochester and to control rising costs for salaries and maintenance. After 80 years, the sacrifice required to support the school no longer made sense in light of the need for other parish programs.

Average class size at St. Anthony's this year was only 13 students. The school's financial woes were compounded by the cost of moving seventh and eighth graders to Our Lady of Good Counsel Junior High School. That consolidation was more expensive than expected because St. Anthony's was the only school to take part in the plan for a westside regional junior high school.

"What hit us this year was not only the movement of families out (of the neighborhood), but the failure of the usual influx to move in," said Principal Frank Vaccaro. "At the same time, I don't think anyone can honestly say we didn't give this a fair shake."

Parish council and school board members considered cutting the school back to kindergarten through grade three. They rejected that proposal in favor of continuing to financially support the junior high and to provide tuition subsidies for parish students of all ages who attend other Catholic schools.

"The parish will continue to help subsidize its students at other schools in the long term," said Vaccaro. "We want parents to realize that we are not turning our backs on them."

After several months of discussion, parish council members wrote to Bishop Matthew H. Clark on December 4, asking permission to close the school at the end of June, 1987. The bishop formally accepted their decision by letter later in December.

Throughout the rest of January, Vaccaro and the pastor, Father John Mulligan, plan to meet with each school family individually to discuss their plans for the future.

St. Anthony's plans to hire a staff member who will work as a liaison between families and the parish on school and tuition matters. The parish will also continue to recruit neighborhood students for Catholic schools. By continuing such programs as basketball



Jeff Goulding/Courier-Journal

A bequest from their former milkman, William Hoff, is a godsend for the Sisters of Our Lady of Charity at Holy Angels Convent in Irondequoit. Three of the seven sisters who still live at the convent are (from left) Sister Mary Helen Garrity, superior, Sister Marion Klipfel and Sister Paul Orlando. See story on page 6.

and cheerleading, and by enhancing religious education and sacramental programs, Father Mulligan also hopes to "keep kids identifying with the parish."

Diocesan education officials, meanwhile, will help those teachers from St. Anthony's who wish to remain in the Catholic school

system find positions at other schools. Parish leaders have not decided what to do with the school building. "We've kicked around day care as one idea," Father Mulligan said. "Our goal will be to use the school building in a way that will enhance the quality of life in the neighborhood."

Father Curran to challenge suspension

By Jerry Filteau

Washington (NC) — Father Charles E. Curran has received notification that he has been suspended from teaching spring-semester courses at The Catholic University of America but said January 12 that he planned to teach the courses anyway.



The action to suspend him was taken by Archbishop James A. Hickey of Washington, chancellor of the university, with the concurrence of other bishops on the university's board of trustees.

Father Curran announced his suspension in a news release made public on January 12. He told National Catholic News Service that he is planning to "teach the non-

ecclesiastical students in those courses" because, he said, the archbishop's authority only extends to programs involving the earning of canonical or ecclesiastical degrees.

What would he do if students for ecclesiastical degrees also signed up for the course? "I'll just tell those people I cannot teach them."

And if the university authorities should assign another teacher to teach those courses? "I'll consider that they have broken my contract."

University officials were not available for comment.

The Vatican Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith informed Father Curran last summer that, with Pope John Paul II's approval, it was declaring him unfit to teach Catholic theology and ordering withdrawal of his "canonical mission," or legal license to teach in the name of the church.

In his decision to suspend Father Curran from teaching, Archbishop Hickey cited university statutes that allow the chancellor to suspend a teacher facing possible dismissal from an ecclesiastical faculty when it is a "more serious or pressing case."

Father Curran said that the archbishop acted over the objections of Dominican Father William Cenkner, dean of the university's school of religious studies, and Oblate Father David Power, chairman of the theology department. Neither was immediately available for comment.

"I see no alternative to suspending you," Archbishop Hickey wrote in a December 19 letter which Father Curran released January 12.

In a response dated January 7, Father Curran called the suspension a "punishment" that "can only prejudice my position" in the hearing over his teaching license. Continued on Page 13