



Spiritual sanctuary

Not far from the heart of the city, the Mercy Prayer Center offers a sanctuary for dozens of religious and lay people searching for spiritual direction. See Page 4.



Delightful defense

Cardinal Mooney held both of its roundball opponents to less than 40 points in recording two wins last week: Kearney beat Nazareth in girls' hoops. See Pages 8 and 9.

COURIER-JOURNAL

Catholic Diocese of Rochester

50 Cents

Thursday, January 29, 1987

16 Pages

World & Nation in Brief from NC News

World

Human needs must be met

San Salvador, El Salvador — The key to peace in El Salvador is meeting human needs, especially the needs of the poor, Archbishop Roger Mahony of Los Angeles said at a church-sponsored peace observance in San Salvador. "Human development is plainly the key, the price that must be paid to live peacefully as brothers instead of destroying one another like wolves. This price is not too high," the U.S. prelate said in a Spanish-language talk Jan. 18. He was in El Salvador at the invitation of Archbishop Arturo Rivera y Damas of San Salvador.

'Halfway house' plans begin

Rome — The Vatican is establishing a center of spiritual formation for ex-seminarians of dissident Archbishop Marcel Lefebvre's Society of St. Pius X, two French bishops have said. The initiative, described by those familiar with it as a "halfway house" for would-be priests, was the idea of Pope John Paul II, several sources said. It was especially designed to take advantage of a recent large-scale departure from Archbishop Lefebvre's seminary in Ecône, Switzerland. The bishops said they supported the idea.

Nation

Congress rethinks deportation

Washington — Companion bills to halt deportation of Salvadoran refugees for two years were re-introduced in the House and Senate Jan. 20. The bills would delay deportation while the General Accounting Office and Congress investigate conditions in the refugees' homeland. The House version also would temporarily end deportation of Nicaraguan refugees. Similar legislation was introduced in 1986 but failed to pass.

Bieber endorses pastoral

Washington — The U.S. bishops "confront the American dream" of economic success with "the American reality" of economic injustice, Owen Bieber, president of the United Auto Workers, said Jan. 22. In a speech at a national conference in Washington Jan. 22-24 on the implementation of the bishops' economics pastoral, Bieber endorsed the pastoral as a guide to economic reform. The labor leader criticized the Reagan administration for encouraging greed and selfishness in U.S. society and ignoring serious problems of poverty.

Steps taken for nuns in need

Washington — Establishing a national office and naming an executive director are major steps forward for a project aimed at raising money to help aging nuns in need, organizers said Jan. 21. The campaign, known as SOAR, or Save Our Aging Religious, was launched last September by a group of prominent lay Catholics in response to a study released in May that showed U.S. religious orders are facing a retirement funding deficit estimated at \$2.5 billion. Rita Hofbauer, a former communications director for the Leadership Conference of Women Religious and a fund-raising consultant, has been named SOAR's first director.

Pro-life march hindered by freak D.C. storm

Snow limits turnout; 23 marchers arrested

By Teresa A. Parsons

The 14th annual March for Life and the 14th worst snowstorm ever to hit Washington, D.C., came together last Thursday with results that few who witnessed the combination will soon forget.

Beginning in the early morning hours of January 22, the storm dumped nearly a foot of snow on the city, at a rate of two to three inches each hour, according to local weather reports.

Meanwhile, thousands of pro-life advocates from across the country converged on the nation's capital to once again demonstrate their opposition to the Supreme Court's 1973 Roe vs. Wade decision legalizing abortion.

Twenty-three marchers were arrested at the end of the march, after they defied a federal law banning demonstrations on the Supreme Court grounds and approached the building, kneeling to pray on the steps. Some of those arrested reportedly carried dead human fetuses to illustrate the results of the court's decision.

"Those of us who were watching were appalled at seeing people being arrested for praying like that," said Don Peters, a Geneva resident who witnessed the arrests. "I think that's the direction the pro-life movement is heading. We've done the lobbying and the political and social action for 14 years. Now we have to allow ourselves to be arrested to put ourselves in the same vulnerable position that those babies are in."

"I think some of us probably will be doing the same thing next year," he added.

Police estimated Thursday's crowd at between 2,000 and 5,000, but many marchers believed the numbers were actually higher. "Because of the weather, the numbers were definitely lower than in past years," Peters said, "but 5,000 seems awfully low."

An estimated 500 people traveled to Washington from Rochester alone. St. Theodore's in Gates sent four buses carrying 160 people. Two more buses carried 88 people from St. John of Rochester Parish in Fairport. Neighboring Perinton Community Church also sent a delegation.

Forty-three people from Geneva and the Finger Lakes region made the trip, as did three buses from St. Margaret Mary Parish in Apalachin and one bus from Ithaca.

More than a few of the buses that departed for Washington from other parts of the coun-



Standing ankle-deep in snow, marchers listen to speakers.

Bob Strawn/NC photo

try never arrived at the march. Several from Western Pennsylvania came within 20 minutes of the capital, only to be turned back by radio broadcasts warning of severe weather. Other buses, including one from New Jersey, were so delayed by the weather that they pulled into the city after the march had ended.

Even some of those who made it to Washington missed the march as they waited for subway trains or buses. Federal offices and agencies began to close as early as noon, sending their employees out to mingle with demonstrators who were headed for legislators' offices or for the Ellipse behind the White House, where a rally traditionally precedes the three-mile trek down Pennsylvania Avenue.

Crowds choked the subway stations as Washington's Metro subway system began to fall behind schedule. By 5 p.m., many trains had stopped running altogether, as ice and snow accumulated on the system's above-ground lines.

Rumors that the march had been cancelled kept other marchers indoors. Although police did rescind the protestors' permit to march in the street because of traffic tie-ups, demonstrators were allowed to walk on the sidewalks instead.

Those who marched encountered moderate temperatures, but the driving snow piled up quickly on the sidewalks and kept visibility to



A protester listens attentively to the remarks of Senator Jesse Helms of North Carolina.

a minimum. Despite the weather, some parents brought youngsters and even infants along, sheltering them under umbrellas and coats or pulling them on sleds.

President Ronald Reagan spoke via telephone to demonstrators as they gathered for the rally at the Ellipse just before the march began. Terming the more than 4,000 abortions performed daily in the U.S. a "national tragedy," the president praised pro-life advocates

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Local marchers stranded overnight in Washington

EDITOR'S NOTE: Teresa A. Parsons, who reported on Washington's weather, the march, and the impact on the area's transportation.

A four-month-old baby and a 10-year-old with a fever lay among the nearly 200 people from St. Theodore's Parish in Gates who spent last Thursday night shivering on the concrete floor of a high school gym in Washington, D.C.

They and hundreds of other participants in the annual March for Life were stranded overnight by nearly a foot of snow that fell January 22, closing several major highways and bringing traffic in the nation's capital to a standstill.

"I've been going down for 10 years and that's the worst weather I've ever seen," said Don Peters, a Geneva resident who witnessed the arrests.

that traveled from the Finger Lakes area.

The Finger Lakes bus and three buses from Apalachin managed to get out of Washington Thursday afternoon, but were stranded for nearly 12 hours.

Most others were not as fortunate. Nearly 400 Missourians spent Thursday night on the porch at St. Peter's Church in downtown Washington, where volunteers serve coffee and doughnuts to travelers before each year's march.

The Gates delegation also stopped at St. Peter's, but was sent on to stay at Holy Spirit High School. Because their buses were parked elsewhere, they had to do without blankets, pillows and dry clothing. A single soft drink machine offered the only refreshment.

"It was a terrible experience, but despite all the hardships, everybody

took it quite well," said organizer Dee Dries. "We had very few complaints."

The accommodations were better for 88 passengers who traveled to Washington on two buses from St. John of Rochester Parish in Fairport. After their plan to sleep on the buses backfired because of diesel fumes, they spent the night at the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception on the campus of Catholic University of America. Thanks to sympathetic cafeteria workers who stayed with them all night, the travelers were able to sleep on booth seats rather than outside on the shrine's marble floor.

The group, half of whom were teenagers, accepted the delay gracefully. "Wasn't it an adventure?" exclaimed Ann Valenti. "I mean how many times do you get to stay all night in the National Shrine?"