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Remembering Romero

On the seventh anniversary of Archbishop Oscar Romero's death, stalled peace efforts in Central America gave local activists little to celebrate. See page 6.



Bioethical bewilderment

Katherine Schwarz, the director of a local program that performs in-vitro fertilization, is puzzled by the Vatican's strong stand against the procedure. See page 7.

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World & Nation in Brief from NC News

World

Papal agenda announced

Vatican City — City-by-city themes for Pope John Paul II's September 10-19 visit to the United States were outlined March 21, following a series of meetings between Vatican officials and a delegation of U.S. bishops.

Among the themes to be addressed by the pope are: Miami — ministry of priests, Catholic-Jewish relations; New Orleans — Catholic education, youth, black Catholics; San Antonio — Hispanic ministry, Catholic social services; Phoenix — Catholic health care, Native Americans; Los Angeles — communications, ethnic diversity, relations with non-Christians; San Francisco — lay ministry, men and women religious; and Detroit — permanent deacons, social justice.

No 'feminist-style' talks

Vatican City — The role of women in the Church should be discussed at the 1987 world Synod of Bishops, but not as "a feminist-style revindication of women's rights," said Cardinal Eduardo Poronio, one of the synod's main organizers.

The Argentine cardinal, president of the Pontifical Council for the Laity, made the statements in response to questions submitted by National Catholic News Service. "At issue is not the desire to totally put oneself on the same level as men, but a recognition of the complementarity of women in the evangelizing mission of the Church, as holy Mary had in the redeeming work of Jesus," he said.

Nation

Bishop praises encyclical

Washington — The head of the U.S. bishops' ecumenical affairs committee praised Pope John Paul II's new Marian encyclical for its biblical tone, Christ-centeredness, future orientation and call for an end to Christian divisions.

"I wish to express deep appreciation for the positive ecumenical thrust of the new encyclical," said Bishop William H. Keeler of Harrisburg, Pa., chairman of the Bishops' Committee on Ecumenical and Inter-religious Affairs.

Has Koop flown the coop?

Washington — Pro-life activists have strongly criticized U.S. Surgeon General C. Everett Koop for saying that a doctor would have to discuss abortion with a pregnant AIDS patient if he wanted "to give her all the possibilities."

As a result of Koop's March 24 statement, the March for Life Education and Defense Fund withdrew its "Life Award for Outstanding Pro-Life Service" given to Koop in 1984 and demanded that President Reagan fire the surgeon general. Meanwhile, Joseph Scheidler, director of the Pro-Life Action League, remarked that Koop had "surely flown the coop."

The surgeon general, however, emphatically denied dropping his longstanding opposition to abortion.



Jeff Goulding/Courier-Journal

PRAYER MEETING—Father Thomas Usher of Mobile, Alabama, assisted recently in leading a prayer meeting at St. Monica's Church. The topic of discussion was the black bishops' pastoral, which was drafted in 1984. For story, see page 5.

Visiting priest wants to serve in Rochester

By Teresa A. Parsons

He's black, he's Catholic and he's a priest.

His name is Father Thomas Usher, and he would like to serve in the Diocese of Rochester.

More specifically, Father Usher is interested in being pastor of a parish in the city of Rochester.

One of fewer than 300 black priests currently serving in the United States, Father Usher spent last week in Rochester, where he conducted parish missions at St. Augustine's and St. Monica's churches. The week-long stay was his third visit to Rochester in the past three years.

"I have felt attracted here since the first time I came," he said. "I see a place like Rochester as a real challenge."

For their part, diocesan officials say they are at least tentatively interested in Father Usher.

"I would say there is interest on both sides," said Father John Mulligan, director of the Division of Urban Services, who met with Father Usher last week. "At this point, my impression is that his availability is cloudy. Depending on when and if he is available, we might be able to see if we have something available."

Currently, Father Usher serves at St. Francis Xavier Parish, which he described as the fastest-growing black parish in Mobile, Alabama. Attendance at services there has tripled since he arrived last September, according to Father Thomas Weise, his pastor.

"He's been a real boost to our parish and

to my own spiritual life," Father Weise said. "I'm reluctant to go on about how good he is, because I hope that he'll stay here the rest of his natural life."

Ministry to youth is Father Usher's speciality. In Mobile, he has founded an ecumenical youth movement he calls Youth on the Move for Christ. "I found that Catholic teenagers were not involved with the Catholic Church as teenagers are in the Protestant churches," he explained.

One each month, the group sponsors a pep rally to encourage young people to "say no

to sex, drugs and alcohol — things that are tearing down American family life," Father Usher explained.

On one Sunday each month, the young people "take over" all the Masses, from planning the liturgy to banking the collection.

Father Usher believes the secret of his success in reaching young people is empathy — what he terms "my spirit."

"I know what it is to be young and misguided, unemployed and out on the street

Continued on Page 3

Sanctuary committee announces arrival of 'humanitarian parolee'

By Teresa A. Parsons

A 33-year-old Salvadoran woman is the latest refugee to be offered sanctuary in Rochester.

Members of the Rochester Sanctuary Committee introduced Cecilia Moran during a press conference Monday afternoon, March 30, at Temple B'rith-Kodesh, one of seven sanctuary congregations in the Rochester area.

Unlike her predecessors, Alejandro Gomez and his family, Moran is in the United States legally, according to a statement released at the press conference.

Experience and tougher immigration restrictions prompted those who supported the Gomez family in sanctuary for two years to think twice before inviting other illegal aliens into the sanctuary spotlight.

"We did a lot of soul-searching about how responsible it was to invite someone into sanctuary here who's illegal," said Christine Garrison, a spokeswoman for the sanctuary committee and a parishioner at Corpus Christi Church.

Although Moran said her legal status was temporary, she would not elaborate except to say that she was in the country under "humanitarian parole."

John Ingham, deputy assistant director at the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) office in Buffalo, would not confirm Moran's status, but said that humanitarian parole may be granted for an unlimited length of time in situations where "some compelling humanitarian need" is demonstrated.

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