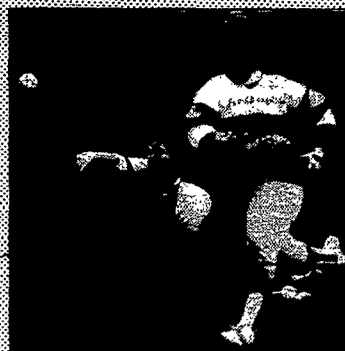




### Synod preview

Dolores Leckey remains unfazed by the prospect of representing the views of the American Catholic laity as an adviser at the World Synod of Bishops this October. See page 5.



### Grandstand plays

In just-spring, diocesan high schools prepare to embark on a new season of peanuts and Cracker-jacks. For previews of a great local pastime, see pages 8 and 9.

# COURIER-JOURNAL

Catholic Diocese of Rochester

50 Cents

Thursday, April 9, 1987

16 Pages

## World & Nation in Brief from NC News

### World

#### Officials seek extradition

Rome — Italian officials, citing a 1929 treaty with the Vatican, seek to extradite Archbishop Paul Marcinkus and two other Vatican bank officials to face charges in a bank fraud case, according to the Italian Justice Ministry. An informed Vatican source March 31 said he believed extradition papers had reached the Vatican.

#### Churches get warning

Hong Kong — A series of articles in a Hong Kong newspaper has warned Christian churches against engaging in political activity after the British territory reverts to the People's Republic of China in 1997. Some observers say the articles reflect official thinking in the People's Republic of China on the issue of religious freedom.

### Nation

#### KKK labeled 'contradiction'

Washington — Catholics who join the Ku Klux Klan and organizations that actively promote racism "act in violation of Catholic teaching," said the Administrative Board of the U.S. Catholic Conference. "These organizations are a scandalous contradiction to all that we hold sacred and teach in the name of Jesus Christ," said a statement the 50-bishop board released in late March.

#### Supreme Court refuses case

Washington — The Supreme Court March 30 refused to review a ruling that upheld the criminal prosecutions of sanctuary workers, even though the workers said their activities were protected by the right to freedom of religion. Without comment, the justices declined to hear an appeal by Jack Elder, former director of Casa Oscar Romero, a shelter for Central Americans in San Benito, Texas, and Stacey Lynn Merkt, who worked as a volunteer at the shelter.

#### CRS will maintain aid

New York — Catholic Relief Service's director for Latin America said the agency and its local counterparts in El Salvador were determined to continue promoting development efforts despite disruptions by the country's ongoing civil war. He made the comments in an interview at CRS headquarters in New York following an inspection trip March 16-29 that also took him to Costa Rica and Guatemala.

#### Ex-hostages urge education

Alexandria, Va. — Two Americans who were held hostage in Lebanon urged Arab-Americans April 3 to educate Americans about the Middle East and to help change misperceptions about Arabs. Servite Father Lawrence Martin Jenco, Catholic Relief Services director in Lebanon before he was held captive for more than a year, and David Jacobsen, who was held hostage for 17 months, spoke at the convention of the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee held April 2-5 in Alexandria, near Washington.



Jeff Goulding/Courier-Journal

SHROUDED IN MYSTERY — Dr. Harry Gove, a University of Rochester physicist, appears dwarfed by beam lines radiating from the main line in the Nuclear Particle Lab's experimental vault. Each line leads to a particular data-gathering device. One of these lines will be used to help analyze the age of the Shroud of Turin. For story, see page 6.

## Diocese plans expanded clergy convocation

### Most parishes to cancel Masses on April 28

By Teresa A. Parsons

A diocese-wide clergy convocation later this month may offer parishioners a glimpse of what the future would be like in a Church without priests.

From Monday afternoon, April 27, until noon on Wednesday, April 29, active priests of the Diocese of Rochester will gather at the Marriott Inn in Henrietta for Convocation '87.

As a result, daily Masses in most diocesan parishes will be canceled or replaced by communion services on Tuesday, April 28.

Addressing the convocation on the theme of "The Changes and Changing Sacramental Life of the Church" will be Albany Bishop Howard Hubbard, Bishop Matthew H. Clark and Dr. Mark Searle, associate professor of theology and coordinator of the graduate program in liturgical studies at the University of Notre Dame.

In addition to the keynote addresses, the convocation's format includes small-group and panel discussions, as well as shared prayer and Eucharistic celebrations.

The diocesan Ministry to Priests team has organized overnight gatherings of the presbyterate annually for the past eight years. Usually, convocations have been offered twice each year to accommodate priests in different regions of the diocese.

This year, members of the team recommended extending the convocation from 24 to 48 hours and offering it only once, according to Father James A. Schwartz,

director of Ministry to Priests.

"Our thinking was that when we had two conferences — even though they had the same theme — the personalities were different," Father Schwartz said. "We really have never convened all the priests of the diocese at the same time before."

Both the diocesan Priests' Council and Bishop Clark considered and approved the recommendation of the Ministry to Priests team that the diocese offer a single, expanded convocation.

Council members also suggested the convocation topic, according to Father Kevin Murphy, Priests' Council chairman.

"That came from the grassroots — that sacramental practice is something (priests) are concerned about," he said. "That's not to say that we all have to do the same thing, but maybe we need to better understand why we do what we do."

"If there are disagreements about sacramental practice, maybe we can wrestle with that," he added.

In several letters sent to diocesan priests over the past six months, Bishop Clark has emphasized the importance of the convocation as an opportunity for renewal as well as continuing education.

"I recognize that this conference will inconvenience your parish scheduling," the bishop wrote, "but I consider this Annual Priests' Conference a high priority for all of us."

Father Elmer Schmidt of St. Ann's in Hornell is one of many priests who favor the idea of a single gathering.

"We have to take time aside now and then to get the clergy together," he said. "These priests' gatherings are good for the soul as

well as for the social life."

For Father Joseph McCaffrey, the convocation will offer a rare opportunity to get together with his seminary classmates and celebrate their 10th anniversary of ordination.

"I like the idea of getting everybody together at once," he said. "When there were two (convocations), it was possibly easier for people to decide not to come, or to come for only part of the time."

Some priests are less enthusiastic about the idea, pointing out the irony of postponing the sacraments for a day while priests attend a conference on sacraments.

Although Father Conrad Sundholm, pastor of Holy Family and St. Aloysius in Auburn, said he will attend the convocation because he has no choice, he is also reserving judgment on the idea.

"If it turns out to have been worthwhile, then I don't think anybody will mind that much about cancelling Masses," he said. "If not, then I think there'll be a lot of complaints about pulling priests away from their parishes for that length of time . . . If you have a captive audience, then you have to produce, or there's going to be a lot of disappointment."

Because he prefers not to foster the idea of communion as separate from the celebration of Mass, Father Sundholm is among those priests who have chosen to cancel liturgies on April 28.

Others believe the occasion could be a teachable moment, particularly in parishes that have yet to feel the impact of diminishing numbers of priests.

"It may be one way of helping people  
Continued on Page 15