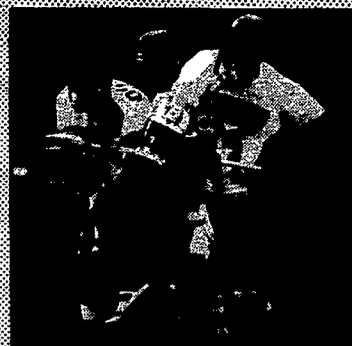


Come  
Celebrate  
LIFE

### LIFE without drugs

A state-sponsored residential program at St. Joseph's Villa provides a waystation for teens adjusting to life without drugs and alcohol. See page 5.



### Kings crowned

After jumping out to a 6-0 lead, the Bishop Kearney laxmen fell to the Vikings of Pittsford, 9-8; Mooney's Cardinals are yet to lose this baseball season. See page 11.

# COURIER-JOURNAL

Catholic Diocese of Rochester

50 Cents

Thursday, April 30, 1987

16 Pages

## World & Nation in Brief from NC News

### World

#### Vatican diplomat visits Poland

Vatican City — A leading Vatican diplomat began a week-long trip to Poland on April 21 to make preparations for Pope John Paul II's June 8-14 visit to his homeland, the Vatican has announced.

Archbishop Achille Silvestrini, secretary of the Council for the Public Affairs of the Church, made the trip at the separate invitation of the government and the Polish bishops.

### Nation

#### Priest urges AIDS education

New Orleans — A Marianist priest and former principal of a Catholic high school has called on the Church to educate its youth in the use of condoms in order to help stem the spread of AIDS.

The priest, Father Rodney J. DiMartini, made the call at a workshop on AIDS, acquired immune deficiency syndrome, at the April 20-23 National Catholic Educational Association convention in New Orleans.

Father DiMartini, former principal of Archbishop Mitty High School, said: "I am not doing anything more or less than acknowledging that in the exercise of their freedom, they (Catholic school students) may choose values different from those I taught them."

#### 'Climate' nurtures success

New Orleans — Catholic high school students do better in math, reading comprehension and writing, and are less likely to drop out than are their public-school counterparts, largely because of the community climate enveloping the schools, a new study says. The study also revealed that students from disadvantaged background — those with less educated parents, blacks and Hispanics — receive the greatest benefits from Catholic schools.

#### Stein niece to attend ceremony

Washington — The Jewish niece of Edith Stein says she will attend her aunt's beatification ceremony in Cologne, West Germany, "with mixed feelings." Susanne M. Batzdorff, a freelance writer and poet living in California, said memories of the effect her aunt's conversion from Judaism to Catholicism had on her family "will inevitably intrude upon the present."

Pope John Paul II is scheduled to officiate at the beatification May 1, during a five-day trip to West Germany.

#### Archdiocese denies story

Seattle — Spokesmen for the Seattle Archdiocese and Dignity have issued separate statements denying a newspaper report that said Auxiliary Bishop Donald Wuerl had ordered an end to Masses sponsored by Dignity, an unofficial support organization for homosexual Catholics.

Bishop Wuerl, priests involved in ministry to homosexual Catholics in the Seattle Archdiocese, and the board of directors of Dignity-Seattle met on April 21. An article in the April 23 Seattle Post-Intelligencer reported that at the meeting Bishop Wuerl had barred the homosexual group from sponsoring Masses in the archdiocese.



**GOLDEN MEMORIES** — "Not for profit, not for charity, but for service" was the motto chosen half a century ago by founders of the Holy Family Parish Credit Union. Credit union members spanning three generations gathered last week to celebrate the golden anniversary of something that has become more than a business. For story, see page 8.

Jeff Goulding/Courier-Journal

## Street life a nightmare for mentally ill

By Teresa A. Parsons

Robert says he sleeps on a rock near the Genesee River most nights because he feels safer there than in many homeless shelters. By day, he wanders the streets, fantasizing. Among his favorite daydreams is the thought of squeezing and shaking small, female animals with his hands.

John stayed at one parish shelter occasionally this past winter. But he was seldom able to sleep more than an hour or two at a time. The rest of the night, he paced around the room without speaking. When questioned, his answers were usually either perfunctory or incoherent.

Four other former mental patients, who were spending nights at a different parish shelter, were arrested in the course of less than two weeks earlier this month. The incidents, which resulted in charges ranging from disorderly conduct to assaulting a police officer, happened during the day, while the shelter was closed.

Each of the four men had recently been released from the Rochester Psychiatric Center, according to mental health nurse Jacqueline James, who encountered their cases in her work for the Monroe County Court clinic.

James has watched, often helplessly, as increasing numbers of mentally ill people who are homeless or indigent become trapped in a nightmarish cycle, shuffling back and forth between hospitals, jail and the streets.

"(Patients) get referred to one of the shelters, where they could probably function pretty well if they stayed on their medication," she explained. "But if they're on the street from 7 in the morning until 9 at night, that's an awful long time with nothing to do. Some start drinking or taking drugs if they have the money. Some don't have enough judgment to go for food, or to know where to go.

"The hospitals terminate them as outpatients if they don't follow up. Sooner or later they end up in jail, usually on petty charges," she continued. "If they have deteriorated enough, they may meet the

criteria for inpatient treatment. But some don't — they're still rational enough to be returned to the community. So we refer them to the Salvation Army or to one of the other shelters ... Usually they keep on getting arrested until they're psychotic enough to return to the hospital."

Patients are most often referred by the court system to James, whose job it is to evaluate whether they need treatment or hospitalization. Of at least 10 such cases James has seen in the last month, only three of the individuals in question have been

shelters, clinics and other outreach sites.

Throughout the winter, coordinators at several parish homeless shelters observed an increase in the number of guests who appeared to suffer some degree of mental illness.

All three parish emergency shelters closed for the summer earlier this month. But the drop-in center that continues at Corpus Christi's Dimitri House has begun to resemble a hospital waiting room, according to Elizabeth Quinlan, the parish's health advocate for the homeless.

"Personally, I kind of admire them. If it was me, I don't think I would make it on the street with the resources they have. Most 'normal' people couldn't survive under those circumstances."

Jacqueline James  
mental health nurse

readmitted to hospitals. The others are in jail or back on the street, surviving somehow.

"Personally, I kind of admire them," she said. "If it was me, I don't think I would make it on the street with the resources they have. Most 'normal' people couldn't survive under those circumstances."

Estimating how many homeless people are mentally ill is difficult — in part because current estimates of the numbers of homeless in Rochester vary from 200 to more than 500.

Nationally, between 35 and 50 percent of all homeless people are believed to suffer some sort of mental illness. But even the criteria used to establish who is mentally ill is subject to debate. In the meantime, at least some of the homeless people who are mentally ill are not counted in surveys and studies because they are afraid to go to

"All winter long, the numbers (of people who appeared to be mentally ill) have been higher, during the last month or two especially," she said. "We have certainly seen a real increase.

"The 'Catch-22' is that they're not ill enough to be a danger to self or others, so there's little you can do in the way of an involuntary mental health arrest," Quinlan added. "But a lot of people aren't stable enough to follow up with medical care for themselves ... I think the system is assuming a capacity for follow-up that really isn't there."

At the Rochester Psychiatric Center (RPC) — one part of the mental health care system to which Quinlan refers — patients cannot be released without an individual service plan.

Continued on Page 8