



Three phases of faith

The Star of David, star with cross, and shield of the Order of Carmel symbolize the life of Edith Stein, who was beatified last week by Pope John Paul II. See page 4.



Silver sizzlers

The action was hot even though the weather was not, as Aquinas and Cardinal Mooney captured league wins at Silver Stadium last Sunday. See page 10.

COURIER-JOURNAL

Catholic Diocese of Rochester

50 Cents

Thursday, May 7, 1987

16 Pages

World & Nation in Brief from NC News

World

Rosary to air on 90 stations

Vatican City — A worldwide rosary broadcast led by Pope John Paul II will be televised June 6 by at least 90 local stations in the United States, the Vatican's top communications official said.

The rosary recital is scheduled for night before the Marian Year of Prayer is to begin. The broadcast is expected to reach the 50 largest U.S. population centers, said U.S. Archbishop John Foley, president of the Pontifical Commission for Social Communications. Called "Prayer for World Peace," the service will be produced by Tony Verna, who in 1985 orchestrated the "Live Aid," benefit concert for African famine relief.

Priest sues Mexican officials

Mexico City — A Mexican Catholic priest has sued the Mexican government, charging that the newly reformed federal election code barring clergy from publicly supporting parties and candidates violates his civil rights. According to Mexico's supreme court president, Carlos del Rio, a decision on the lawsuit is expected in June and should determine whether the clergy will be granted the full rights held by other Mexican citizens.

Nation

Five caught in collection thefts

Cleveland — Law enforcement officials using hidden cameras have caught five Cleveland-area parishioners who allegedly were stealing from the church collections they regularly counted. The investigation was sparked by diocesan officials' suspicions about dwindling collections. Cuyahoga County Sheriff's Inspector Edward P. Kovacic the thefts, which took place in four parishes, total from \$500,000 to \$1 million.

Bishop criticizes screening

Helena, Mont. — Current vocations screening processes appear to be rejecting "good candidates" for the priesthood, Bishop Elden F. Curtiss of Helena said in a letter April 20 to all the bishops of the United States.

Screeners seem to be asking too much emotional and psycho-sexual maturity in young candidates, Bishop Curtiss said.

In addition, they sometimes let liberal or conservative biases shape their decisions, looking only for priests who fit their idea of what the Church should be, he said.

Memorial funds established

Buffalo — The Diocese of Buffalo recently announced the establishment of memorial funds in the names of Father A. Joseph Bissonette and Monsignor David Herlihy. The two priests were found slain in Buffalo rectories earlier this year.

The diocese established the fund in memory of Father Bissonette, to further social justice programs to which the priest had been dedicated. An anonymous donor set up the Monsignor David Herlihy Scholarship Fund to help needy students attend Christ the King Seminary in East Aurora.

Task force report:

Group offers finance plan for diocese

By Teresa A. Parsons

A financial-planning group is recommending that the Diocese of Rochester consider a major fund-raising campaign to support such long-term needs as ministerial training for lay people, pension funds for religious, Catholic education and ministry to the poor.

The group, known as the Five-year Financial Planning Process Task Force, also urged that pastoral center administration be simplified, that costs for maintenance of diocesan buildings and property be minimized, and that the Catholic school system be further consolidated.

Bishop Matthew H. Clark convened the task force last June, asking members to estimate what funds and resources are realistically available to the diocese, to examine how those resources might be used more effectively, and to recommend ways of improving diocesan administration. The bishop also asked the task force to suggest how best to continue the process of long-range financial planning.

The 20-member task force, appointed by Bishop Clark and chaired by Nazareth College president Rose Marie Beston, included pastors, diocesan administrators, community and business leaders, and representatives of diocese-sponsored programs and agencies.

Members gathered for two-day seminars in June, October and December, 1986. In August, they surveyed pastors, parish staffs, diocesan department and division directors, and executive committee members of the Priests' Council, Diocesan Sisters' Council and Diocesan Pastoral Council, asking what critical challenges the diocese will face during the next five years.

Bishop Clark has accepted the task force's report, which consists of eight general recommendations. Many of the recommendations confirm directions established by other recent reports from the Implementation Committee for elementary school planning, the Personnel Commission, the Commission on Women in the Church, and the Women Religious Compensation Committee.

"We on the task force are a little excited about the fact that some of these reports are beginning to coalesce," said Father John Mulligan, director of the Division of Urban Services. "One of the most critical challenges we face now is how do we tap the people and resources that are already there?"

Throughout the next month, Bishop Clark will seek reaction to the report, beginning May 4 with that of Pastoral Center staff members, and concluding with reaction from the DPC on June 3. The bishop is then expected to decide how and when to implement the report's recommendations.

At the pastoral center briefing Monday, Bishop Clark said that although he had accepted the recommendations, they were not inalterable.

"I am particularly pleased to see some of the same strains emerging as in previous reports," he remarked. "They bear a remarkable similarity to the issues other local churches are dealing with as well."

Quoting liberally from the U.S. bishops' 1986 pastoral on Catholic social teaching and the U.S. economy, the report calls for more of the diocesan budget to be expended on the poor, particularly in such areas as advocacy, education, employment and spiritual counseling, as well as housing, food and clothing.



Jeff Goulding/Courier-Journal

CATCHING SOME RAYS — Seniors Maura Clifford, right, and Ann Paonessa enjoy their free period at Our Lady of Mercy High School by soaking up some sunshine on the school grounds.

Specifically, task force members suggested that 5 to 10 percent of the proceeds from a diocesan fund-raising campaign be directed toward the Foundation of the Catholic Diocese of Rochester's Fund for the Poor. Members urged that parishes likewise contribute to the foundation a similar percentage of any renovation or construction funds.

At the same time, the report called for a careful review of the Church's ministries to ensure that the Church is not duplicating services offered in the public sector.

Maintenance costs for diocese-owned property and buildings were also targeted for careful review. Recent appraisals have set the replacement value of diocesan facilities at more than \$600 million. "It is important that these facilities continue to enhance our ministry rather than burden it unnecessarily," task force members wrote.

Although a system-wide estimate of recent increases in Catholic school costs was not available, the report notes that schools are clearly requiring an ever-larger share of diocesan and parish resources to serve a diminishing share of the Catholic population.

Based on projected school costs and enrollment, task force members urged that a group

be appointed to design a consolidation plan for the next five years. The aim of consolidating schools, they wrote, is "to continue to provide quality Catholic education, to pay more competitive salaries, and to have more adequate resources."

Competitive salaries were never a consideration among the congregations of women religious who built the American Catholic school system with decades worth of low-cost labor. But today, congregations across the country are facing a shortfall in retirement funding, as the numbers of active, income-earning sisters diminish and the numbers of elderly and retired sisters increase.

The financial task force recommended that part of the proceeds from the diocesan fund-raising campaign should go toward pension funds for women religious.

The task force also recommended that a contingency plan be developed to deal with immediate needs of religious congregations, which might surface before the diocesan fund-raising campaign has begun.

As the numbers of women religious and clergy have declined, the need for full-time, professional lay ministers has grown. Resources

Continued on Page 3