



Picking up the pieces

The Puzzle Project's volunteer counselors find that in the aftermath of an abortion, forgiveness is not easy to ask for, and even harder to believe in. See page 6.



All in the family

Much like her sister Beth did for the Mercy hoop team last season, Laura Wambach came through in a big way for the Mercy soccer team in a win over Mooney. See page 16.

COURIER-JOURNAL

Catholic Diocese of Rochester

50 Cents

Thursday, October 8, 1987

16 Pages



Bonnie Trafelet/Courier-Journal

COLD COMFORT — Senior Anisa Raaf is among University of Rochester students occupying an on-campus "shantytown" constructed October 3 to protest university investment in South Africa. At an October 8 meeting, the university's trustees were expected to consider University President G. Dennis O'Brien's recommendation to halt such investments. Prior to the meeting, representatives of the Genesee Valley Office of Social Ministry and Action for a Better Community wrote several letters favoring O'Brien's recommendation as "an appropriate first step toward divestment."

Women key to early talks at world synod

By Agostino Bone-

Vatican City (NC) — The role of women in the Church emerged as one of the main topics in the opening days of the world Synod of Bishops on the laity. The discussion focused on issues of equality and mission, but did not include ordination.

Other topics discussed in the early sessions of the Oct. 1-30 meeting included: clarification of lay ministries within the Church; primary responsibility of lay people to Christianize the secular world; the Church and politics; and the relationship of Church-approved lay groups with one another and with the hierarchy.

In a waiver of synod rules, lay people addressed plenary sessions. Normally, only voting delegates are allowed to address the assemblies. Synod rules limit voting to bishops and a few priests who are heads of religious orders or who are specifically appointed by the reigning pope.

Among the lay speakers were Vicente Espeche, Argentine ambassador to Algeria, and Jean-Loup Dherse, a French citizen and one of the organizers of the Chunnel project, which is designed to unite France and England by a tunnel under the English Channel.

The day before the synod opened, September 30, the synod's permanent general secretary, Archbishop Jan Schotte, said Catholics worldwide are accepting the Vatican's frequently repeated distinction between

Continued on Page 4

Catholics view evangelist's visit as challenge and opportunity

By Teresa A. Parsons

Catholics could learn a lot about evangelization from the Billy Graham Crusade.

By the time Graham arrives in Rochester next September 11 to begin an eight-day prayer and preaching campaign, preparation for the event will have been going on for more than a year.

Overall, the crusade is expected to mobilize upwards of 15,000 volunteers, and could draw more than 100,000 participants. Each night, hundreds of people will likely step forward in response to Graham's call, and make a commitment to Christ and to their individual church communities. Follow-up efforts to support those people will continue for at least another year after the crusade ends on September 18. Regardless of how grand its scale may be, the Billy Graham Crusade works because it teaches people how to evangelize one-on-one. That's a skill local Catholics have an opportunity to learn firsthand when the crusade comes to town. But judging by all indications to date, not many of them will.

Only a handful of pastors and diocesan administrators attended an informational seminar presented at the Diocesan Pastoral Center last Wednesday, Sept. 30, by crusade organizers, including Sterling W. Huston, director of Billy Graham Crusades for North America.

Some of those present blamed the low attendance on a week that was already packed with diocesan meetings for pastors. Others speculated that more parishes might become involved as the event draws closer and the potential benefits of the crusade become a little clearer.

Father Thomas J. Mull, diocesan director of liturgy and a member of the local crusade organizing committee, envisions the follow-up process as the stage in which Catholic parish-

es are most likely to become involved. "A lot of evangelization is follow-up," he observed.

But by taking the more passive approach of focusing on follow-up, diocesan parishes may forfeit a ready-made opportunity to bring unchurched and alienated Catholics to the crusade.

For instance, during one of the crusade's early preparatory phases, known as Operation Andrew, participants are asked to pinpoint seven friends, relatives or neighbors who have either fallen away from a church or are unchurched. Those seven people then become the focus of a campaign of prayer and outreach leading up to the crusade. Operation Andrew also organizes delegations to the crusade from particular churches or church groups. "The churches that reach out and bring people to the crusade are the ones that reap the most benefits," Huston said.

Pastors and parish leaders who didn't attend last week's seminar, but who were contacted by phone, expressed support for the idea of a crusade, but not much interest in it. Some said they had never heard anything about the crusade.

Father Ron Stacy is pastor of St. Andrew's Parish, which is just around the corner from Silver Stadium where the crusade will take place next fall. He said he'd be glad to advertise the event in the parish bulletin if asked. But he does not foresee any major involvement on behalf of his parish.

It's not that he finds the basic aims of a crusade — to strengthen local churches and proclaim the gospel — contradictory to Catholicism. Father Stacy simply thinks that St. Andrew's has more pressing priorities to address.

"There might be a hesitancy or a fear in some parishes, where they might not know

what it's all about," he said. "But I don't see it as being an anti-Catholic kind of thing. I've watched Billy Graham on television ... His is a non-denominational approach. He encourages people to go to their own churches."

Other pastors agreed with Father Stacy's perception that Billy Graham does not proselytize for any particular denomination during a crusade. He is scrupulously careful instead to gear all his preaching toward general topics that are common to all Christian denominations, and that are aimed at strengthening local churches.

"Mr. Graham is very much aware of the fact that it's not his church, and that the benefits (of the crusade) have to be given back to the local church," Huston said. "In other words, you get them there to take the first step, then we'll bring them back to the local churches and you can finish the job."

Crusade counselors are likewise strictly enjoined against proselytizing those people — known as inquirers — who come forward during a crusade.

Instead, counselors are instructed to ask for the inquirer's denomination and whether he or she currently has a "church home." After the crusade has ended, the names of those who already belong to a local congregation are handed over to their pastors for follow up. Those inquirers who specify "Catholic" as their denomination will be referred either to the diocesan pastoral office or to the most geographically convenient Catholic parish. An ecumenical designating committee determines which local churches receive the names of those inquirers who, when asked, specify no church or denomination.

Crusade personnel then help to train and organize church groups to contact inquirers and



Billy Graham

try to ensure that they follow through on their commitment.

In spite of assurances to the contrary, however, Catholic leaders who work within Rochester's Hispanic community are concerned that the crusade will heighten an already belligerent relationship between Catholics and pentacostal or evangelical groups.

"Particularly among Puerto Ricans, who make up the bulk of Rochester's Hispanic community, if you're not Catholic then you're

Continued on Page 14