



Ashes to ashes

A group of Nazareth College students and faculty members staged an Ash Wednesday protest to draw attention to the dangers of nuclear war. See page 3.



Tournament time

Both Elmira Notre Dame and McQuaid Jesuit will be defending sectional titles this year, as action from hoop tournaments around the state begins to heat up. See page 8.

COURIER-JOURNAL

Catholic Diocese of Rochester

50 cents

Thursday, February 25, 1988

16 Pages

Papal encyclical focuses on developing world

By Agostino Bono

Vatican City (NC) — Pope John Paul II's new social encyclical strongly condemns the superpowers for transferring their ideological and political battles to the Third World, thereby hindering socio-economic development there.

This is a principal cause of the growing gap between rich and poor nations which threatens world peace, the document said.

Third World countries, rather than becoming more independent during the past 20 years, have "become parts of a machine, cogs on a gigantic wheel," it said.

The document chided the Western and Eastern blocs for "a tendency toward imperialism.

"The present division of the world is a direct obstacle to the real transformation of the conditions of underdevelopment in the developing and less advanced countries," it said.

The Church does not take sides in the East-West battle, considering both ideologies "imperfect and in need of radical correction," the encyclical noted. It also said that foreign aid that is conditioned on promoting population-control programs "racist" and a new type of "oppression."

The pope's 102-page social encyclical, *Sollicitudo Rei Socialis* ("On Social Concerns"), was dated December 30, 1987, and was made public February 19. It commemorates the 20th anniversary of Pope Paul VI's social encyclical *Populorum Progressio* ("On the Development of Peoples"), which advocated greater development programs for poor nations.

According to Pope John Paul II, the 20 years since *Populorum Progressio* have seen "the widening of the gap between the areas of the so-called developed North and the developing South."

The encyclical encouraged regional economic and political cooperation among the less developed nations, greater Third World initiatives to overcome domestic problems, and more cooperation among developed and underdeveloped countries in solving critical problems such as the foreign-debt burden.

It also opposed state-supported birth-control campaigns and warned that development must go beyond economics to include people's cultural and spiritual needs.

"It is very alarming to see governments in many countries launching systematic campaigns against birth," the document said.

"It often happens that these campaigns are the result of pressure and financing coming from abroad, and in some cases they are made a condition for the granting of financial aid and assistance," it added.

The encyclical called such campaigns "a new form of oppression."

"It is the poorest populations which suffer such mistreatment, and this sometimes leads

Continued on Page 5



The 8,600-foot elevation of Bogota, Colombia, makes for cold nights for an estimated 10,000 homeless children, mostly boys between 9 and 13, who roam the streets and sleep in boxes, garage dumps and beneath overpasses. Pope John Paul II's new social encyclical condemns the superpowers for transferring their ideological and political battles to the Third World.

UPI/NC News

AIDS services provide reconciliation, hope

By Lee Strong

"I feel like I'm a human being again," Ray said, sitting in the pew after the service.

Ray — who asked that even his real first name not be used — said that the interfaith healing service held at the Open Arms Metropolitan Community Church on Friday, Feb. 19, helped him to feel accepted as a person by the Catholic Church.

"For so many years, I felt the Church called me by labels like 'sinner' and 'homosexual,' not as a person," Ray said. "When (Bishop Matthew H. Clark) embraced me and prayed for me, I felt accepted."

Ray was among the approximately 200 people who attended the ecumenical service, which was planned in conjunction with a memorial service held the next evening at Temple B'rith Kodesh for those who had died of AIDS. Bishop Clark preached at the Friday service; Bishop William Burrill, head of the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester, spoke at the memorial service.

According to the Rev. Cathy Elliott, pastor of the Metropolitan Community Church, the two services were meant to be taken together.

"People have a need for healing in different ways — spiritual, emotional and psychological," the Rev. Elliott said. "The healing service will enable them to start the healing process.

The memorial service will allow people to find closure — to mourn for those who have died."

In addition to Bishops Clark and Burrill, clergy participating in the healing service were: the Rev. Leardrew Johnson, pastor of Mt. Olivet Baptist Church; the Rev. David Hoecker, pastor of the Lutheran Church of Concord; the Rev. Mary Lynn Gras of the Justice Task Force of the Presbytery of the Genesee; Rabbi Judith Cohen-Rosenberg of Temple B'rith Kodesh; and the Rev. Justo Gonzalez, deacon of the Rochester Christian Church Ministries. Rabbi Judea Miller of Temple B'rith Kodesh joined the others for the memorial service. Because of other obligations, Bishop Clark was unable to take an active role in the memorial service, but he did attend the service, arriving late and sitting in the rear of the temple.

"The services did exactly what we wanted them to do," the Rev. Elliott said. "AIDS is an issue of life and death that affects people of all faiths. There's a need to tell people who are impacted by the disease that there are people and churches who do care."

Jackie Nudd, head of AIDS Rochester and another of the services' organizers, described the events as an "acknowledgement by mainstream churches that people with AIDS are human beings who need to be ministered to. There's been too much muddying of the waters

about morality," she added.

Morality was never mentioned during the Friday service. Nor was sin or punishment. Instead, speaker after speaker spoke of healing, hope, reconciliation and consolation.

Bishop Clark picked up on many of these themes in his homily. He began by saying that "at our worst moments, our phobias and prejudices do surface," but that "at our best moments we can show profound compassion and great generosity as we care for those who are ill or walk with those who are loved ones and who are persons with AIDS."

People of faith, "must challenge our society to deal justly with persons with AIDS," Bishop Clark said, adding that everyone must receive AIDS education so that "decisions can be grounded in facts, rather than in fear rooted in hatreds or misunderstanding."

In addition to education, Bishop Clark said, society must help intravenous drug users, combat the international drug trade, avoid mandatory AIDS testing used as a basis for discrimination, and provide special care for children born with antibodies to the AIDS virus.

Of special concern also are mothers who have been exposed to the virus, Bishop Clark noted. They "should never need to believe that

Continued on Page 11

Index

| | |
|--------------------------|-------------|
| Around the Diocese..... | Page 2 |
| Calendar..... | Page 7 |
| Classifieds..... | Page 11 |
| Columnists..... | Pages 12-13 |
| Echo..... | Page 10 |
| Editorial & Opinion..... | Page 14 |
| Features..... | Page 16 |
| Local News..... | Pages 3-4 |
| Obituaries..... | Page 11 |
| Sports..... | Pages 8-9 |
| World & Nation..... | Pages 5-6 |



0174-7013/8802-08