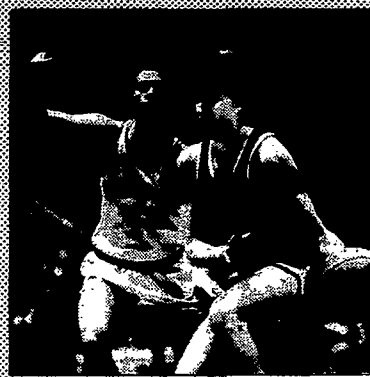




Constitution confirmed

After 19 years of reflection and revision, the Sisters of St. Joseph of Rochester are the most recent religious order in the diocese to have their revised constitution approved by Rome. Page 3.



McQuaid mesmerized

Our Saviour Lutheran's Donny Tirado dazzled all on hand at the Glens Falls Civic Center last weekend, as the Bronx team ousted McQuaid from the Federation Tournament. Pages 8 and 9.

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Easter greetings

After delivering handmade Easter baskets to the residents of Hamilton Manor nursing home in Greece, Andrea Turney, 9, (left) and Emily Westlake, 10, talk with 99-year-old Laura Lambke. The two girls and their third-grade classmates from St. John the Evangelist Parish, Greece, made more than 40 baskets as part of their religious-education class. The children sang songs, chatted with residents, and were treated to cookies and juice for their efforts.

Bonnie Trafelet/Courier-Journal

Application bars church demolition

Diocese considers responses to move

By Richard A. Kiley

Diocesan officials are still pondering what action to take in response to landmark preservationists' latest attempt to save Holy Redeemer Church from demolition.

Last week, William E. Kruse, 18 Delamain Drive, Rochester, submitted an application asking the City of Rochester to grant landmark status to the 110-year-old church at the corner of Hudson and Clifford avenues, in an effort to prevent the Rochester diocese from obtaining a permit to raze the edifice. While the application is under review, the diocese can not demolish or make any other changes to the church without the approval of the city's preservation board.

A former parishioner of the church, Kruse worked with the Landmark Society of Western New York in preparing the application, which he filed with the city's zoning department. The city's preservation board will now review the application, and public hearings on the matter will begin on April 18. The board will then have up to 21 days to make its decision.

According to Stephen Kruk, a lawyer for the diocese, a response to the application will not be made until after Easter.

Although Kruk said that no decision has been made on what grounds the diocese will use in making its argument to the preservation board, "I think it's totally fair to say that we will oppose this legislation."

Six members of the city's preservation board are landmark society members, and three of the six are on the society's board of trustees. Although it is not unusual for the board to include representatives of the landmark society, Kruk said the diocese may try to show that the situation constitutes a conflict of interest.

"Right now we're researching a number of avenues we might take," said Kruk, an attorney with the firm of Fix, Spindelmann, Turk, Himelein and Shukoff. "We may take (the application) on from the conflict-of-interest approach. We're also looking to research issues related to the legality of the city ordinance itself," he said.

"My research will be completed at the end of this week, and then I'll report my findings and review them with the diocese," the

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Amnesty program ending; applicants few

By Lee Strong

When the amnesty provisions of the Immigration and Control Act of 1986 went into effect in May, 1987, federal officials estimated that 3.5 million undocumented aliens were qualified for legalization.

But by February 6, 1988, only 970,000 people throughout the country had applied for legalization.

The national pattern has carried over to the local level as well. At the Buffalo office of the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Services, 19 staff members had originally been assigned to handle thousands of expected applicants. Only 250 people have applied for amnesty thus far, and only one staff member remains assigned full-time to the program.

Now, as the May 4 deadline approaches for the year-long amnesty program, federal officials have mounted a last-minute campaign to attract eligible applicants.

The Buffalo INS office is distributing posters and leaflets, and advertizing in newspapers and on ethnic radio stations.

"Our message right now is that everyone eligible should apply," said Winston Barrus, assistant district director at the INS office in Buffalo. "It's a once-in-a-lifetime (chance). There's no future in staying illegal."

In conjunction with INS efforts, local human-service groups have stepped up efforts to alert undocumented aliens about the approaching end of the amnesty program. For example, Catholic Charities of the Diocese of

Buffalo, using a \$5,000 grant from the Governor's Task Force on Immigration and Legalization and \$1,000 from the Volunteer Lawyers Project of Erie County, is putting up a dozen billboards advertizing the program in western New York.

Meanwhile in Rochester, the Western New York Immigration Network issued a statement Friday, March 25, urging Congress to extend the legalization provisions of the act. At the same time, the group has increased its own efforts to make people aware of the deadline.

"There may be many people who have not come out," explained Greg Zuroski, issues coordinator for one of the network's member agencies, the diocesan Office of Social Ministry. "Now is the time for some people to find out about the legalization process."

Network members said they believed most undocumented aliens in the region are aware of the amnesty program, but some have chosen not to apply. Among the major reasons aliens avoid the program, network members said, are that many potential applicants fear that applying would somehow result in deportation, fear that they will not qualify or will endanger family members who do not qualify, or simply fear the INS.

"Immigration has a reputation of being rather hard-nosed at times and overzealous in enforcing the law," noted Ed Patane, refugee supervisor at the Catholic Family Center. "Whether true or false, immigration has a poor reputation with aliens."

Aware of this reputation, INS has for the last year worked with church and community agencies that serve as intermediaries, or "qualified designated entities" in the service's parlance. During their first six months of operation, the two local ODEs — Catholic Family Center and Rural Opportunities, Inc. — interviewed 641 people to determine their eligibility and assisted 287 of these aliens with applications.

Another commonly cited reason for the lack of applicants is the program's application fees — \$185 per person and \$420 per family. That cost does not include such additional charges as fees for medical examinations, photographs and fingerprinting.

In addition, the application process involves a great deal of paperwork and documentation. To be eligible, aliens must be able to prove that they entered this country illegally before January 1, 1982, or that they worked in agricultural jobs at least 90 days between May 1, 1985, and May 1, 1986. As proof of residency, aliens may use employment records, income tax returns, rent receipts, school records, medical records and post marked letters, as well as affidavits from neighbors, friends, teachers, business owners and church officials.

Producing these records is a problem for many of the aliens, however, noted Sosthenes Pierre-Philippe, legalization assistant at the Catholic Family Center. Many of the immigrants do not have such records, and many of them have worked in situations where no

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