



One in the Lord

On the feast of Pentecost, Bishops Clark and Dunill will sign a covenant renewing a commitment to seek unity between the Episcopal and Roman Catholic traditions. Page 4.



Signs of spring

Spring was in the air last week as high school baseball teams began their quest for sectional titles. For an overview of what to look for from this year's diocesan teams, see page 8.

COURIER-JOURNAL

Catholic Diocese of Rochester

50 Cents

Thursday, April 14, 1988

16 Pages

Draft seeks end to 'sin of sexism'

By Jerry Filteau

Washington (NC) — As part of a plea to end "the sin of sexism" in the Church, the first published draft of the U.S. bishops' pastoral letter on women calls for a change in Church laws that now exclude girls and women from certain roles.

The 164-page document, released April 12, says women should participate fully in all liturgical ministries and Church leadership positions that do not require priestly ordination.

It also asks that a full study of the possibility of ordaining women as deacons in the Catholic Church "be undertaken and brought to completion soon."

The draft document was released by the National Conference of Catholic Bishops in Washington after copies of it were mailed to all the bishops in early April. The bishops are to discuss it at their June 24-27 general meeting in Collegeville, Minn.

The pastoral's drafting committee, headed by Bishop Joseph L. Imesch of Joliet, Ill., has also asked the bishops to conduct consultations within their dioceses in 1988 and forward the results to the committee.

Bishop Imesch, in a brief statement released with the draft, urged that the draft be read "in its entirety" to avoid forming "misleading conclusions" about what it says.

He said the committee heard many different concerns from women during

its consultations and said the draft reflects "not all, but a large number" of those concerns.

"We feel that this letter responds to their concerns while remaining faithful to the traditions of our church," he said.

The committee, which began work on the pastoral in 1984, wrote in an introductory note to the draft that it hoped to be able to present a second, final draft to the bishops for debate and vote at their fall meeting in 1989.

The draft document says church norms excluding women from serving at the altar and from being installed in certain lay ministries "seem to stand in contradiction to our call for women's more direct involvement in the life of the church."

It repeats the 1976 Vatican declaration that the Church "does not consider herself authorized to admit women to priestly ordination." But it acknowledges that "for some women the whole issue of women's rights in the church revolves around ordination" and that "some women are offended by the very suggestion" that a woman cannot be a priest.

The draft challenges priests and bishops to eliminate "patronizing, condescending" attitudes toward women. It says that sexist attitudes or an inability to deal with women as equals should be considered an indication that a seminarian is unfit for ordination to the priesthood.

Continued on Page 3

Bishop emphasizes draft's broad scope

By Lee Strong

If people reading the first draft of the U.S. Catholic bishops' pastoral letter on women's concerns focus solely on its discussions of women's ordination or girl altar servers, they will miss the document's broad scope, according to Bishop Matthew H. Clark, one of the six bishops who have been involved in writing the pastoral letter.

"Our intent was to offer a document that covered a range of issues and to

present those issues in the context of Christian values," Bishop Clark noted.

People in the Rochester diocese reading the first draft of "Partners in the Mystery of Redemption" may also discover echoes of Bishop Clark's 1982 pastoral letter, "Fire in the Thornbush: A Pastoral Letter on Women in the Church." The bishop was quick to point out, however, that the U.S. bishops' letter will be far more important than his own.

"This is of much broader significance, as it is being built of a national awareness," Bishop Clark noted. "It will have a much greater impact than any document of a diocese."

This impact will result not only from the letter's content and the bishops' attempt to address the stated concerns of women, but also from the letter's structure and the process involved in its writing, the bishop pointed out.

"At this stage (in the writing process), this letter — unlike the letters on the economy and peace — is already the result of nationwide input," he remarked. This input came from reports submitted by more than 100 dioceses and the testimony of representatives from 24 national groups involved with women's issues.

Continued on Page 3



Project Life Director David Long (left) answers the questions of attorney Scott Smith during Genesee Hospital's court attempt to obtain a permanent injunction barring anti-abortion protesters from entering the hospital or its grounds.

Quest to restrict protests hits stall

By Richard A. Kiley

A scheduling conflict on the part of a state supreme court judge has delayed bench proceedings in The Genesee Hospital's attempt to gain a permanent injunction barring anti-abortion protesters from entering the hospital or its grounds.

The civil trial concerns the activity of various pro-life activists, including Father Anthony Mugavero and Project Life Director David Long. Last September, the two men were found guilty of contempt of court for violating a restraining order hospital officials had obtained in February, 1987. The order stated that anti-abortion protests at the hospital could continue so long as demonstrators remained on public property.

Last September, Judge Myron E. Tillman imposed no penalties on the defendants, who could have been fined up to \$250, in light of their assertions that the restraining order was vague and that they created no disruption in either case. Judge Tillman was not able to hear further testimony in connection with the current civil suit because he was scheduled to preside at another proceeding on Monday, April 11. The judge had apparently allotted only two days in his schedule for the bench trial, which began on Thursday, April 7.

"It was simply a scheduling error; (Judge Tillman's) schedule was already spoken for on Monday," said Scott Smith, the attorney representing Father Mugavero. Long is acting as his own attorney.

According to Smith and Joyce R. Parker, an attorney for The Genesee Hospital, it is not uncommon for a bench trial to be rescheduled. Further testimony in the case has been set for Monday, May 9, but Smith said that date is contingent upon the prior resolution of another case taking place in early May.

According to Parker, a lawyer with Harris, Beach, Wilcox, Rubin and Levy, the Rochester hospital is seeking a permanent injunction "to keep protesters from conducting activities on hospital grounds."

"We really wish to get a permanent injunction as soon as possible," said Parker, who em-

Continued on Page 11



Father Anthony Mugavero stood watch during one protest outside Genesee Hospital.

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	Page 4
Sports	Pages 8-9
World & Nation	Page 5

