



Serious softball

Diocesan girls' softball teams were all business last week as the 1988 spring season began. For an overview of what to expect from this year's Catholic school teams, see page 8.



Hoops for the homeless

As parish shelters end their sixth season, their staffs vow to reopen next fall and look to efforts like the April 15 benefit basketball game to help fund a permanent shelter facility. Page 16.

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Board designates Holy Redeemer a city landmark

By Richard A. Kiley

Diocesan officials are expressing little surprise over the city preservation board's 8-0 vote early Tuesday morning, April 19, to designate Holy Redeemer Church as a city landmark.

The vote came some six hours after the start Monday evening of a public hearing on the 110-year-old city church. The matter now goes to the city planning commission, since the parish that owns the building challenged the preservation board's action. The planning commission has three weeks to make a decision.

"To be quite honest, we didn't expect to win with the preservation board ... it's not too discouraging," said Father John M. Mulligan, diocesan director of urban services. "It's really going to be up to the planning commission; they're going to call this one."

Father Mulligan was alluding to the fact that several preservation board members are also members of the Landmark Society of Western New York, which recently assisted city resident William E. Kruse in filing the application asking the city to grant landmark status to the brick and limestone edifice.

A three-quarters vote of both the city preservation board and the planning commission is now required before landmark status can be granted to the church on the corner of Hudson and Clifford avenues. In light of the preservation board's vote, no alterations to the edifice can be made without the board's approval.

"Our case was not made so much on the architectural merits of the building," Father Mulligan said Tuesday morning. "I felt that at least some of the (board) members understood what we said."

In listing the reasons for their decision on Holy Redeemer, preservation board members cited the building's aesthetic value and its value as a memorial to the German immigrants who founded it. Holy Redeemer Church is the fifth-oldest German church in Rochester.

Several board members were also impressed with the church's onion domes and said the limestone detailing around its windows — a very rare characteristic of churches in New York state — should also be strongly considered.

During the five-hour public hearing preceding the vote, more than 200 people overflowed the City Council chambers to hear testimony for and against the landmark designation.

The tension-filled hearing was further strained by discussion of a verbal proposal the landmark society had made to Father Mulligan on Friday, April 15, offering to "assume ownership" of the Holy Redeemer complex.

According to Frank Crego, president of



Bonnie Traflet/Courier-Journal

Father John M. Mulligan (right) and Father William B. Leone present their position regarding Holy Redeemer Church to the city preservation board at a public hearing Monday, April 18.

the landmark society's board of trustees, the society offered to take from the parish all financial responsibility for the Holy Redeemer buildings and property. Crego said that, even if the church were eventually razed, the organization's offer would spare the parish approximately \$70,000 in demolition costs.

At the beginning of the public hearing, Crego turned toward the crowd and told Father Mulligan that "the offer still stands."

"We're saying now that we would take care of the demolition if it comes to that," said Henry McCartney, the landmark society's executive director. "That (demolition cost) is more than the land is worth."

During his testimony, Father Mulligan downplayed this proposal, saying that the landmark society had not offered to compensate the parish for forfeiting the property.

"I'm hearing offers to take something we own off our hands. I don't look at that as a big favor," Father Mulligan said, in response to this and other usage proposals.

The priest also denied landmark society allegations that the parish and diocese are unfamiliar with and inexperienced in marketing its old buildings. Father Mulligan said that the diocese and parish had spent more than four years searching for developers, with the assistance of independent engineers

and several city agencies.

"In no way have we been passive, inept or absentee custodians of the Holy Redeemer parcel," the priest said. The church was last used in 1985 before the parish merged with St. Francis Xavier.

In other testimony before the preservation board and planning commission, nearly 25 people spoke in support of Kruse's request for landmark status for the church. Among the presentations was an architectural evaluation prepared for the landmark society by Paul Malo, a tenured professor at Syracuse University.

"Visual prominence and distinctive style

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Neither condemn nor condone deterrence, report says

By Jerry Filteau

Washington (NC) — The Catholic bishops of the United States should neither condemn nuclear deterrence outright nor "accept it as self-regulating or 'normal,'" says a draft report by the U.S. bishops' Ad Hoc Committee for the Moral Evaluation of Deterrence.

The report, released April 14, says the U.S. Soviet summit last December has raised "cautious hopes" for arms control, but states that some nuclear policies and strategies of the superpowers must still be changed.

The nation's bishops, who were mailed copies of the report on April 11, are to make recommendations on the report in writing to the committee, then debate and vote on a second draft of the report when they meet in

June in Collegeville, Minn. The committee writing the report is headed by Cardinal Joseph L. Bernardin of Chicago.

The committee was formed in 1985 to evaluate changes in U.S. nuclear policy since the bishops issued their 1983 pastoral letter, "The Challenge of Peace," which said that any moral acceptance of nuclear deterrence had to be "strictly conditioned" by the morality of the policies and strategies underlying a nation's deterrence posture.

Some bishops who called for the new evaluation had argued that U.S. policies no longer met the pastoral letter's conditions for a morally acceptable nuclear deterrence.

The draft document calls on the superpowers to reverse existing policies that increase the risk of a pre-emptive first strike or that destabilize the nuclear balance.

Both superpowers, it says, "are deploying weapons which, in both number and kind, run contrary to the conditions" the U.S. bishops set out in their 1983 peace pastoral as prerequisites for a morally acceptable nuclear-deterrence policy.

The committee's report urges significant reductions in the strategic weapons of both countries, saying that existing arsenals exceed the requirements of second-strike deterrence.

It particularly challenges the level of U.S. and Soviet defense spending, saying that defense expenditures are in "direct and unyielding competition" with social programs for the poor and needy. The amount both countries spend on defense constitutes "a debilitating drain on their domestic

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