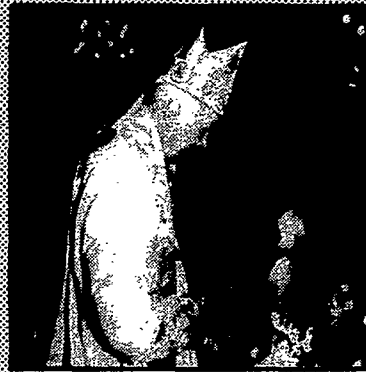




### Success stories

In sports from soccer and basketball to baseball and bowling, diocesan high school athletic programs achieved a lot of success in the 1987-88 school year just completed. Pages 8 and 9.



### Schism ahead

French Archbishop Marcel Lefebvre may break from the Church if he carries out plans to ordain four new bishops to his traditionalist Society of St. Pius X June 30. Page 5.

# COURIER-JOURNAL

Catholic Diocese of Rochester

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## Parish accepts \$115,000 offer for Holy Redeemer

By Richard A. Kiley

After months of heated public debate on what should be done with Holy Redeemer Church, the fate of the city landmark has been decided.

The combined parish of Holy Redeemer/St. Francis Xavier announced on Monday, June 21, that it had accepted a \$115,000 purchase offer for the entire 1.6 acre parcel at the corner of Hudson and Clifford avenues on Rochester's northeast side.

The Northside Church of Christ, which is currently located at 601 Jay St. on the city's west side, will be the property's buyer.

"Relieved and very happy is the general reaction of the people in the parish," said Father William B. Leone, pastor of Holy Redeemer/St. Francis Xavier Parish. "God has answered our prayers."

The priest said that Northside Church of Christ had originally offered \$80,000 for the parcel back on June 6, but was informed that the parish was "looking for six figures." The Rochester Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter offered \$40,000 for the property, and the City School District submitted an offer of \$45,000 for the property exclusive of the church building. The district had planned to locate an early childhood program at the school.

Officials of Northside Church of Christ came back with an offer of \$115,000 last week and received approval from the parish on Friday, June 17.

Northside was one of nearly 30 congregations to express interest in the church building, according to Father John M. Mulligan, director of the diocesan Division of Urban Services. Father Mulligan said that both the parish and the diocese were impressed with the sincerity of the Northside congregation.

"We feel good about this one because we feel they have the funding necessary to do whatever has to be done over there," Father Mulligan said, adding that the parish and the diocese are pleased that the church building is going to continue to be used for ministerial purposes.

Harry Caulfield, a Rochester developer, who is also chairman of long-range planning for the Vietnam Veterans' chapter, said his organization's offer had apparently initiated other bids for the property.

"When we stepped forward, things started happening. We definitely would have negotiated with (the diocese) if they came back to us, but we were really just looking to get the ball rolling," Caulfield said.

"We're so happy that the church is saved and that the diocese didn't have to pay anything for the demolition," he continued. "Everybody's a winner now. That was our intent and that's the way things worked out."

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Bonnie Tractlet/Courier-Journal

**SOWETO REMEMBRANCE** — Margaret Norris sings with the Rochester A Capella Chorus of the Church of God and Saints of Christ during a candlelight vigil marking the 12th anniversary of the Soweto uprising. About 50 people gathered at St. Mary's Church in Rochester Thursday evening, June 16, to commemorate the killing of 700 unarmed South Africans and the wounding of hundreds more. The event was sponsored by the Rochester Committee for Justice in South Africa.

## Citizens' group to study police violence

By Lee Strong

Three representatives of the Diocese of Rochester are among 18 civic and church leaders named to a citizens' commission investigating the shooting death of Calvin Green by Rochester police officer Gary Smith.

The newly formed Independent Commission on Police Violence will study the circumstances surrounding the May 24 incident in which Officer Smith shot Green five times while Green hid in an unlit crawl space in his apartment. Officer Smith, who is white, was pursuing the unarmed black man because he had failed to appear for sentencing in a purse-snatching incident.

A Monroe County grand jury found Monday, June 6, that there was insufficient evidence to try Smith on criminal charges. Smith, who has been suspended from the police force without pay since the incident, still faces departmental charges.

Leaders of the black community claim the shooting and the grand jury decision were racially motivated, and say they don't believe the police investigation will produce results that will be acceptable to the black community.

"We need an independent investigation of the (Green shooting)," explained the Rev. Raymond Graves, president of the United Church Ministry and one of the black ministers who formed the commission. "We at United Church Ministry are dissatisfied with the grand jury process and with the district attorney."

The case has also drawn the attention of the

FBI and Governor Mario Cuomo. The FBI is investigating the shooting for possible civil rights violations. On June 7, Governor Cuomo said he wanted the Temporary State Commission of Investigation to look into the matter.

The local investigative commission was created not only to investigate the Green's death, but also "to put a mechanism in place that can deal with incidents like this in the future," the Rev. Graves said.

The panel comprises representatives from a broad cross-section of local church and civic groups. "The commission members are people who have demonstrated in the past that they are proponents of justice and truth," the Rev. Graves explained.

Representing the Diocese of Rochester are Father Laurence Tracy, pastoral assistant with the Office of the Spanish Apostolate; Gaynelle Wethers, principal of St. Monica's School; and Kenneth Maher, justice and peace director for the Genesee Valley Office of Social Ministry.

The commission is chaired by the Rev. John S. Walker, family counseling director at Community Partners for Youth, and former director of the diocesan Office of Black Ministries.

"The commission is a well-rounded, biracial and what we feel will be an objective panel of persons who will research and apply their expertise to the problem, and present a report that's acceptable to the community," the Rev. Walker explained.

The commission's report, he noted, will be

released within four to six weeks.

Blacks and Hispanics are disenchanted with the district attorney's office and have little faith in its ability to deal with racial issues involving the police, the Rev. Walker said.

"There's a sense now that police officers can perpetrate anything in terms of physical violence against people of color and not get anything more than a reprimand," he observed.

Noting that he has on several occasions personally witnessed police violence against blacks and Hispanics, Father Tracy observed that "the black and Hispanic communities are primary objects of police violence." The priest added that a significant portion of the minority community no longer trust the grand jury process or the district attorney's office's ability to objectively investigate such incidents.

"There's a conflict of interest," Father Tracy explained. "The district attorney's office has a vested interest in good relations with the police department. The office has to have a good working relationship with the police department to maintain cooperation during investigations."

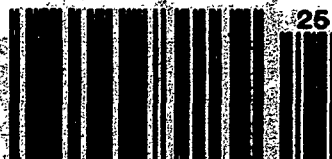
Father Tracy said that District Attorney Howard Rehn appears to be an honest, fair man, but the priest questioned whether Rehn can be completely objective because his office and the police department "are two segments of a system that work together hand-in-glove."

The goal of the commission, he said, is to produce a report with results that will have

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