



Pair of protests

Bishops protest renewed tensions that threaten prospects for peace in Nicaragua. Christian groups threaten to protest — and possibly promote — a controversial upcoming film. Page 6.



Soviet summit

Reports of Marlon appointments in the Soviet Union curiously coincide with two religious celebrations and prospects of greater religious freedom under Mikhail S. Gorbachev. Page 16.

COURIER-JOURNAL

Catholic Diocese of Rochester

50 Cents

Thursday, July 21, 1988

16 Pages



Don Kramer of Fairport relaxes on the lawn at St. Joseph's Park, listening to a noon-hour jazz performance. Future concerts at the former church are set for August 18 and 25, and September 1.

Task force establishes five-year financial needs

By Teresa A. Parsons

Members of the Diocesan Oversight Task Force have presented Bishop Matthew H. Clark with a report stating that over the next five years, diocesan needs — ranging from pension funding for retired religious to an endowment for Catholic schools and a fund for the poor — will exceed \$47 million.

In accepting the report, however, diocesan officials pointed out that the aims of the task force may face revision before they become diocesan goals.

Retirement funding for religious women and the endowment fund for Catholic education — which would only be initiated after the diocesan school system is reconfigured — account for \$38.5 million or more than 80 percent of the diocese's financial needs, according to the report.

The remaining \$9 million called for by the report would be used to establish a residence for well, retired priests; to fund formation, training and salary and benefits for lay ministers; to reorganize the diocesan pastoral center and realign the development office; and to hire community organizers and ministers to serve the poor in rural and urban areas.

The Oversight Task Force suggested a variety of methods for raising the necessary funds, ranging from initiatives by the diocesan development office to savings produced by more efficient diocesan administration, and possibly a parish tithing program to support a fund for the poor.

The task force's report, which responded to recommendations presented in the Five Year Financial Planning Process report issued in April, 1987, proposes "a proactive strategy for the future direction of the Diocese of Rochester," according to a letter from task force chairman Frank Stotz.

"We believe that a business-as-usual strategy is untenable," Stotz wrote to Bishop Clark in the letter, which accompanied the report. "The recommendations in this report respond to the changing conditions in society and our local diocesan church, provide direction as we move forward into the 1990s, respond to past obligations incurred and acknowledge the generosity of the people of our diocese in financial contributions, service and a spirit of faithful commitment to Gospel values."

Stotz observed that while the report deals with large amounts of money, the numbers need to be placed in the context of timelines

established in the report. "What happens to some folks when they see numbers like that is they are overwhelmed, but we need to keep in mind that these are funds to be generated over a period of some years," he cautioned. "I certainly think (the numbers) are realistic based on the work that has been done over the past two years, and keeping in mind that some awfully knowledgeable people put them together. These are not numbers that came floating through the air."

The estimates outlined in the report were, in fact, developed by nearly 150 community leaders distinguished in the fields of business, law, higher education and community service.

Bishop Clark asked the 11 men and women who agreed last September to serve on the Oversight Task Force to recommend a "sound financial plan" and strategies for implementing seven of the eight recommendations in the Five Year Financial Planning report. In addition to Stotz, partner-in-charge of the Rochester office of the accounting firm Price Waterhouse, members of the task force included: Nazareth College President Rose Marie Beston; Father Peter Bayer, diocesan chancellor; John W. Crowe, a partner in the law firm of Mousaw, Vigdor, Reeves, Heilbronner and Kroll; Sister Jean Marie Kears, Sisters of Mercy superior general; and Friedrich Grasberger, president of the Center for Governmental Research.

Dozens of other religious, community and corporate leaders contributed to the work of seven Oversight Task Force subcommittees, each of which studied one of the original report's specific recommendations.

"Because of the diversity of backgrounds (of task force members), we had to do a lot of reconciling of different viewpoints. I think that contributes to the credibility of the report," observed Sister Kears.

Bishop Clark has "accepted in principle" the task force's report, and has directed Father John Mulligan, moderator of the Pastoral Center, to implement the recommendations, according to a diocesan news release.

But Father Mulligan observed that although the figures contained in the report may credibly reflect diocesan needs, those figures have yet to become stated diocesan goals. "I think these are good solid numbers, but I think there's a possibility of revision from several different sources," he said. "(The figures) are

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Police believe vandalism at church was satanic ritual

By Lee Strong

In an incident of vandalism Irondequoit police say appears to be "purely satanical" in intent, one or two intruders entered St. Cecilia's Church in Irondequoit during the early morning hours of Saturday, July 9, and stole consecrated hosts, burned a small crucifix and wrote "666" on the wall above a votive candle rack.

The intruder or intruders also defecated in two pews, kicked and damaged another pew, burned a plastic holy water holder, used the altar cloth to clean their hands, took a gold candlestick holder, and broke a holy water pitcher that had apparently been used to heat water for hot chocolate.

Parishioners discovered the break-in shortly before 7 a.m. Saturday when they arrived for morning Mass at the Culver Road church. The police were notified and, upon investigation, discovered a sneaker print and finger prints. Police have no other clues at this time. According to the police report, the intruder

or intruders apparently knew or were able to quickly discover the location of the key to the tabernacle. This knowledge, coupled with the defecation, the burning of the cross and the writing of the number 666 — which the Book of Revelations says is "the sign of the beast" — suggests "that this incident was not a criminal mischief for the sake of larceny or damage," the police report notes. "It appears that this incident is purely satanical."

The report goes on to say that the obvious intent in the crime requires further investigation.

The break-in occurred some time between 11 p.m. on Friday, July 8, and 5:30 a.m. on July 9, when the first parishioner arrived for morning Mass. The church had been left unlocked overnight, giving the intruder or intruders easy access. The nature of the vandalism suggests that whoever entered the church remained for a long time, the police report noted.

Father Walter F. Cushing, St. Cecilia's pas-

tor, said that the church's videotape camera system had been turned off overnight, and that he had not turned on the sound system connecting the church with his room in the rectory. He also reported that the tabernacle key was left near the tabernacle, making it easy for the intruder to gain access to the hosts.

The pastor said that the break-in was the first such incident to take place during his eight years at the church. "I'm real upset about it," the priest said. "It was done by some sick person."

Father Cushing also said that he was hesitant to discuss the incident because "this kind of story propagates this sort of thing. It propagates more people thinking about things like this."

No similar acts of vandalism have been reported by other Irondequoit churches, according to Sergeant of Detectives Frank Churnetski. The police have no suspects in the incident at this time, but the investigation is continuing.

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