



### Curious cults

Cults and their allure for young people were the focus of a workshop offered by St. John Fisher College's Nathan Kollar for religious educators last weekend in Geneva. Page 9.



### Hoop preview

McQuaid and DeSales appear to be serious contenders for league titles in their respective divisions, as the high school basketball season begins to heat up. Page 16.

# COURIER-JOURNAL

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## Diocese weighs proposal to unite funding efforts

By Lee Strong

The Diocese of Rochester is considering a plan to consolidate all its development and fundraising programs under the Foundation of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Rochester, Inc.

The plan, presented to the diocesan Finance Council October 27 by Mark Seeberg, director of development, calls for the development office and the Thanks Giving Appeal — which is currently part of the development office — to be incorporated into the foundation. The development office would then carry out the appeal — as well as planned giving, major gifts and capital campaigns — as part of the foundation's overall operations. The plan also calls for the recruitment of new members and a new president for the foundation's board of directors.

An ad hoc subcommittee of the diocesan Finance Council comprised of council and foundation board members met Monday, Dec. 5, to consider the plan. Diocesan officials hope that the committee will finish its work in December, and will submit to the council a recommendation concerning the plan. The officials caution, however, that specifics of the plan would have to be worked out.

If the plan is accepted, diocesan development operations would be legally independent from the diocese. Although the foundation was incorporated separately when it was formed in 1984, its bylaws stipulate that it is institutionally related to the diocese — that is, it would not be free to set its own goals for fundraising and spending priorities. Instead, the diocesan Finance Council and Bishop Matthew H. Clark would make those decisions.

Seeberg pointed out that under the proposed plan, he would be responsible for day-to-day fundraising efforts. He would report to the foundation's board of directors and to Bishop Clark, who is also a member of the board. Although the foundation board and staff would offer advice about whether financial goals can be met, Seeberg said, they would not have veto power over those goals or over the

diocesan budget.

Because the plan is still in the proposal stage, the exact nature of the relationship between the foundation and the diocese hasn't been defined. One question is how the foundation and the finance council will work together to develop the diocesan budget. Another question is who will manage the diocesan portfolio.

The subcommittee will also consider how the Thanks Giving Appeal (TGA) would function from within the foundation as envisioned in the plan. Seeberg acknowledged that unforeseen questions may yet emerge as the committee meets.

Father John Mulligan, moderator of the pastoral office, acknowledged that consolidating development functions with the diocese is a direction in which the diocese will move, and that Seeberg's plan is one way to do it.

"I think we've agreed with (the plan) in principle," he said. "I think what we're trying to do is fine tune the relationship between the foundation and the diocese. I'm sure that it will be worked out between Mark (Seeberg) as development director, the Finance Council and the foundation. They will talk, see what coalesces, and go from there."

On the other hand, Father Peter Bayer, chancellor of the diocese and director of the Division of Support Services, was cautious in assessing the proposal. "It's premature to say if it will be approved," he noted. "There are a number of issues to be framed. Certainly the (subcommittee) will come to some resolution."

For Father Bayer, a pivotal question in the discussion is the relationship between the foundation and the diocese. "A question of independence (of the foundation) is a key question, because the Church is different from a college or university," he observed.

Yet the foundation as Seeberg envisions it, would be institutionally related to the diocese.

"The kind of foundation we're talking about in the diocese is the kind that goes out and raises money for a specific agenda," Seeberg said. The agenda, he added, would be set by

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## Despite jury's guilty verdicts, leader declares moral victory

By Richard A. Kiley

Despite the guilty verdicts passed down to 37 pro-life activists on Monday, Dec. 5, the leader of Project Life of Rochester is claiming a moral victory because "there is now expert testimony on public record that a fetus is a human being."

A Rochester City Court jury convicted the Project Life members on charges of simple trespassing and resisting arrest for their May 21 actions in staging a "rescue mission" on the fifth-floor east wing of Highland Hospital and failing to comply with police orders to leave.

At the beginning of the three-week trial, all 42 demonstrators were charged with third-degree criminal trespassing and resisting arrest, both misdemeanor offenses that carry a maximum sentence of one year in jail and a \$1,000 fine.

And although Project Life of Rochester Executive Director David E. Long said he was disappointed with the jury's decision, he was pleased that pro-life activists were able to tell jurors why they staged the demonstration.

"As far as the outcome, certainly I'm disappointed ... even more so for the children whose lives we're trying to save," said Long, who was convicted for the second

time in less than a month on charges stemming from a pro-life demonstration. "From the respect that new things were brought out during the trial and that we were allowed to use the justification defense, I was pleased. We're hoping that using (the justification defense) will start to be the norm."

The so-called "justification" or "necessity" defense stems from a state law stating that under certain circumstances people may be justified in using criminal behavior to defend their own lives or the lives of others.

Long said that he was not surprised by the verdicts, adding that "juries just aren't ready to acquit people for breaking the law while trying to save lives."

"The future of America rides on how these cases come out. No nation that continues to kill its offspring can survive," Long said. "We will become barbaric ... it will be survival of the fittest."

Five cases were dismissed at the end of the trial. Four defendants could not be identified by police, and Judge John Manning Regan dismissed charges against a fifth defendant because of special circumstances.

Regan will sentence the rest of the group

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Linda Dow Hayes/Courier-Journal

**PATRONAL FEAST** — The feast of the Immaculate Conception, celebrated on December 8, was established as the patronal feast of the United States by the Sixth Provincial Council of Baltimore in 1846. This stained-glass window honoring the Blessed Virgin's Immaculate Conception is in the chapel of the Nazareth Academy convent.

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