

## Covenant

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identity, and yet at this point, it is the most solid step toward ecumenism we have," Nurnberg said.

"The covenant is an agreement between differing traditions, who pledge to one another some degree of constant cooperation, collaboration, understanding and support," she added. "It is also an agreement in which parishioners commit themselves at least to pray publicly for one another at every Sunday liturgy ... and to come to know and support one another in living the Christian life."

One Catholic parishioner in Brockport has already assumed responsibility for trying to resolve the two churches' differences on abortion. Katherine Fechter, the director of religious education at Church of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, wrote to Bishop Burrill in late February asking him "why he came out in support of

abortion and an organization fostering pro-choice?"

"When we were asked to pray for him during the Prayers of the Faithful, I thought, 'Great,' we were taking a step toward unity," said Fechter, whose letter was signed by five other members of the parish staff, including Father Roy Kiggins, pastor. "After I read he had signed this list, I asked myself why I should pray for someone who is against what my church believes."

In his written response to Fechter, Bishop Burrill said he believes that "pro-life and pro-choice are both truths that must be upheld" and that "it is a rare circumstance in which abortion is the morally correct choice."

"But I also believe we must protect individual conscience, one of the most wonderful gifts God has given us," Bishop Burrill wrote. He also sent Fechter a copy of the Episcopal Church's official statement on childbirth and abortion. "It is quite incorrect to suggest that if I support individual conscience I am promoting or supporting

abortion," he said.

Bishop Burrill's letter also cited the covenant relationship between the two churches, explaining that the two dioceses formed the relationship "because we are sisters and brothers in Christ."

"As in any family, we will not always agree with each other. We are deeply hurt by your Church's unwillingness to accept fully the ministry of women and by the Vatican's tendency to inhibit theological discussion (Fathers Charles Curran and Matthew Fox)," Bishop Burrill replied. "However, we will continue to pray for your bishop and for the Roman Catholic Church. We hope and pray that you will continue to pray for us as we seek the one truth which is the gift of God."

Fechter said that she was "really not all that pleased" with Bishop Burrill's response.

"I agree we are persecuting our own people (women and theologians), but we're not denying life," said Fechter, who said she may request a face-to-face meeting with Bishop Burrill after meeting with parish officials. "The role of women is impor-

### Easter egg hunt planned

ROCHESTER — Parent Connection of Respite Care, Inc., is planning an Easter egg hunt for special-needs children and their families on Saturday, March 18, from 10 a.m. to noon, at the New Life Presbyterian Church, 243 Rosedale St.

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tant to look at, but how could he equate that with the killing of the unborn? The two (issues) don't jive with me."

Yet, in the spirit of the covenant, Fechter said she will continue to pray for Bishop Burrill and the Episcopal Church. "I don't think that you can stop praying because of that," Fechter said. "Doing that would not be in sync with the covenant. There are going to be differences of opinion."

And although Martha Jodoin admitted that the two dioceses can't ignore such differences, she emphasized that both dioceses need to work together to resolve them.

"We don't need to become Episcopalian and they don't need to become Catholic," Jodoin said. "That's what we have to overcome."

## Accordionist

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McGraw, of Irish descent, was born in the United States, but neither Bolt nor Leach is Irish. Murphy jokes that he is the band's only "foreigner."

Few Celtic musical styles are foreign to the band, which also plays Scottish and American country music. Murphy says he is also a fan of bluegrass music, and notes that many older American country songs were originally Irish.

The current Irish music scene is healthy and alive in the United States, Murphy said, though he doesn't see many young people coming out to hear the old tunes. The generation gap could be bridged by bluegrass and country music, which he says appeals to young families who come to the square dances the band frequently plays.

Murphy loves Ireland and the old music, but he can't see going back. To sit and listen as Murphy fiddles "The Cracked Stovepipe," in his immaculately clean kitchen is to experience the paradox of Irish immigrants — a people so often deprived of success in their own homeland that they had to leave it to find it in another land, where their music joined a stream of other ethnic songs to become something Americans call "country."

## Boards

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That input will be important in the weeks ahead, according to Sister Elaine Englert, principal representative to the Southwest Quadrant Planning Board. How the public perceives the plan will shape reaction to it, she said.

"There's pros and cons in any kind of change," Sister Englert said. "We all don't know enough of the ins and outs to know what's what." Seeing the plan as a needed attempt to ensure the future of quality Catholic education and increased enrollment might smooth the transitional period, she commented.

Changes are also at hand for the Diocesan Board of Education, Spinelli remarked. The board will revise its constitution this summer to accommodate the new relationship it will have with the quadrants. Questions to be resolved include whether a separate representative body for the quadrants would be needed to answer to the board of education.

In the weeks ahead, Pickett's commission will gather input from pastors, principals and the quadrant planning boards, before meeting with Bishop Clark in April to discuss the proposal.

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