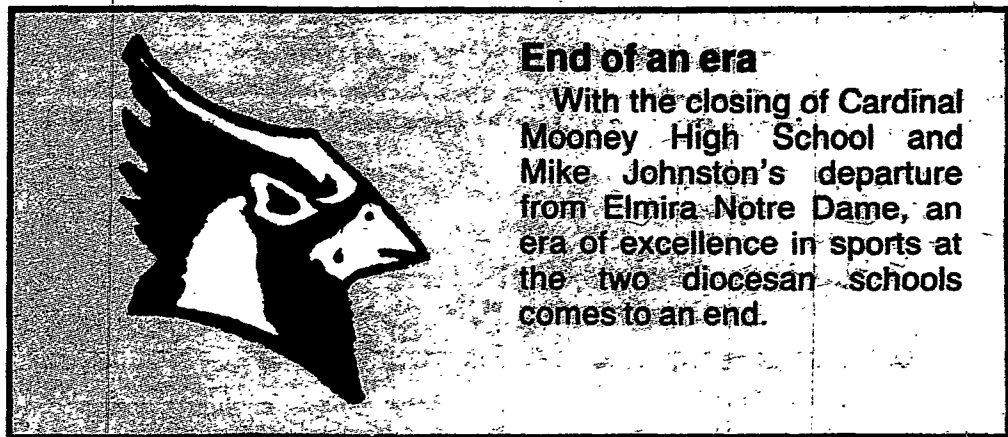


# CATHOLIC COURIER

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## End of an era

With the closing of Cardinal Mooney High School and Mike Johnston's departure from Elmira-Notre Dame, an era of excellence in sports at the two diocesan schools comes to an end.

## Diocese going 'on-line' with network

*Can satellite technology help the church meet the ministry challenges of the 1990s and beyond?*

By Richard A. Kiley  
Staff writer

As the 20th century draws to a close, dioceses across the United States are trying to effectively deal with the problem of fewer priests and religious to help meet the needs of an ever-growing Catholic population.

One answer to the puzzle may be the Catholic Telecommunications Network of America (CTNA), a satellite delivery system which was founded in 1981 by the National Conference of Catholic Bishops.

The Rochester diocese is now ready to join the growing number of dioceses that are using CTNA. Arranging the use of the network has been a chief concern of Father George Norton, diocesan director of telecommunications, since he came to work for the diocese four years ago.

"Telecommunications is being accepted as a reality in the church," Father Norton said. "Since the early 1980s, the NCCB has had the feeling that telecommunications is the area the church should move toward."

The priest agreed with the bishops' assessment wholeheartedly, but he admitted that he initially had reservations about CTNA. Early internal management problems plagued the network, which failed to attract the large number of affiliating dioceses it had hoped to, Father Norton said.

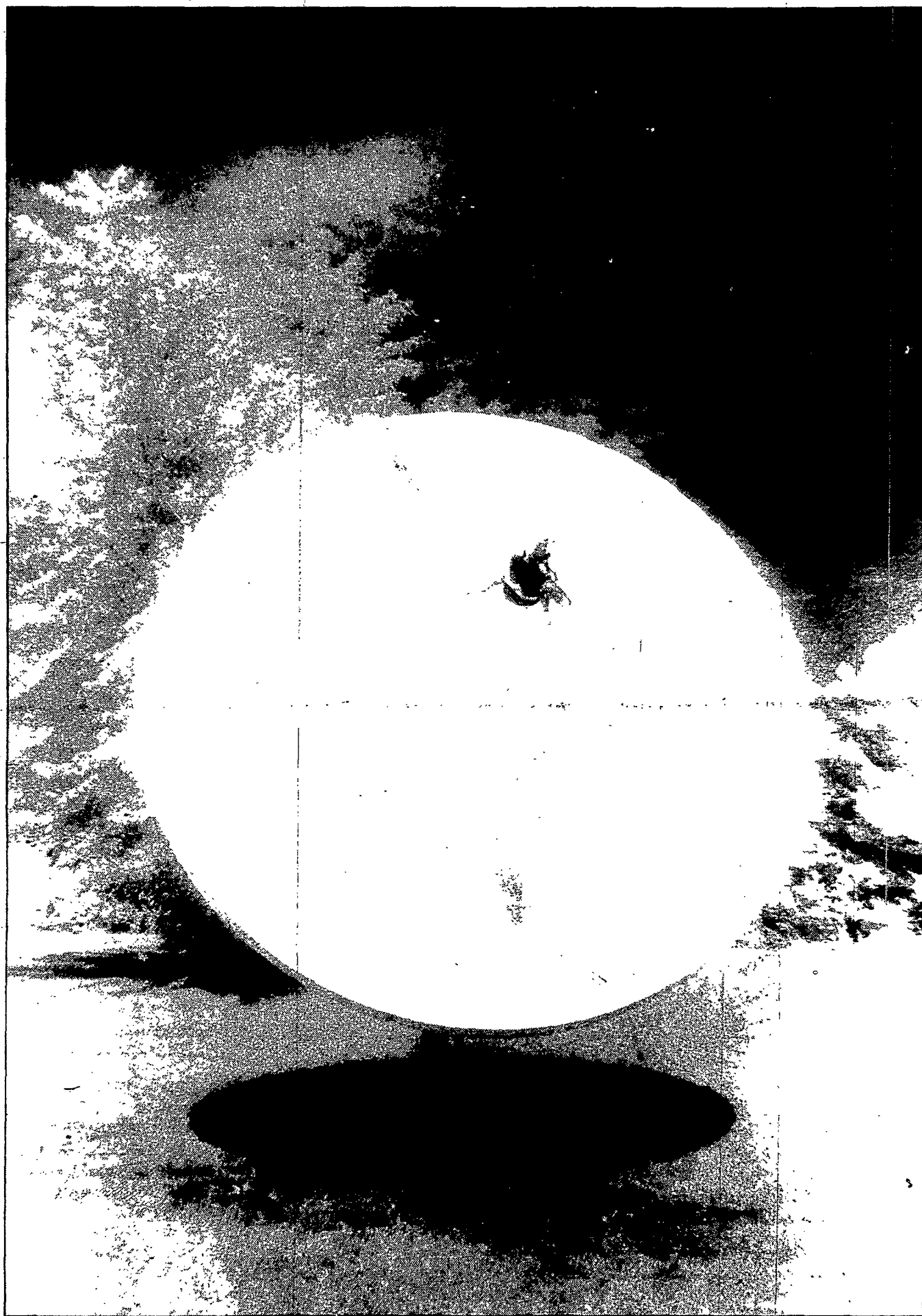
Then two years ago, Father Bernard R. Bonnot, a priest of the Diocese of Youngstown, Ohio, took over as president and chief executive officer of the network.

"I wanted to see what direction CTNA was headed in before I pursued it any further," Father Norton said. "Under (Father Bonnot's) leadership, things have really taken off."

Father Norton said he was encouraged by the new leader's quick action on recommendations made by the Stafford Commission, an oversight commission appointed in 1986 by the United States Catholic Conference, the public-policy arm of the bishops' conference. Named after Archbishop J. Francis Stafford of Denver, the commission affirmed the need for CTNA but it called for market research into how the network could best meet the telecommunications needs of the NCCB/USCC. The commission also called for a reduction in the size of CTNA board of directors to increase its effectiveness.

In 1987, Father Bonnot and Mother Angelica of the Eternal Word Television Network co-hosted joint CTNA-EWTN coverage of the pope's visit to the United States. 1988 represented the network's first full year under Father Bonnot's management, and CTNA's affiliate family grew from 102 dioceses to 117 — more than half the total in the United States. On-line affiliates grew from 79 to 100, marking a dramatic rise.

With Rochester scheduled to go on-line July 1, every diocese in New York — with the exception of Ogdensburg — is now an on-line affiliate of CTNA.



Linda Dow Hayes/Catholic Courier

**This summer, the Rochester diocese will join the Catholic Telecommunications Network of America in order to better respond to the pastoral needs of the church.**

What does this affiliation mean?

According to Father Norton, CTNA offers the diocese a full range of telecommunication services, including television and radio programming, program resources, teleconferences and live coverage of major church events.

Teleconferences, teleworkshops and telecourses continue to be a major thrust of CTNA's service to the church. In 1988, the network broadcast nearly 100 teleconferences to its on-line affiliates.

The priest said CTNA will enable the diocese to provide a multitude of educational material to diocesan schools and educators, who will be able to take advantage of continuing education courses through CTNA. The network's 1988 progress report states that 30 percent of its television programming focused on adult religious education. Programming on catechetical education constituted 18 percent of television programming.

Having access to quality continuing education courses — without the cost of traveling to faraway conferences —

is a key development for Judy Kollar, director of the Department of Continuing Education for the Rochester diocese.

"It means that our people will have access to professionally done programming, and it will be cost saving for us as well," said Kollar, who has headed the diocesan continuing-education department since 1985. "It's a great benefit. Anything that increases the education level of the people is good for the church."

Father Norton said the diocese will use the first two months as "a testing period" for its new CTNA downlink, which is located on the grounds of the Pastoral Center on Buffalo Road.

Diocesan officials are eagerly awaiting three teleconferences this fall on youth ministry development, the priest said, which will enable those in attendance at both downlink locations — a second satellite dish is located at St. Mary's in Bath — to call in questions to presenters of

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