

International affairs



An appellate court decision may end a nine-year-old lawsuit challenging the church's tax-exempt status; as President Bush announces a war on drugs, Colombians continue fighting the war's bloody battles; Father Stallings refuses to answer allegations in newspaper article; and Mother Teresa recovers from pacemaker surgery. Pages 4-5.

TGA targeted

The Diocese of Rochester has begun to revamp its budgeting process, one of the first results of which is the 1889 Thanks Giving Appeal goal of more than \$4 million dollars. Page 3.

Football, soccer return



Diocesan high school players and coaches helped kickoff the 1989 football and soccer seasons last weekend with a mixed bag of results. McQuaid and Notre Dame looked impressive in posting big wins on the football field. Pages 14 and 15.

Pondering plans

At their Sept. 9 meeting at St. Januarius Church, Naples, Diocesan Pastoral Council members were presented with an update of plans for a proposed diocesan synod to end in 1993 in conjunction with the Diocese of Rochester's 125th anniversary, and were asked to provide input into the nature and scope of that effort. Page 6.

## Chilean women's art imparts poor's plight

By Lee Strong  
Staff writer

ROCHESTER — The women of *Casa de la Mujer* (House of the Woman) in Santiago, Chile, produce their simple cloth pictures slowly.

Piece by piece, they assemble scraps of thread, remnants of old shirts, yarn unraveled from socks and sweaters, sewing them onto flour sacks to produce the *arpilleras* — small wall hangings with doll-like figures attached to them.

These works depict the lives of the poor in Chile in the years since 1973, when General Augusto Pinochet led a military coup overthrowing the government of Salvador Allende. Some of the pictures show people mourning those who disappeared during subsequent waves of government repression. Others show people cooking community meals, children playing, police vehicles racing to people's homes, women joining hands with banners above them proclaiming such slogans as "*Vamos mujer*," — roughly translated as "Let's get going, women."

"Like many forms of art, it became a way to express things they weren't able to speak openly about," explained Sister Anne Curtis, RSM, a staff member of Jesus Carpintero (Jesus the Carpenter), a parish in the poor neighborhood of Huamachuco in Santiago. The hangings are not just political, Sister Curtis noted; they reveal the poverty, the poor housing, the inadequate health care, the hunger and violence in the day-to-day lives of the poor in Chile.

Sister Curtis is in Rochester to visit family and to assist with an effort to market the Chilean women's works through an exhibit at Pittsford's Roselawn Galleries. Entitled "Connections and Contrasts," the exhibit will feature not only *arpilleras*, but also works by two other Chilean artists, painter Nelson Negron and wood carver Carlos Pezoa. Also in the exhibit will be works by local artist Carl Zollo, and California painter Mike Falco.

Father Charles Mulligan, a Rochester priest serving as the pastor of Jesus Carpintero, conceived of the exhibit. Dur-

Continued on page 13



An arpillera created by women in Santiago, Chile, asks "Where are they?"



Chilean artist Carlos Pezoa created this figure of Mother Teresa and several other carvings using woods from his native land.



Nelson Negron, a painter from Chile, was also featured in the exhibit. The above painting is entitled "Conversation with a cow."

Mission update

In the article above, diocesan missionary Sister Anne Curtis, RSM, points out that artwork can offer powerful perspectives on a nation's painful past and uncertain future. The pain and hope expressed in these crafts is mirrored among the people of Brazil, whom the Sisters of St. Joseph have been serving for a quarter century.

As both nations approach pivotal elections later this year, we dedicate several pages to the experiences of diocesan missionaries bringing the healing power of Christ to people suffering the turmoil of political unrest. In *Insight* (pages 12-13), Father Charles Mulligan, a Maryknoll associate working in Chile, testifies to the converting power of "reverse mission." On page 8, the Sisters of St. Joseph reflect on their efforts to inspire Brazilians to faith and courage. On page 9, meanwhile, longtime missionary Father Charles Erb provides living witness to the saving grace of humor.