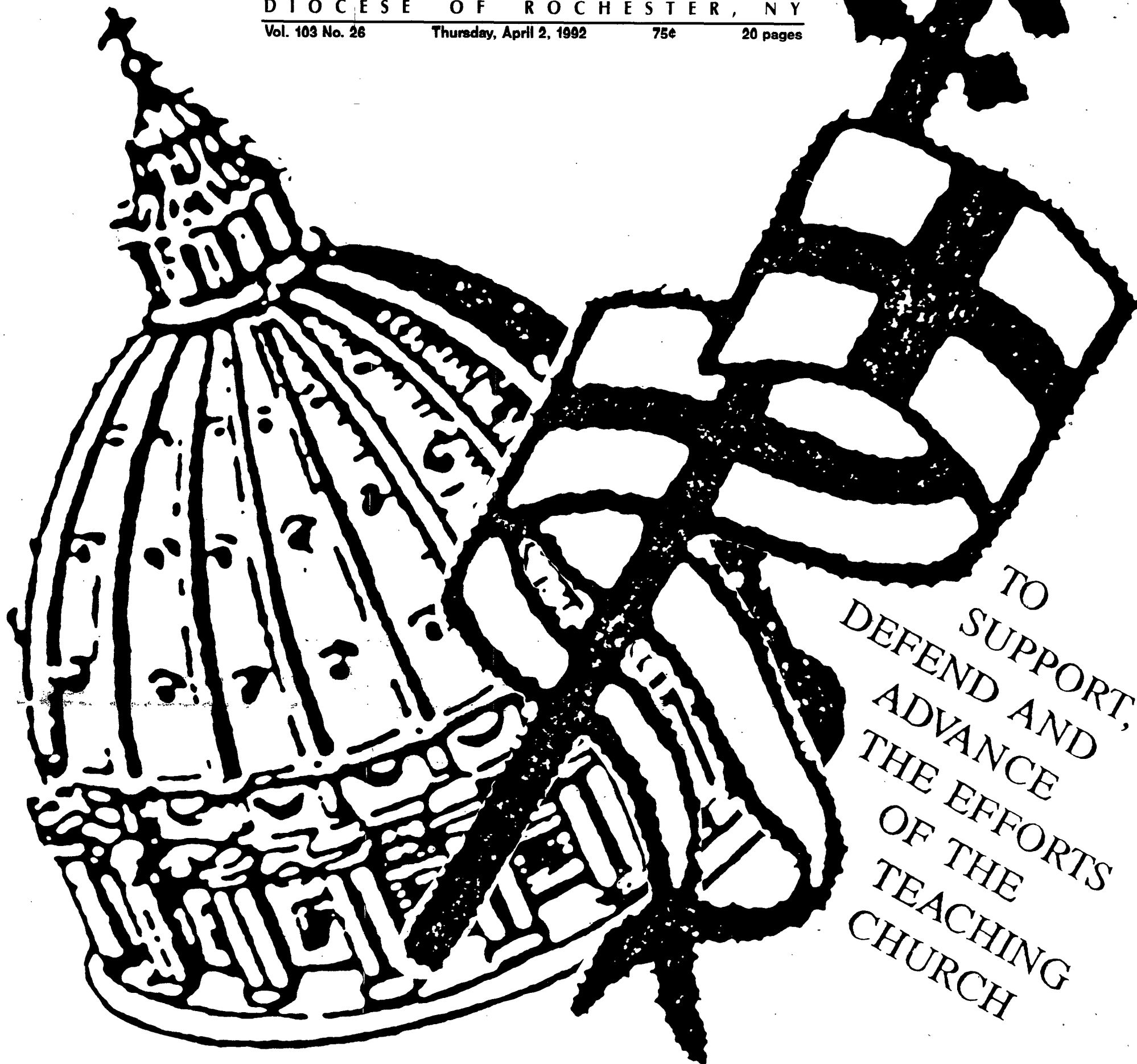




# CATHOLIC COURIER

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TO SUPPORT,  
DEFEND AND  
ADVANCE  
THE EFFORTS  
OF THE  
TEACHING  
CHURCH

Democratic presidential candidate Bill Clinton has at least one thing in common with Catholics United for the Faith, according to the Arkansas governor's president, James Likoudis.

The Arkansas governor and the conservative lay-Catholic group share image problems.

"It's very difficult to deal with a bad image," Likoudis told the *Catholic Courier* during a telephone interview from his Williamson home. "A bad image tends to stick with you."

Gov. Clinton has battled ongoing questions about his character.

CUF, meanwhile, confronts negative perceptions about its activities and purposes.

In some church circles, CUF is regarded at best as a pious, reactionary organization advocating a return to the "good old days" of the pre-Vatican II church.

And at worst, it is considered a self-righteous group secretly ferreting out perceived abuses of church teachings — and reporting these violations to Vatican authorities.

Neither of these stereotypes is valid, observed William Dinges, professor of theology at the Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C.

"(CUF) is not just a bunch of Looney-Tune crackpots. Nor are they hard-core fundamentalist types," Dinges declared.

"At the same time," he added, "(CUF) has been a sort of self-appointed watchdog of Catholic orthodoxy."

"Watchdog of Catholic orthodoxy" seems an apt description for this organization, which uses the Latin phrase *Ubi Petrus, ibi Ecclesia; Ubi Ecclesia, ibi nos* — "Where Peter is, there is the church; where the church is, there we are" — as one of its mottos.

An international organization with 120 chapters and more than 23,000

members, CUF actually focuses most of its attention on encouraging prayer and spiritual development, and the study of conciliar and papal documents.

Organization members see themselves as responsible for helping to spread the church's official teachings, Likoudis noted, adding that CUF's slogan is, "To support, defend and ad-

vance the efforts of the teaching Church."

Yet the only time CUF seems to garner attention, Likoudis acknowledged, is when members protest such perceived abuses in liturgical or sacramental practice as the use of altar girls; criticize church and school educational materials and programs; or object to what they see as violations of church teachings on such issues as women priests, abortion, birth control and homosexuality.

## CUF aims to encourage trust in papal authority

By Lee Strong, Staff writer

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