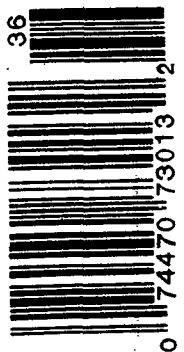


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# CATHOLIC COURIER

DIOCESE OF ROCHESTER, N.Y.  
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## Adherents proclaim day for the 'rapture'

ROCHESTER — A billboard on Route 490 in Rochester proclaims: "Rapture ... Oct. 28, 1992 ... Jesus is coming in the Air."

The cryptic message also offers passers-by two telephone numbers to call.

When the *Catholic Courier* called one of those numbers, the phone was answered by Joseph, who asked that his last name not be used for this article.

The "Rapture," Joseph explained, will take place October 28 at 10 a.m. Eastern Standard Time.

According to the belief Joseph shares with certain other Christians, the rapture is an event in which millions of the "saved" will suddenly disappear from the Earth to meet Jesus in the air.

The term "rapture" does not appear anywhere in Scripture.

The idea behind it largely has been derived from two Scripture passages, however.

Thessalonians 4:16-17 describes a scene in which living and dead believers are to "be caught up together ... to meet the Lord in the air." And Matthew 24:37-41 states: "there will be two men in a field; one will be taken, the other left; two women grinding at the mill; one will be taken, the other left."

One interpretation of the end of time asserts that the saved will disappear at the moment of rapture, and those who have not been saved will be left on the Earth to suffer seven years of tribulations — natural disasters, war, persecution and disease.

At the end of the seven years, Christ will return to defeat the anti-Christ and the forces of evil in the Battle of Armageddon, adherents of the rapture believe. Christ and the raptured believers will then rule the Earth for one thousand years — the millennium — until the final judgment.

"We don't want to scare people," Joseph explained. "We are just trying to tell people to be ready, to live your life day to day, and to be a good Christian."

Joseph is among a small group of Rochester-area members of the international Mission for the Coming Days. Formed in Korea in

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