



CATHOLIC COURIER

DIOCESE OF ROCHESTER, NY

Vol. 104 No. 48

Thursday, September 2, 1993

75¢

16 pages

Pigskin preview

The high school football season kicks off this weekend as McQuaid Jesuit visits Franklin, Aquinas Institute hosts Edison Tech, Bishop Kearney travels to Canandaigua and Geneva DeSales is at Marcus Whitman. For an overview of what to expect from this year's Catholic high schools in the diocese, see page 8.

Religious leaders call for peace and patience

CHICAGO — The greatest assembly of representatives and leaders of religion in history is gathering in Chicago for the Parliament of the World's Religions.

Some 6,000 delegates from 125 faiths around the world began arriving here Aug. 28 and will continue to meet through Sept. 5. The parliamentary meetings are taking place primarily in the Palmer House Hotel, but also at other sites around the city.

According to the parliament's organizers, the conclave's goal includes assessing and renewing the role of religions in personal spiritual growth and in facing such challenges as war, poverty, racism, hunger and environmental degradation.

This historic parliament commemorates a similar gathering in Chicago 100 years ago. Marking the beginning of the world's interfaith movement, that parliament introduced many Westerners to such Eastern religions as Hinduism and Buddhism. Catholicism and Judaism also reportedly gained more mainstream acceptance in the United States following the 1893 parliament.

Religions represented at the 1993 conference include Christianity, Islam, Judaism, Buddhism, Hinduism, Baha'ism, Confucianism, Jainism, Unitarianism, Native American, Sikhism and Zoroastrianism.

Chicago-area temples, mosques, synagogues and churches will host exhibits, open houses, lectures and tours in conjunction with the parliament. Chicago museums and other institutions are offering programs tied to themes examined by the parliament.

The assemblage being painted in The Windy City is a rarely seen portrait of religious pluralism.

A Roman Catholic cardinal dressed in red sat next to a Buddhist monk wearing orange.

The types of headdresses included nuns' habits, yarmulkes, turbans, veils and an elaborate Egyptian headpiece.

An opening ceremony on Saturday, Aug. 28 featured an almost hour-long procession of religious leaders, accompanied by the chanting of Drepung Loseling Monks, organ music by Chicago Music of the Baroque, and traditional ceremonial music by Native Americans.

At least 11 invocations were

offered by representatives of Buddhism, Islam, Christianity, Sikhism, Baha'ism and Hinduism. Other religious representatives added their words of blessing to the event, and leaders of six Native American nations — including central New York's Onondaga — performed a blessing from the four directions, sky and center.

Many made prayers to "the god of many names" and spoke of humanity as "one family."

Chicago Archbishop Joseph Cardinal Bernardin gave thanks for the spirit of cooperation that had marked the 1893 parliament.

"Yet despite the historic and bold efforts of our predecessors and those who carry on our mission, our world still suffers from intolerance, violence, poverty and injustice," he said. "So as we remember the past, we recommit ourselves in the spirit of the faithful who have gone before us to building better cooperation and harmony of humankind."

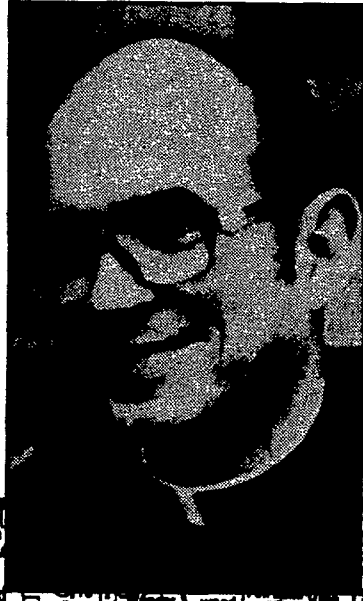
The cardinal will appear later this week with the Dalai Lama, exiled spiritual and temporal leader of Tibet. The Dalai Lama will be featured with Cardinal Bernardin at the closing ceremony on Saturday afternoon, Sept. 4, in Chicago's Grant Park.

At the ceremony, the parliament will present a document titled, "Declaration of a Global Ethic."

The parliament's not-for-profit organizers, the Council for a Parliament of the World's Religions, hope that the event will increase peace and understanding among the world's many faiths.

"May this opening of the parliament and this opening of hearts confirm the deepest teachings of the world's religions," said Daniel Gomez-Ibanez, executive director of the parliament's organizing council. "And may we come together again and again and again"

Continued on page 14



Cardinal Joseph L. Bernardin



Helen Alvaré



The Dalai Lama

By Heidi Schlumpf Kezmoh
and
Rob Cullivan