

# Pax Christi leader speaks of hope

## Mideast is a start

By Rob Cullivan  
Staff writer

ROCHESTER — The historical signing of the peace accord between Palestinians and Israelis provides hope that peace can be achieved in places such as Northern Ireland, Bosnia-Herzegovina and Haiti, according to Sister Anne McCarthy, OSB, national coordinator of Pax Christi USA.

"The clear message from this is not to give up on anybody," Sister McCarthy said Sunday, Sept. 12, following her talk during the 11 a.m. Mass at Corpus Christi Church, 864 E. Main St.

Pax Christi USA, which comprises about 12,000 members, is devoted to such issues as demilitarization, environmentalism, economic and interracial justice, human rights and non-violence, she said.

The national coordinator of the Catholic peace organization since 1991, Sister McCarthy emphasized the value of non-violence and forgiveness in her talk and subsequent interview with the *Catholic Courier*.

In her interview, she noted that even though Serbia has aggressively pursued conquest in the former Yugoslavia, many Serbs disagree with their nation's warring policies.

"There are peace groups in Serbia holding demonstrations and getting arrested ... and nobody's hearing about them," claimed Sister McCarthy, a member of the Benedictine Sisters of Erie.

She also reiterated Pax Christi's opposition to any bombing of Serbian positions by the United States or its allies.

"Any violence escalates violence," she said. "It can never be moral to bomb."

When asked how Catholics dedicated to non-violence could respond to the aggressive war against the Bosnians, Sister McCarthy asserted that to "say no to air strikes is not to say no" to action on behalf of the Bosnians.

She claimed that the presence of international peace groups in Sarajevo last December caused the Serb militia to fire less often on the city because they did not want to inflame international opinion. Such peace groups have talked with Serbs, Bosnians and Croats, creating a peaceful presence in war-torn regions. She called for more support of Christians such as Corpus Christi parishioner J. Thomas Malthaner, who traveled with 2,500 other peace activists to Bosnia in early August to protest the war.

In addition, she called for the international community to stop the flow of arms into the region. This arms flow has primarily benefited the Serbs, she stressed.

The bloody war in the former Yugoslavia is not the only example of a more powerful nation bullying its neighbors, according to Sister McCarthy. During her talk at Corpus Christi, she blamed the United States for helping set up and arm Haiti's military dictatorships that have brutalized the populace there.

In addition, during the Bush administration, U.S. diplomats in Haiti called on the government to lower the minimum wage in order to keep U.S. businesses from leaving the country. Such calls threaten Haitians' already meager standard of living, she concluded.

She also criticized lending and banking institutions in wealthy countries for refusing to forgive the massive debts many Third World nations have

incurred. She noted that many countries must hold off financing essential health services such as children's immunizations and public education in order to pay off the interest on debts owed to lending institutions such as the International Monetary Fund.

The Gospel reading at Mass concerned a man who was forgiven a great debt only to insist that another man pay him a much smaller debt than the one for which he was forgiven. In the Gospel, Jesus criticizes the ungrateful debtor, and calls on his listeners to forgive "seventy times seven" a figure Jesus' audience would have known meant "the completeness of time," she said, adding:

"We can be sure that when Catholics in Latin America are reading this

Scripture they are conscious of the debt crisis."

In her subsequent interview, Sister McCarthy added that Third World countries also often forgo feeding their own people off their land which is used instead for such export crops as coffee. Such crops are then sold at unfairly low prices to Western nations, resulting in further impoverishment of Third World peoples, she claimed.

"There's a difference between poverty and misery, and more and more people are living in misery," she said.

The key to solving many of these problems lies in Christians acting on the conviction that "I am as much brother and sister to someone in Brazil as to someone in Cleveland," she concluded.

## Mausoleum dedicated



St. John Wilroy/Staff photographer

## Cathedral's choir sings at service

Terry Kach (top), a member of the Sacred Heart Cathedral Choir, rings a bell during his recitation of the litany of the saints. The litany was performed as part of the blessing and dedication inside the new All Saints Mausoleum at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery, 2461 Lake Ave., Rochester, on Sunday, Sept. 12. The 28-member choir, under the direction of Dr. J. William Greene (left), has been invited to sing at St. Peter's Basilica during its Oct. 28-Nov. 4 pilgrimage to Rome.



## GRCC's Crossroads Project plans ecumenical service in Irondequoit

IRONDEQUOIT — The Crossroads Project, sponsored by Greater Rochester Community of Churches, will hold an interracial worship service on Sunday, Sept. 19, at 3 p.m.

The service, which will take place at Irondequoit United Church of Christ, 644 Titus Ave., will include interactive Bible study and a communion service involving all faiths.

The Crossroads Project seeks to foster dialogue and partnerships between churches across racial, denominational and geographic lines.

For information about the the Crossroad Project or the Sept. 19 service, call the Rev. David Inglis, project coordinator, 716/334-0400, or the Rev. Cheryl Huff Slusser, associate pastor of the Irondequoit United Church of Christ, 716/544-3020.

## Elderline adds evening and Saturday hours

ROCHESTER — Elderline, a program providing information and support to family and friends caring for older adults, is now offering expanded hours.

This increased service was made possible through a grant from the American Red Cross national office as well as local efforts from Catholic Fa-

mily Center, Monroe County Office for the Aging, and Rochester Red Cross.

Weekday evenings and Saturdays are now included in Elderline's service. Volunteers are needed to answer phones during these times. For details, call 716/256-4258.

The Elderline number is 716/275-8181.

## Orchestra, chorus offering auditions

FAIRPORT — The Genesee Valley Orchestra and Chorus is currently accepting singers and instrumentalists for the 1993-94 season.

Now in its 18th year, the GVOC, under the direction of Virginia Hogan, comprises a 100-voice chorus and a 45-piece chamber orchestra. The group performs in various locations throughout the Rochester area.

To obtain a placement audition, or for further information, call 716/223-9006 or write the GVOC at 20 Little Briggins Circle, Fairport, N.Y., 14450.

## Fisher reunion slated

PITTSFORD — St. John Fisher College, 3690 East Ave., has planned a reunion weekend for Oct. 15-17.

This event will honor the classes of 1958, 1963, 1968, 1973, 1978, 1983 and 1988. Among the list of activities are campus tours; a football game between St. John Fisher and the University of Rochester; faculty and student presentations; class parties; Sunday Mass followed by a champagne brunch; and a Founders' Dinner and dance at the Rochester Riverside Convention Center, 123 E. Main St.

Reservations are required by Oct. 1. To register, call 716/385-8001.

## CUA offers diocese thanks

ROCHESTER — Brother Patrick Ellis, FSC, president of Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C., has written to Bishop Matthew H. Clark to thank the Rochester diocese for contributing \$28,389.92 to the university during the annual diocesan collection.

CUA is the national university of the Catholic Church in the United States. Dioceses across the country annually take up collections to help support the university.

## Class seeking alumni

ROCHESTER — East High School's Class of 1958 is attempting to locate several missing alumni for its 35th reunion dinner on Friday, Oct. 29.

The event will be held at the Burgundy Basin Inn, 1361 Marsh Road, Pittsford. Alumni who are interested in attending, or know the whereabouts of any class members, should contact Louis Leone at 716/586-6256 or Barbara Russo Curcio at 544-0317.

## Donated items needed

WAVERLY — Donated items are needed for an Oct. 7-8 rummage sale at St. James Church, 503 Clark St.

Proceeds will go toward Christmas baskets for the needy. To make donations, call 607/565-2014.

It pays to advertise  
in the  
*Catholic Courier*