

# Neo-Nazis thwarted in Auburn

By Mike Latona  
Staff writer

AUBURN — "We're all humans; are you too stupid to understand that?" "You don't have a God, you just have a religion — that's smart."

These and other unprintable epithets faced six men as they descended the City Hall steps to the sidewalk on South Street.

And that's where the planned march through downtown Auburn came to a quick end for the United States of America Nationalist Party, a white supremacist group.

With an estimated 2,000 angry protesters awaiting, the six USANP representatives were whisked into a van by police. Anti-march protesters pelted the vehicle with bottles and rocks as it pulled away.

Just minutes earlier, while USANP demonstrators still hovered on the City Hall steps, fellow members were spied emptying out of another van headed up a hill on Lincoln St. Many in the crowd chased the neo-Nazis, who were brandishing swastika signs. Assaults forced the USANP contingent back into its van, and then began pounding on the doors.

Once the would-be marchers had disappeared, the throng moved up North Street to Freedom Park, which the USANP had targeted as a demonstration site after its 3 p.m. march. But the neo-Nazis were not seen again for the rest of the day.

The event took on a festive atmosphere, as protesters cheered the march's failure. By 4:30 p.m. the crowd had almost completely dissipated.

No ambulances were required due



S. John Wilkin/Staff photographer

While an Auburn police officer stands guard Sept. 25, a white supremacist stands on the steps of Auburn's City Hall showing the flag of the United States of America Nationalist Party to the angry crowd.

to injury, and the approximately 100 police officers staffing the demonstration made only two arrests. Auburn Police Chief John Ecklund said the two people were arrested for refusing to surrender a baseball bat and knife to authorities.

Many in the crowd were angry that the neo-Nazis had received police protection.

Ronald Tillman, a 31-year-old Auburn resident, said minorities are treated unfairly in Auburn. As a result, he said, authorities do not deal harshly enough with Nazi sympathizers.

Tillman, who is black, noted that "not one police officer on the day was black. I wasn't surprised."

Auburn Mayor Guy Cosentino said that he has had no control over the hiring of minority police officers, due to a police hiring freeze that has existed since he became mayor 21 months ago.

As for the racist group being escorted to a van and out of town, he replied, "I don't know if the neo-Nazis were being protected, but peace was being kept. That was the main issue."

Peace also was the focus of a pre-

Continued on page 5

## Byzantine Catholics slate annual retreat for Oct. 1-3

CANANDAIGUA — Byzantine Catholics of Upstate New York will hold their annual retreat from Oct. 1-3 at Notre Dame Retreat House, 5151 Foster Road.

Father Peter Galadza, priest-in-residence at Ss. Peter and Paul Ukrainian Catholic Church in Scarborough, Ontario, Canada, will serve as retreat master. The priest recently returned from the Ukraine. His theme will be "Our Brokenness Transfigured by the Cross."

Registration will begin at 6:30 p.m. on Oct. 1, with the first talk slated for 8 p.m. The retreat will conclude Sunday afternoon with coffee, doughnuts and an informal discussion about recent events in the Ukraine.

The suggested donation for the retreat is \$85. Financial aid is available.

Call Nicholas Hober at 716/377-3754 (Fairport); Mary Ann Skorochoda, 716/633-8966 (Rochester); Mark Slabyk 716/822-3643 (Lackawanna); or Willis and Irene Homick in Auburn, 315/252-5674 or 252-5391.

## Tickets still available for Tier schools fundraiser

ELMIRA — Tickets are still on sale for the "Discover '93" fundraiser, which will benefit Catholic schools in the Southern Tier.

The first prize is \$25,000, with one second-place prize of \$10,000, three of \$5,000, 20 of \$1,000, and 20 of \$500. The drawing is scheduled for Tuesday, Nov. 23, and will be broadcast from 7-8 p.m. on Paragon Cable Channel 4 and Corning Newchannel Channel 13.

Five early-bird prizes of \$1,000 each will also be raffled off. Early-bird drawing dates are Wednesday, Oct. 6, and Wednesday, Nov. 10.

Tickets are \$100 each and can be purchased at the "Discover" office, 301 Demarest Pkwy., Elmira; or by calling 607/734-5432 or 734-4414.

Proceeds will support the Holy Family Catholic School System and Notre Dame High School in Elmira; St. Mary Our Mother School in Horseheads; and All Saints Academy in Corning.

## Bishop declares October 1 a day of prayer, abstinence

ROCHESTER — Bishop Matthew H. Clark has declared Oct. 1 to be a day of prayer and abstinence in preparation for the General Synod, October 1-3.

The bishop is also encouraging as many people as possible to gather for Eucharist that day and to spend some extra time in prayer. Further, the bishop suggested that some individuals also may wish to fast on that day.

In announcing the day of prayer and abstinence, Bishop Clark noted that "there will be no laws or obligations attached to this call for prayer." Because participation is strictly optional, those unable to carry out the call do not need to obtain dispensations.

## St. Bernard Parish honors the late Fr. Daniel Hogan

SCIPIO CENTER — St. Bernard Parish, Center Road, held a memorial Mass Sept. 26 in honor of Father Daniel V. Hogan, who died July 19, 1993.

Father Hogan had served as the parish's pastor from 1967-72. He also served concurrently as the pastor of St. Isaac Jogues Parish in Fleming and St. Hilary Parish in Genoa.

Following the Mass, a coffee hour took place in the rectory. During the coffee hour, memorabilia from Father Hogan's life were on display.

# New rules set for divorced catechumens

## Annulment required before rite of election

By Lee Strong  
Senior staff writer

ROCHESTER — All divorced individuals hoping to join the Catholic Church through the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults in the Diocese of Rochester must first obtain annulments of prior broken marriages, according to a new policy announced by the diocesan Tribunal.

The policy becomes effective immediately. Thus, divorced individuals hoping to take part in the 1994 rite of election must apply for annulments no later than Oct. 15, 1993.

Anyone who submits after that date, or whose case will not be resolved in time for the rite of election — usually conducted at the Easter Vigil — will not be permitted to take part in the rite until their previous marriages have been resolved by the Tribunal.

Meanwhile, those who wish to take part in the rite of election in 1995 must submit their cases to the Tribunal no later than July 1, 1994.

This requirement covers any non-Catholic who was involved in a valid civil or religious marriage, noted Father William Laird, judicial vicar of the Tribunal.

Canon law does not prohibit divorced individuals from entering the church, Father Laird acknowledged. But pastoral and practical concerns have led the Tribunal to set this new policy, which was outlined in a letter issued Sept. 14 through diocesan centralized mail.

"The policy is a response to the sense of hurt that people experience when they enter the church and learn later that they were not fully apprised of the fact that they do not have full rights in the church when it comes to the possibility of marriage in the church," Father Laird explained. "They have a difficult time understanding why they do not have access to (the marriage) rite in the church."

Father Laird added that part of this confusion stems from the fact that many people misunderstand the Catholic Church's teaching about marriages outside the church.

"I think that a lot of people don't realize that the Catholic Church recognizes the marriages of people outside the church between two non-Catholics are valid," Father Laird observed.

Father Laird said the Tribunal also has a pastoral reason for dealing with such cases as early as possible in the RCIA process.

"We feel the process of initiation into the church should be free of un-

necessary concerns so that the person can focus on the more important concern of their conversion to Roman Catholicism," Father Laird said.

Until now, the diocese had no formal policy concerning the problem of previous marriages, Father Laird said. Cases were dealt with on an individual basis.

But in 1992-93, the Tribunal had to deal with 40 cases of people involved in the RCIA process.

In several instances, the cases were submitted to the Tribunal as late as January, with the expectation that the cases would be resolved in time for the Easter Vigil a few months later. But, Father Laird noted, completing a case generally takes about nine months.

In an attempt to resolve the cases of people involved in the RCIA process, the cases of other people were put on hold, Father Laird noted.

Even if the Tribunal considers a catechumen's case, Father Laird cautioned, it may not be able to determine a marriage's nullity.

"We never declare a marriage to be valid," Father Laird explained. "We simply say that the nullity of the marriage has not been proven."

"If there is a situation where the nullity cannot be proven," the priest continued, "the Rite of Initiation (for that person) may not be celebrated."

In such cases, the person may re-

Continued on page 5