

Special events mark opening of AQ facility

By Mike Latona
Staff writer

ROCHESTER — A whirlwind of activities prompted Aquinas Institute Principal Father Dennis P. Noelke, CSB, to rate last week as the most historic in school history.

In a week which began with the dedication of the school's new addition, and ended with two appearances by former world heavyweight boxing champion Muhammad Ali, it would be tough to dispute Father Noelke's assertion.

The Wegman-Napier Science and Physical Education Center was dedicated in a ceremony attended by approximately 1,500 people on Monday, March 7 at Aquinas, located at 1127 Dewey Ave.

Bishop Matthew H. Clark, who blessed the facility, and Robert B. Wegman, a 1937 Aquinas graduate for whom the Wegman-Napier Center is partially named, were among the guests.

Later in the week, Ali attended the 62nd annual Aquinas Mission Bouts held March 10 in the Wegman-Napier Center's gymnasium. The former champion returned there the following morning to be honored at a student assembly.

The 33,000-square-foot center was constructed over a 1 1/2-year period and became available for use in February 1994. The facility includes the gym, locker rooms, offices, a conference room, science classrooms and laboratories.

The center is connected by a skyway to the north end of Aquinas' original 70-year-old building. Adorning the skyway is a stained-glass window of St. Thomas Aquinas, purchased from St. James Mer-



S. John Wilkin/Staff photographer

Muhammad Ali was the guest of honor on March 11 at Aquinas Institute's new Wegman-Napier Science and Physical Education Center. The former world heavyweight champion, who attended the 62nd annual Mission Bouts the night before (see page 8), toured the building and visited classes. Above, Ali playfully spars with students while visiting one of the center's new classrooms. Right, Ali later expresses pleasure with a gift presented by Aquinas students during an assembly.

cy Hospital in Hornell, which can be viewed from the school's entrance road.

Construction expenses have been offset by the school's Campaign for Excellence, an ongoing \$7 million fund drive. Half of the fundraising campaign proceeds have been appropriated for the Wegman-Napier Center and other improvements to the campus.

William Ouweleen, AQ development director, noted that pledges are still being accepted to complete the campaign's other \$3.5-million portion, which is earmarked for faculty development and student scholarship funds.

The building is named for Wegman, chairman of Wegmans Food Markets, and

the late William J. Napier, a 1953 AQ graduate and co-founder of the money-management firm Manning & Napier.

Wegman and Napier, who died suddenly last April, co-chaired the fund drive and also made major cash contributions.

Father Noelke stated at the March 11 student assembly that he doesn't "think there's ever been a week in the history of Aquinas that's been more historic than this week."

In an interview with the *Catholic Couri-*



er, the principal added, "There's a lot of pride on the part of a lot of people, from the students on up through the board and benefactors. This is something that's been dreamt of for many years."

Bishop Clark addresses new Vatican-Israeli agreement

By Lee Strong
Senior staff writer

BRIGHTON — Speaking last week on the Vatican-Israeli movement toward full diplomatic relations, Bishop Matthew H. Clark said Catholics and Jews around the world must continue to build upon and provide renewed energy to three decades of improved relations between the two groups.

The bishop addressed the recent breakthrough in relations between the Vatican and Israel during a March 11 talk at Temple B'rith Kodesh, 2131 Elmwood Ave. The agreement, signed in Jerusalem on Dec. 30, 1993, was drafted by a commission of Vatican and Israeli officials during 17 months of intense negotiations.

Bishop Clark had been invited to

speak at the synagogue during the regular Friday evening service. During his talk, he illustrated an existing understanding between Jews and Catholics by citing an editorial cartoon published in one of Rochester's Gannett newspapers back on Nov. 30, 1993.

The cartoon showed Michael Jackson standing in front of a Catholic Church. Two priests were talking about the pop singer — who at the time was facing a lawsuit accusing him of molesting a minor — with one priest saying that Jackson wanted to become a priest.

"It is a deeply troubling issue, especially for victims and those who love them, but also for our communities," Bishop Clark said of sexual abuse.

"The cartoon was obviously deeply offensive," the bishop continued. "But perhaps because of embarrassment, no

Catholic voice was raised in objection."

In the Dec. 6 edition of that same Gannett newspaper, however, a man wrote to complain about the cartoon, according to Bishop Clark, who cited the letter.

"The editorial cartoon on the November 30 editorial page offends me deeply, and I'm not Catholic. I'm Jewish.

"It is printed material," Bishop Clark continued to read, "such as that cartoon that perpetuates prejudice and fosters hatred. We Jews have been victimized over the centuries by like propaganda."

The writer said the Gannett papers owed the community an apology. It was signed by Elliott H. Press, a member of Temple B'rith Kodesh.

"I would publicly like to thank Mr. Press for his letter," Bishop Clark said, "and point out that this is a good example of the hoped for result of the new initiative for diplomatic relations."

Earlier in his talk, Bishop Clark said the agreement "does not solve all the thorny church-state problems. But it lays the groundwork for further negotiations and outlines general principles of religious freedom in a civil society and includes strong condemnation of anti-semitism."

Relations between Catholics and Jews have not always been so cordial, Bishop Clark acknowledged. He cited a 1904 letter from Pope Pius X to Theodor Herzl — one of the leading proponents of Jewish settlement in Palestine — in which the pope said: "The Jews have not recognized our Lord, therefore we cannot recognize the Jewish people. And so if you come to Palestine to settle your people there, we will be ready with churches and priests to baptize all of you."

Such attitudes changed under later popes, Bishop Clark noted. Pope John XXIII, for example, greeted some Jewish visitors with this line from the Torah, the sacred Jewish writings: "I am Jewish, your brother."

Speaking directly about the new agreement between the Vatican and Israel, Bishop Clark said the mutual recognition on the diplomatic level is important. But, he added, "It is equally important to begin a new era in which the Catholic Church and the Jewish people throughout the world work together to create humane and reasonable relations animated by the high ideals of peace and justice. It can no longer be 'them' and 'us.'"

The bishop added that, "We will not always agree with one another on the handling of the great political and social problems that face our world. But we can strive to work together on the fundamental principles that guarantee authentic civilization and real brotherhood and sisterhood between peoples."

"Let this new era of relations be
Continued on page 4

Diocesan appointments

Bishop Matthew H. Clark has announced the following diocesan appointments, which are effective June 28, 1994.

Father Philip J. Billotte, from temporary administrator of St. Januarius Church in Naples, and sacramental moderator, St. Gabriel's Church in Hammondsport and St. Patrick Church in Prattsburg, to pastor of St. Januarius Church in Naples/St. Patrick Church in Prattsburg.

Father Albert L. Delmonte, from pastor of St. Salome Church in Rochester, to pastor of St. Jerome Church in East Rochester.

Father Christopher E. Linsler, from parochial vicar of Immaculate Conception Church in Ithaca, to pastor of St. Casimir Church in Elmira/St. Charles Borromeo Church in Elmira Heights.

Father Richard Masciangelo, from pastor of St. Jerome Church in East Rochester, to parochial vicar of St. Lawrence Church in Greece.

Father William C. Michatek, from pastor of St. Michael Church in Penn Yan and St. Andrew Church in Dundee, to pastor of St. John the Evangelist Church in Spencerport.

Father Michael J. Schramel, from administrator to pastor of Holy Family Church in Rochester.

Father Melvin H. Walczak, from administrator of St. Anthony of Padua Church in Rochester, to administrator of St. Vincent dePaul Church in Churchville.

Father Edward B. Zenkel, from pastor of St. Thomas Church in Leicester and St. Lucy Church in Retsof, to pastor of St. Mary of the Hills Church in Honeoye.