

# Monroe County justice may hear Buff cases

ROCHESTER — A state Supreme Court justice in Monroe County may preside over all three sexual-abuse cases pending in three counties against a former Aquinas teacher and administrator.

Brian C. Buff is facing charges of abuse involving two teenage boys. The alleged abuse took place in Monroe, Albany and Rensselaer counties.

Justice John D. Doyle may be assigned all three cases because judges in Albany and Rensselaer have disqualified themselves. The judges know the father of one of the alleged victims.

Doyle is still awaiting word from the state Office of Court Administration about whether he will hear all three cases, he told the *Catholic Courier* March 28.

Buff is scheduled to appear before Doyle on April 12, when the justice will clarify questions concerning where the trial or trials will occur and who will preside, Doyle explained.

Buff was charged Feb. 9 in Monroe County with two counts of third-degree sodomy, third-degree sexual abuse and endangering the welfare of a child, and one count each of fifth-degree conspiracy and second-degree harassment. He pleaded innocent to all charges.

He faces similar charges in Albany and Rensselaer counties.

Most of the charges stem from the alleged sexual abuse of two teenage boys

who attended Catholic Central High School in Troy. Buff served as assistant principal there from September, 1991, to December, 1993. Some of the alleged abuse also took place in Monroe County.

At Aquinas, Buff was a social studies teacher, drama director and director of recruitment between July, 1988 and August, 1991. He returned to Aquinas from January to September, 1993, to serve as associate director of development.

During his second stint at Aquinas, Buff allegedly sexually abused a female office worker at the school, 1127 Dewey Ave. Some of the charges in Monroe County stem from that alleged incident.

None of the alleged incidents involved

Aquinas students.

According to Assistant District Attorney Douglas A. Randall, a scheduled March 31 grand jury hearing concerning the charges has been postponed until after the April 12 appearance.

Randall was scheduled to meet with officials from the district attorney offices in Albany and Rensselaer counties on March 29 to discuss how the three cases will be handled.

Buff's attorney, Gary Muldoon, said the case is pending grand jury action.

"Things are still at the discussion stage," he said when asked about any possible plea changes.

— Lee Strong

## Diocesan activists to urge pontiff to visit Sarajevo

By John Thavis  
Catholic News Service

ROME — Serbian Orthodox Patriarch Pavle wants to make a joint visit to Sarajevo with Pope John Paul II and will propose the idea to an assembly of his fellow bishops in May, a U.S. peace activist said.

Jim Douglass, who met with Patriarch Pavle in Belgrade in mid-March, called the joint visit "a very live idea right now," despite some resistance among the Orthodox.

Douglass made the remarks March 22 after returning to Rome, where he was continuing a fast for peace in St. Peter's Square. In meetings with Vatican and other religious officials, he has been encouraging the pope-patriarch visit to the Balkans as a sign of reconciliation for war-torn Bosnia-Herzegovina.

The pope has said he wants to travel to Bosnia, but Vatican officials say a pastoral visit is unlikely as long as fighting continues. The Vatican has made no official comment on the possibility of a joint visit with Patriarch Pavle.

Douglass is slated to speak at an April 30 conference on non-violence at St. Bernard's Institute, 1100 S. Goodman St., Rochester, according to Tom Malthaner, a member of Pax Christi and a parishioner at Corpus Christi Church, 864 Main St. E. Douglass is also scheduled to speak at all Corpus Christi's May 1 Masses.

Douglass and Jim Forest, secretary of the Orthodox Peace Fellowship, spoke with Patriarch Pavle for an hour on March 10.

"The patriarch said he was in favor of it, that he'd like to go and that he'd put it in front of the assembly of all 35 Serbian Orthodox bishops on May 15," Douglass said.

In a later meeting with four bishops of the Serbian Orthodox synod, however, Douglass said he found an initial negative reaction to the proposal. There is "a lot of resistance to the pope" among the Orthodox in Serbia, in part because of the way papal statements have been reported in the media, Douglass said.

"The pope is represented as favoring the bombing of Serbian targets left and right," he said.

"We explained aspects of the pope's statements they were not aware of, and that made a big difference," he said.

Douglass said people in the Belgrade peace movement would especially appreciate papal criticism of the economic sanctions against Serbia, which are seen as punishing civilians and as having little effect on the country's leaders.

He also said that if Pope John Paul and the patriarch do make the trip together, the Orthodox would be looking for statements of dialogue and recon-

ciliation between the two churches.

Douglass, a former theology professor who has long been active in peace causes, began his fast after visiting Sarajevo in February. At that time he delivered to a top Vatican official a letter from Sarajevo Muslim leader Mustafa Ceric, asking the pope to join the interfaith pilgrimage.

The Chicago-based Interfaith Fast and Pilgrimage for Sarajevo stated March 2 that Douglass had informed the organization of his exchange with Cardinal Roger Etchegaray, president of the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace. The cardinal emphasized to Douglass that the pope wanted to visit not only Sarajevo, but the capital of Croatia, Zagreb, and the capital of Serbia, Belgrade, as well.

"(It must be clearly evident that the Holy Father is not partial to any party in the conflict," the cardinal reportedly told Douglass.

The report on the meeting was sent by facsimile to the *Catholic Courier* by Malthaner, who reported that a number of Rochester Catholics were fasting for peace in the war-torn region.

Malthaner said he and a handful of Rochester-area Catholics are writing the pope and the patriarch to encourage a visit to the former Yugoslavia. Malthaner urged other Catholics interested in doing the same to contact him at 716/342-6095 or 232-2670 for information.

This article contains reporting by staff writer Rob Cullivan.

### Corrections

Please allow us to clear up some errors from the last several issues.

Monsignor William H. Shannon was incorrectly identified in the March 10 page-one story ("St. Joseph's Day: Community events mark celebration of quiet saint"). He is chaplain of the Sisters of St. Joseph Motherhouse.

In last week's issue, outline information for a page 5 photo furnished by AP/Wide World Photos incorrectly identified a statue in the photo. The statue depicts St. Teresa.

In addition, there were several errors in last week's Parish Profile ("Linked histories help to tie cluster together") on pages 8-9. Annie Salato is a longtime member of St. Joseph's Parish in Cayuga, where she serves as sacristan. Jane Warnock is actually the sacristan at St. Michael's Church in Union Springs.

We regret the errors.



S. John Wilkin/Staff photographer

## Splashing into spring

A car splashes its way through a flooded section of Hillside Avenue near Cobbs Hill Park in Rochester last week. Rain and melting snow have combined once again to make flooding a problem — especially in areas such as Port Byron and Black Creek in Chili.

A donation to help support THE MONTHLY PRAYER REQUEST FOR PRIESTS will be greatly appreciated.

### THE MONTHLY PRAYER REQUEST FOR PRIESTS

WOULD YOU PRAY FOR A PRIEST EACH DAY?

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**ROSARY OF INTERCESSION FOR PRIESTS**

**Joyful Mysteries:**

1. Annunciation: For obedience and loyalty.
2. Visitation: That they make Christ present.
3. Nativity: For the Pope and Bishops.
4. Presentation: For our Bishop and his priests.
5. Finding: For priestly holiness.

**Sorrowful Mysteries:**

1. Agony: For priests who suffer.
2. Scourging: For those persecuted for their priesthood.
3. Crowning: For Victory over all temptation.

4. The Cross: For priests on the missions
5. Crucifixion: For perseverance.

**Glorious Mysteries:**

1. Resurrection: For our own parish clergy.
2. Ascension: For priests in religious life.
3. Pentecost: For the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.
4. Assumption: For deceased priests.
5. Coronation: For priestly vocations.

Or whatever the Lord inspires you to offer Him on behalf of His Priests

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Look for next month's MPRP CALENDAR in the Catholic Courier's APRIL 28th issue.