

# Jury convicts priest, illegal alien

By Rob Cullivan  
Staff writer

ROCHESTER — After 20 hours of deliberations, a jury of 11 women and one man Nov. 28 found New York City residents Father Patrick Moloney and Samuel Ignatius Millar guilty of conspiracy to receive and possess stolen cash from the Jan. 5, 1993, Brink's depot heist.

Both men face up to five years in federal prison, and will be sentenced on Feb. 9, 1995. Prosecutors said Father Moloney may receive a lighter sentence than Millar because the Melkite priest has no prior criminal record.

Meanwhile, the jury acquitted another New York City resident, Charles M. McCormick, along with Thomas F. O'Connor, a former Rochester police officer, of all charges in the case, which was tried for more than seven weeks in the Kenneth B. Keating Federal Building, 100 State St.

O'Connor was the only defendant actually charged in the holdup. The prosecution had maintained that O'Connor was the alleged inside man in the \$7.4 million robbery, the fifth-largest heist in U.S. history.

Along with the other three defendants, McCormick had been charged with conspiracy to possess stolen cash. Both Millar and Father Moloney had been videotaped entering and exiting McCormick's Manhattan apartment where stolen cash was found. McCormick had sublet the apartment to Father Moloney.

Following the jury's verdict, announced at 4:15 p.m. to a packed courtroom, Federal Judge David G. Larimer declined to set bail for either Millar or Father Moloney. Both men were taken into custody at the end of the proceedings.

Father Moloney requested that he be allowed some time to put his affairs in order in New York City. When the judge denied his request, Father Moloney announced that he would go on a hunger strike.

The priest also stated that FBI agents had "perjured" themselves when they testified about him during the trial.

Family members of Father Moloney were both despondent and defiant following the verdict.

"He's as innocent as I am," Father Moloney's brother, John, said.

Meanwhile, Millar's attorney, Anthony Leonardo, said his client, an illegal alien and former Irish Republican Army member, took the conviction in stride.

"My client never gave an expression or an emotion," Leonardo said.

Leonardo expressed disappointment with the verdict against Millar, but noted that it did not shock him because Millar had been videotaped going into and out of the apartment where several thousand dollars in stolen cash was found.

"I think it's very difficult to question the verdict," Leonardo said. He added,



"I was surprised that Father Moloney wasn't acquitted."

Both Leonardo and the prosecution said that Millar will probably be deported after serving his sentence.

O'Connor, who breathed a sigh of relief when the jury announced its verdict, was almost speechless as he exited the courtroom.

"I just want to be with my family," O'Connor said, as he was surrounded by tearful and emotional supporters.

McCormick, who had testified that he had never lived in his apartment during the time the stolen money was apparently placed there, expressed mixed

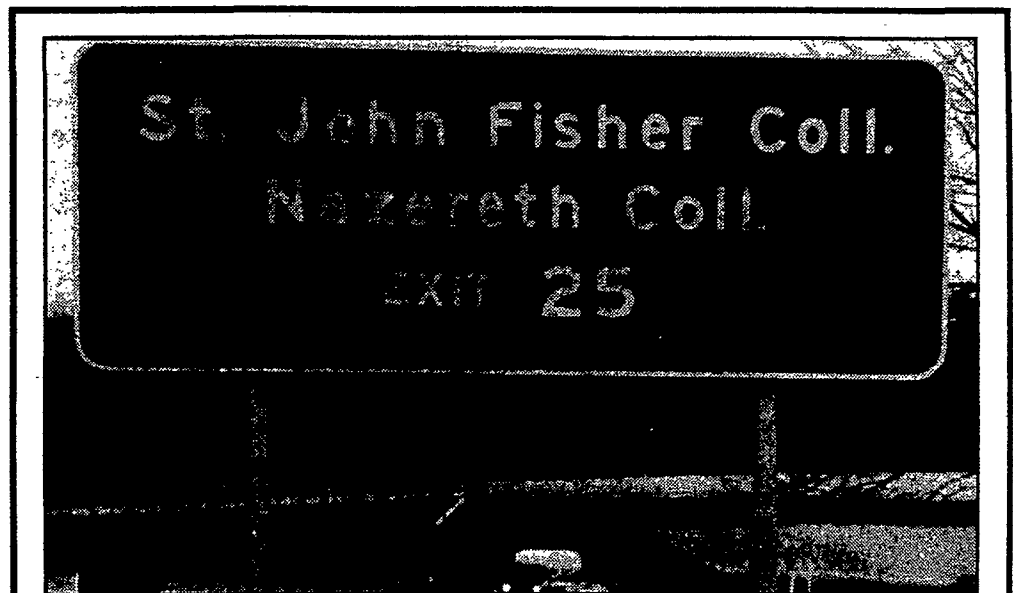
emotions about his acquittal. His comments alluded to earlier statements made by his attorney and family members that the government indicted him for virtually no reason.

"It really makes me very sad that power can be abused in such a manner," McCormick said of the U.S. government. His sister, Trisha, expressed the sentiments of many of his family members who are angry that McCormick was indicted in the first place.

"If he was found guilty, justice wouldn't have been served," she said.

Her father, Charles, echoed her comments.

"Is there any way to prosecute the prosecutor?" he asked rhetorically.



S. John Wilkin/Staff photographer

## Interstate typo

The New York State Department of Transportation made a highly visible error with the recent installation of two new signs on interstate 490 outside Rochester. The two signs at the Fairport Route 31F exits traveling eastbound and westbound misspelled Nazareth College as 'Nazereth.'

## Rochester delegation departs for Haiti on mission of mercy

Fourteen people from Rochester's Corpus Christi Church left for Haiti Nov. 29, bringing with them medicine and money for the island nation's most impoverished area.

The group plans to spend about a week at the church's sister mission in Cite Soleil, a slum located in the Haitian capital of Port-au-Prince, according to Father James Callan, Corpus Christi's pastor and also a delegation member.

Father Callan said the contingent will donate supplies to an orphanage, medical supplies to the children's hospital and \$18,000 to help provide hope for the area's residents, recently left battered by Tropical Storm Gordon.

"The purpose of this trip is to be in

solidarity with the people there ... to give them some assistance in what has been an extremely difficult time," the priest said.

In addition to the mission of mercy, Father Callan said the Corpus Christi group is hoping to get an interview with Father Jean-Bertrand Aristide, Haiti's president restored to power by U.S. troops in mid-October.

"We're going to try," the Rochester pastor said.

The delegation is scheduled to return to Rochester Dec. 7.

Staff report



## Advent series to feature Synod-related seminars

BATH — St. Mary's Church, 32 E. Morris St., is offering an Advent program titled "Our Act's Alive in '95." This series of seminars will address issues raised during the diocesan Synod process.

Presentations will be as follows:

- Dec. 10-11 — Anthony Barbaro, executive director of Catholic Charities of the Southern Tier, will present homilies at weekend services at both St. Mary's Church as well as St. Gabriel's Church, 78 Sheather St., Hammondsport. Barbaro will address social-justice and community-advocacy elements of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops' pastoral statement, "Communities of Salt and Light."

- Dec. 12, 7-9 p.m. — Giovina Caroscio, executive director of Finger Lakes Social Ministry, will give a seminar titled "I Am A Catholic But ...". In addition, Christopher Wilkins, coordinator of Parish and Community Development at Finger Lakes Social Ministry, will speak on the consistent life ethic.

- Dec. 13, 7-9 p.m. — Daniel Garrigan will speak on "Caring for Creation: A Talk on Parishes and the Environment."

- Dec. 14, 7-9 p.m. — Norm White, coordinator of Emergency Services at Catholic Charities of the Southern Tier, will lead a presentation titled "Violence — Breaking the Cycle."

- Dec. 15, 7-9 p.m. — The St. Mary Teen Pregnancy Committee will conduct a seminar titled "Teen Pregnancy — The Parish Response."

- Dec. 16, 7-8 p.m. — John and Belinda Brasley, Small Christian Community coordinators at St. Mary's, will present "An Introduction to Small Christian Communities." This will be followed by an 8 p.m. prayer service, with donations being accepted for the Bath Community Food Pantry and the area poor.

All seminars will take place at St. Mary's, and are free and open to the public. Refreshments will be served. For details, call 607/776-3327.

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