

# WORLD & NATION

## Catholic leaders continue to condemn church fires

WASHINGTON (CNS) — As the nation celebrated Independence Day, Catholic bishops across the country continued to participate in the outcry against a recent rash of church burnings and racism seen as fueling them.

They also encouraged Catholics to participate in a nationwide interfaith effort to rebuild the churches.

In a statement issued to coincide with the 220th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence July 4, the bishops of Minnesota denounced the arson attacks that have claimed at least 35 churches of black or racially mixed congregations and several white congregations since January, 1995.

The bishops said the loss of a place to worship is tragic for any congregation. But a sadness greater than the burned buildings is the "burning in the hearts of those who are victims, and the flame of hate in the hearts of those responsible," they added.

In Rochester, Cleveland and Chicago, Catholics were encouraged to participate in efforts to rebuild churches damaged or destroyed by fire.

Father John M. Mulligan, moderator of the pastoral office, requested that Rochester parishes take up a collection the weekend of July 13-14, to help fund the rebuild-



Archbishop James P. Keleher of Kansas City and parish council member Tony Dusil survey damage to Sacred Heart Church in Bonner Springs, Kan., July 3. The church was struck by arson June 30.

ing of burned churches. (See story, page 3.)

Cleveland Bishop Anthony M. Pilla asked pastors of the diocese's 238 parishes to take up a special collection for a Rebuild Burned Churches Fund seeking to raise \$325,000 to rebuild two Baptist churches in Tennessee.

Chicago Cardinal Joseph L. Bernardin asked parishes in his archdiocese to mark

the July 4 holiday by including in their weekend liturgies special prayers and collections for the burned churches.

An interfaith committee of Boston clergy, led by Boston Cardinal Bernard F. Law, met local church leaders July 1-2 in Tennessee and Mississippi, where a number of churches have been burned.

The Boston committee hopes to raise

\$100,000 to help rebuild one or more churches identified on the two-day trip.

In a statement issued on the West Coast July 2, Los Angeles Cardinal Roger M. Mahony also decried the church burnings.

The cardinal pledged solidarity with the victims of the burnings and urged the four million Catholics in his archdiocese "to join me in denouncing this insidious violence and to consider making a personal contribution to rebuild churches that have been burned through arson."

In Kansas, where arson caused an estimated \$250,000 in damage to Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Bonner Springs June 30, Kansas City Archbishop James P. Keleher said he doubted the fire was linked to any of the others but added, "I don't know — who knows?"

Earlier in June, at a national meeting in Portland, Ore., Bishop Keleher had joined the rest of the U.S. bishops in a statement condemning the church burnings and urging Catholics to come to the aid of burned-out congregations nationwide.

In a joint statement 17 Iowa denominational heads, including Bishop Joseph L. Charron of Des Moines, said: "Whether or not these attacks are part of some larger racial conspiracy may be debatable; however, they are clearly acts of racial hatred and violence."

## CALENDAR

### All Dioceses

#### Education

■ **AUG 2-3 — Convention:** Regional Catholic homeschooling gathering; Syracuse; Jim Likoudis, Steve Wood, Mary Kay Clark, speakers; for more information, call Jackie Spilinger, 315/689-1394.

#### Social Activity

■ **JULY 23-24 — Trip:** St. Ann's Basilica, Scranton, Pa.; includes tour of Catholic Golden Age Association national headquarters; cost of hotel and bus, \$120 per person; for information, call 716/467-3398.

### Chemung Schuyler

#### Religious Activities

■ **SUN, JULY 14 — Prayer:** Marian Hour of Prayer with pilgrim picture of Our Lady of Guadalupe; 2 p.m.; St. Mary Our Mother Church, Horseheads; sponsors are Horseheads and Elmira councils of Knights of Columbus.

■ **FRI, JULY 12 — Charismatic Mass:** 7:30 p.m.; followed by healing and prayer needs; St. Cecilia's Church, 954 Lake St., Elmira; refreshments available.

### Monroe County

#### Social Activities

■ **SAT, JULY 13 — Fiesta:** Mass at 5:15 p.m.; Hot Flash Dancers, Barber Shop Quartet,

children's games, food, dancing 6-11 p.m.; Church of the Annunciation, 1754 Norton St., Rochester; for information call 716/544-1050.

■ **SAT, JULY 13 — Seabreeze Park day:** 1 p.m.; meet at main gate, 4600 Culver Rd.; sponsored by St. Thomas More Singles' Club; for information, call Anne, 716/482-5656.

■ **SAT, JULY 20 — Day at Races:** Finger Lakes Race Track, Canandaigua; for details, call Anne, 716/482-5656.

■ **FRI, JULY 12 — TGIF gathering:** 5-7 p.m.; Hedges Nine Mile Point, 1290 Lake Road, Webster; Single Adult Ministry of St. Louis Church, Pittsford.

■ **THU, JULY 17 — Concert:** Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra; 7:30 p.m.; Temple B'rith Kodesh, 2131 Elmwood Ave., Rochester; free; for information, call 716/244-7060.

#### Religious Activities

■ **THU, JULY 11, 25:** Group on Centering Prayer; 7:30 p.m.; Guardian Angels Parish, 2061 E. Henrietta Road, Rochester; meetings also Aug. 8 and 22, Sept. 5.

■ **FRI, JULY 19 — Renewal:** in the Spirit & Secular Franciscans; St. Charles Borromeo Prayer Center, 3011 Dewey Ave., Rochester; 7:30 p.m.

■ **TUE, JULY 16 — Marian Night of Prayer:** 7-9 p.m.; Mercy Motherhouse Chapel, 1437 Blossom Road, Rochester; with Father Albert Shamon; parking behind Mercy High School.

■ **TUES, JULY 16 — Mass:** to mark Solemnity of Our Lady of Mount Carmel; 9:30 a.m.; Monastery of Our Lady and St. Joseph, 1931 W. Jefferson Rd., Pittsford; Bishop Dennis Hickey, celebrant; all invited.

■ **JULY 17-25 — Novena:** to St. Anne; 7:30 p.m. each day; St. Anne Church, 1600 Me-

Hope Ave, Rochester; Fr. Joseph S. Mahon, CSP, preaching on, "Responding to God's Call."

#### Fundraisers

■ **MON, JULY 29 — Golf tournament:** to benefit Sisters of St. Joseph Convent Infirmary; 9:30 a.m. registration, 10:30 a.m. shotgun start, 6 p.m. dinner, awards, silent auction; Irondequoit Country Club, 4045 East Ave., Rochester; limited to 120 golfers; call 716/586-1000 ext. 133 for registration form.

■ **SUN, JULY 14 — Ice Cream Social:** 12:30-5 p.m.; Corpus Christ Church parking lot, Main and Prince streets, Rochester; \$5 per person, \$15 per family; includes clowning, face painting and dancing; to benefit Isaiah House home for the dying.

■ **MON, JULY 22 — Golf tournament:** Kids Adjusting Through Support second annual open; Blue Heron Hills Country Club; featuring Rochester Amerks, Knighthawks, Raging Rhinos; \$125, including lunch, dinner; call Dr. Michael Henrichs, 716/232-5287.

#### Meetings

■ **THU, JULY 18 — Support group:** for anyone impacted by HIV/AIDS; 7:30-9 p.m.; Mercy Prayer Center, 65 Highland Ave.; family members, friends invited; held third Thursday of every month.

### Livingston County

#### Fundraiser

■ **JULY 11-14 — Festival:** Genesee Rotary's Annual Summer Festival; including St.

Mary's Church ice cream socials 1-7 p.m. Friday and noon-7:30 p.m. Saturday; Newman Community gourmet pasta dinner 5-8 p.m. Friday and Saturday; Genesee Village Park; hot-air balloon lifts off at about 6 a.m. Saturday, Sunday and 6 p.m. Friday, Saturday; most events set for 9 a.m.-10 p.m. Friday, Saturday.

### Seneca Cayuga

#### Adult Education

■ **JULY 16-17 — Book discussions:** on *Seeds of Peace*, by Msgr. William H. Shannon; 9 a.m.; Sacred Heart Church, 90 Melrose Road, Auburn; for information, call 315/253-2712.

### Tompkin Tioga

#### Adult Education

■ **SAT, JULY 13 — Program:** Sixth annual Catholic Charities Summer Justice & Peace Institute; 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.; St. James Parish, 503 Clark St., Waverly; "Scripture and the Consistent Life Ethic," "Small Christian Community Models," "Spirituality and Justice," and on how the parish nurtures women for leadership; presenters include Pat and John Brewster, coordinators of Holy Trinity Monastery, Hornell, Giovina Caroscio, executive director of Finger Lakes Social Ministry, and Theresa MacNamara, theology instructor at Holy Family Junior High School, Elmira; freewill offering; call 607/734-9784 to register.

### Steuben County

#### Social Activity

■ **SAT, AUG 3 — Chicken Bar-B-Q:** St. Joseph's School, Wayland; 5-7 p.m.; adults \$6, children under 12 \$3; tickets at door.

### Yates Ontario Wayne

#### Religious Activities

■ **SUNDAY, JULY 14 — Mass:** honoring St. Felix Church's 100th anniversary and 100th year of Clifton Springs Sanitarium; 8:30 a.m.; at pavilion in Clifton Springs village park; Father Edward Dillon celebrating; part of July 10-14 Sulphur Springs Festival.

■ **WED, JULY 17 — Prayer service:** Queen of Peace Night; rosary, Mass, silent adoration, Benediction, healing prayers; 7 p.m.; Notre Dame retreat House, Foster Road, Canandaigua; Father William Cosgrove, celebrant; for information, call 716/394-0604.

#### Social Activity

■ **FRI, JULY 12 — Senior games:** at Canandaigua Senior Academy, Canandaigua VA Medical Center and Roseland Bowl; events include golf, scratch bowling, walks, runs, tennis, card games; open to men and women 55 years old and older; sponsors are Canandaigua Salvation Army, F.F. Thompson Health System, VA Medical Center, Ontario County Office for the Aging; for information, call 716/394-6968.