

Fearful of crime,  
residents meet  
- Page 3



Planning weddings,  
in marriage section  
- Page 5



Teens' thoughts  
on tying knot  
- Pages 6-7



# Catholic Courier

DIocese OF ROCHESTER, NEW YORK ■ VOL. 109 NO. 17 ■ THURSDAY, JANUARY 29, 1998 ■ 75¢ ■ 16 PAGES

## Pontiff raises cautious hope

*The following article contains reporting by John Thavis of Catholic News Service and Rob Cullivan, staff writer for the Catholic Courier.*

Josefina Nuez left Cuba in 1963 after its communist government confiscated her family's home in order to house military advisers from the Soviet Union.

"I took the vow not to go back to Cuba as long as Fidel Castro was there," she said of Cuba's leader since 1959.

Nuez attends St. Michael's Church in Rochester, which belongs to the Comunidad de Esperanza - Community of Hope - cluster along with the Rochester parishes of Holy Redeemer/St. Francis Xavier and Our Lady of Mount Carmel.

Despite her vow to stay in the United States until Castro is gone, Nuez said she was happy that another Catholic did decide to visit Cuba - Pope John Paul II, who traveled throughout Cuba from Jan. 21 to Jan. 25. The visit culminated on Sunday, Jan. 25, with a papal Mass in Havana's Plaza of the Revolution, a place previously reserved for government rallies.

Hundreds of Cubans returned to their homeland to witness the papal visit, including Deacon Nemesio Martinez of Our Lady of Mount Carmel in Rochester. The deacon was not available for comment in time for the *Courier's* Jan. 26 deadline.

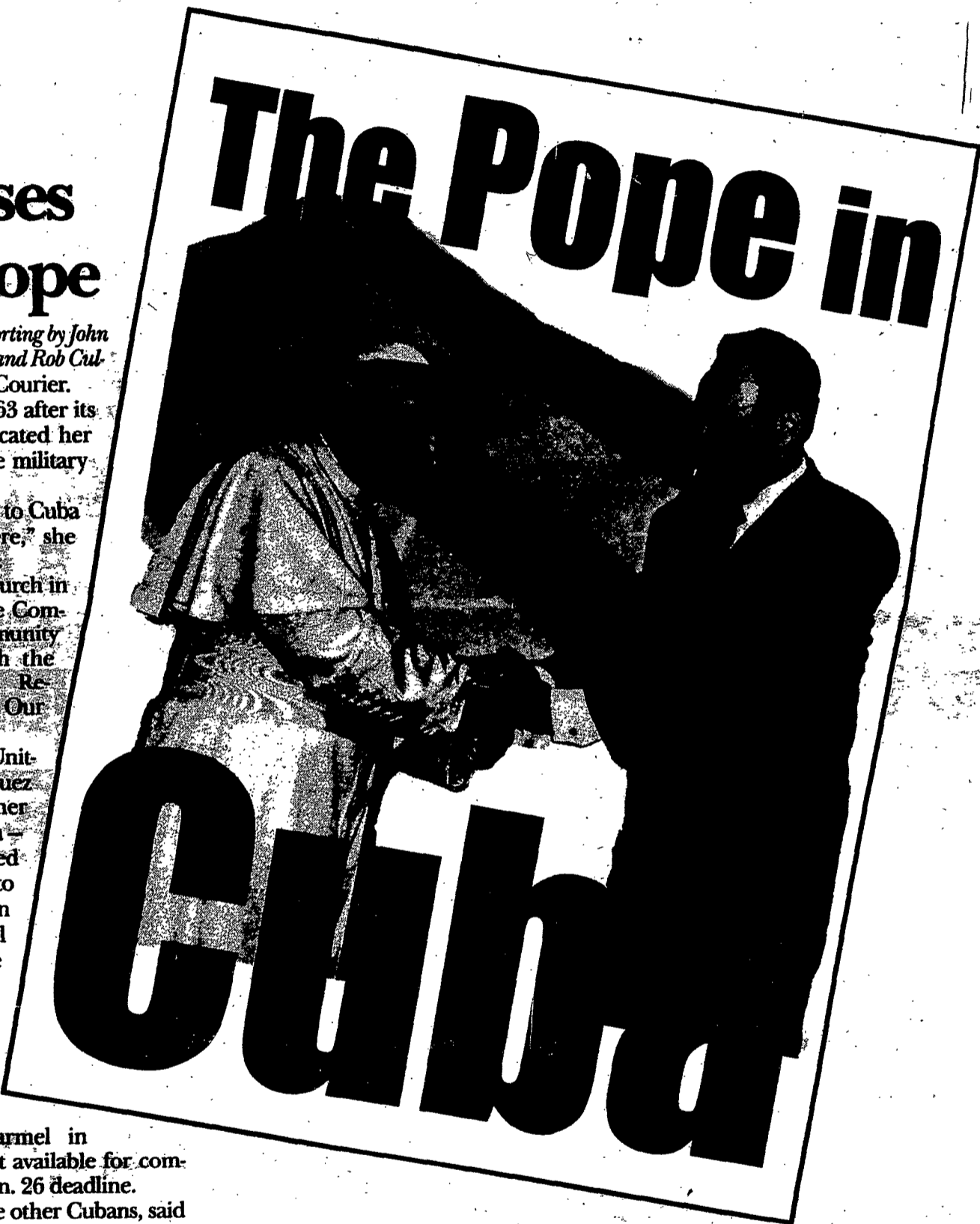
Here in the diocese, Nuez, like other Cubans, said she kept track of the pope's travels by watching press reports on TV.

"He is bringing a spirit of relief to my people in Cuba," Nuez said of the pope.

### Changing times

Indeed, by all accounts, the pope's visit to Cuba brought a budding sense of hope to the Caribbean nation, opening doors that may one day lead to greater freedom and an end to the country's international isolation.

Continued on page 14



Photos from CNS/Reuters