

Bishop addresses
Corpus concerns
- Page 2

Aquinas boxer's
last Mission Bouts
- Page 6



Workshops offers
tips for parents
- Page 7



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Let the land lie fallow

Pope John Paul II has proclaimed the period between Christmas Eve, 1999, and Jan. 6, 2001, as the Great Jubilee of the Year 2000. As part of an ongoing series of stories focusing on Jubilee themes and initiatives during the final year of preparation, the Catholic Courier invited Father Tim Keating of Canandaigua's Notre Dame Retreat House to write this reflection piece.

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Stop Screaming at the Microwave is the catchy title of a recent book by Mary LoVerde about 1990s' living in the United States. It is the heartfelt cry of a modern woman who found that 60-second meals were too slow. If she could only get them to 30 seconds...

It is an experience perhaps symbolized by the harried gentleman snatching a glimpse at his watch as he hurries along crunching on a burger or granola bar, cell phone fixed to his ear.

Time. Time. There's not enough time. So said one-third of Americans in a recent study.

"Let the land lie fallow" seems an ancient slogan from a foreign world. We would rather shorten the seasons and multiply the harvests if we could.

"Let the land lie fallow" is the first requirement (or is it a gift?) of Jubilee living. As the church, and within it the Diocese of Rochester, contemplates celebrating the Jubilee, it is worth mining its rich themes that are so good for life.

Continued on page 10

STORY BY FATHER TIM KEATING, CSSR • ILLUSTRATION BY LINDA JEANNE RIVERS.

