



A Columbine High School student prays during an April 25 memorial service to honor those killed April 20 in the shootings at the school in Littleton, Colo. Reuters/CNS

Pope, others offer prayers

LITTLETON, Colo. (CNS) — As prayers rose for them from around the United States and the world, the people of Littleton began to bury the 13 victims of the worst school shooting in U.S. history and the two young men who carried it out.

"Teens and parents of Columbine, we love you," said Father Kenneth Leone, pastor of St. Frances Cabrini Church, at a prayer service following the April 20 shootings at Columbine High School. "We are here for you tonight. Each of us tonight wants to reach out to you in your pain. Jesus is here reaching out to you tonight."

Four of the shooting victims were

parishioners at St. Frances Cabrini. At a joint funeral service April 25 for Daniel Mauser, 15, and Kelly Fleming, 16, Archbishop Charles J. Chaput of Denver told the parents of the teens, "Tuesday was your descent into hell. I don't know any other way we can describe it."

Pope John Paul II was among the first to send condolences after the two alleged gunmen — Dylan Klebold, 17, and Eric Harris, 18 — carried out an attack that killed 12 students and a teacher at Columbine High and injured 23 others. Klebold and Harris killed themselves following the attack.

The pope "has been deeply shocked by

Continued on page 4



Catholic Courier

DIocese OF ROCHESTER, NEW YORK ■ VOL. 110 NO. 29 ■ THURSDAY, APRIL 29, 1999 ■ 75c ■ 12 PAGES

Inside



Pro-life protests end peacefully
— Page 3



Teens perform to raise funds
— Page 6



Parish relishes its rural roots
— Page 12

Padre Pio

Ask most people what they know about Padre Pio — if they've even heard of him — and what usually gets mentioned are the stigmata, "the wounds of Christ," that he manifested.

"For the general public, that was the most conspicuous gift he had," acknowledged Father John Schug of Springfield, Mass., author of *Padre Pio* and *A Padre Pio Profile* published in 1976 and 1987, respectively.

But "for a person who can see beneath the surface," he said, there was so much more to the Italian friar.

On May 2, what lay "beneath the surface" will be officially recognized by the church as an expected 1 million faithful gather in Rome for Padre Pio's beatification.

Don Dwello of Waterloo and about 30 people in a group he organized will be among that throng. In addition, Ann Saraceni of St. Theodore's Church, Gates, and Pat Weber of St. Lawrence Church, Greece, organized a bus taking 50 people to Barto, Pa., to watch the beatification live by satellite at the National Centre for Padre Pio.

Such people have been waiting



"It would be easier for the earth to exist without the sun than without the Holy Mass."

for years to see this happen.

Saraceni inherited a devotion to Padre Pio from her father and mother, both born in Italy.

"He has interceded for so many thousands of souls," she said.

The church has recognized a miracle attributed to Padre Pio involving a healing of an Italian woman. She is said to have been healed before surgery for a sudden and serious lymphatic illness. The church

Continued on page 10

ILLUSTRATION BY LINDA PLAVICKI