



Lucille Moore looks over 15 crosses erected near Columbine High School in memory of those killed during the April 20 shooting rampage.

Reuters/CNS

Schools stress prevention

By Rob Cullivan
Staff writer

Could what happened at Columbine High School in Littleton, Colo., happen at a Catholic high school in the Diocese of Rochester?

Catholic schools are not immune to danger, according to their administrators.

"We have the same kind of (students) as the public schools," commented Olena Lylak, director of Rochester's Nazareth Academy.

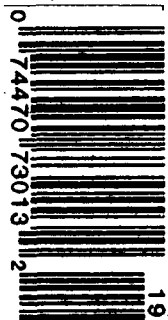
Indeed, in the wake of the April 20 Littleton school shootings that took the lives of 14 students and a teacher, the diocese's Catholic high schools all have taken measures to prevent the same type of tragedy

from happening in their halls. School leaders said that such measures include revamping their emergency plans and tightening security.

For example, McQuaid Jesuit High School in Rochester is currently reviewing its crisis emergency plan, according to Francine Patella Ryan, the school's director of advancement and public relations. The plan will be updated to streamline the school's response to any incidents, she said.

Vilma E. Goetting, principal of Aquinas Institute in Rochester noted that even before the Columbine shootings, her school had been working on plans to deal with possible incidents. For example, she

Continued on page 3



Catholic Courier

19
DIocese of Rochester, New York ■ VOL. 110 NO. 31 ■ THURSDAY, May 13, 1999 ■ 75¢ ■ 12 PAGES

Inside



Unity meeting
draws leaders
— Page 3



More than sticks
and stones
— Page 6



Cluster honors
longtime worker
— Page 9



G. K. Chesterton

In 1946, Father Leo Hetzler, CSB, prior to his ordination, returned to Rochester after serving in the Second World War.

He decided to visit a friend from his Aquinas Institute days who had also been in the military.

"I called him up," Father Hetzler recalled. "He met me at the front door. We hadn't seen each other in three years. You know what the first words out of his mouth were? Have I got a book for you."

The book was G.K. Chesterton's *Orthodoxy*.

The friend had guessed right.

"I loved the interchange of ideas," Father Hetzler said of his initial reaction with Chesterton's writings. He especially appreciated the fact that Chesterton tried to "understand the world at an intellectual level, which I was hungry for."

That book began Father Hetzler's long-term devotion to the Chesterton, who, by the time of his death in 1936 at age 62, had produced enough essays, talks, poems, theological works, short stories, mysteries, biographies, novels, plays and travel accounts to fill more than 100 books.

Chesterton's Father Brown mystery stories are regularly anthologized. His *Orthodoxy* and *The Everlasting Man* are frequently listed as modern spiritual classics. His *St. Francis of Assisi* and *St. Thomas Aquinas* are generally ranked as among the best lives of the saints ever written. Such novels of his as *The Man Who Was Thursday* and *The Napoleon of Notting Hill* continue to sell.

Father Hetzler himself wrote his doctoral dissertation on Chesterton, and is one of the editors of *The Chesterton Review*.

"When I'm not reading Chesterton, I think I'm overestimating him, but then when I start reading him again, I think this is a great mind," acknowledged Father Hetzler, a retired St. John Fisher College English professor.

That mind touched the lives of more than just the Rochester Basilian. C.S. Lewis, Evelyn Waugh and Dorothy Sayers,



Mohandas "Mahatma" Gandhi, and E.F. Schumacher (of the "small is beautiful" movement) all cite him as an influence.

Chesterton himself is undergoing a "small" revival — with Joseph Pearce's 1996 biography, *Wisdom and Innocence*, the launching of *Gilbert!* magazine in 1997, the establishment of the G.K. Chesterton Institute in 1997, Russell Sparkes' 1997 collection of Chesterton's writings *Prophet of Orthodoxy: The Wisdom of G.K. Chesterton* and Ignatius Press' ongoing publication of what will be a 45-volume collection of his works.

Anyone searching Chesterton's writings

can find observations about many of the issues of today — from educational experimentation to excessive capitalism — acknowledged Dale Ahlquist, president of the American Chesterton Society.

"He was at the front end of problems we are at the back end of," he observed. "He saw things coming, and he had answers for them."

The man

Gilbert Keith Chesterton was born in Kensington, England, May 29, 1874. His parents, Chesterton noted in his *Autobio-*

Continued on page 10

STORY BY LEE STRONG • ILLUSTRATIONS COURTESY OF THE CHESTERTON LIBRARY