



A nurse attends to a premature baby in an incubator running off a generator at the main hospital in Belgrade May 28. CNS/Reuters

## Pope assails bombings

By Cindy Wooden  
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY — Visiting a hospital in Ancona, on Italy's Adriatic shore, Pope John Paul II denounced the damage NATO bombing has caused to hospitals across the sea in Yugoslavia.

"How can we not remember those persons at the mercy of war who need care?" the pope asked May 30 during a visit to Ancona's regional hospital.

"Even hospitals have not been spared the consequences of the conflict" in Yugoslavia, he said, near the end of his day-long visit to the Italian seaport.

In more than two months of NATO bombings of Yugoslavia, several hospi-

tals have been damaged. The day after the pope spoke, 18 civilians were reported killed and 43 injured when NATO bombs hit a hospital in Surdulica. The NATO spokesman said the bombers had targeted a military barracks in the town.

Speaking at the Ancona hospital, the pope said, "Here is the most serious evil: the hatred and violence of man against his own brother, fratricidal hatred; this is the first sickness of the spirit which we must combat.

"And the only therapy against this evil is conversion, pardon and reconciliation," the pope said.

With the experience of being hospi- Continued on page 4



# Catholic Courier

DIocese OF ROCHESTER, NEW YORK ■ VOL. 110 NO. 34 ■ THURSDAY, June 3, 1999 ■ 75¢ ■ 12 PAGES

### Inside This Week

Diocese SBE honor Catholic women for contributions — Page 3



On the Move: The lazy 'daze' of seniors — Page 7



Kids Chronicle: ...

## Laws 'bar' rehab options

James Caldwell regards himself as a lucky man.

A recovering drug addict imprisoned in 1994 for helping to procure a small amount of crack cocaine for men who turned out to be undercover agents, Caldwell is now a staff member of the Judicial Process Commission in Rochester. He also is studying for a college degree in food services management.

"I was one of the fortunate ones," he said. "They do have drug programs in prison — for those who are lucky enough or persistent enough to get to them."

He also acknowledged that he is lucky that his drug transaction did not get him sentenced under drug laws passed in 1973 during the administration of former New York Gov. Nelson Rockefeller.

Those laws stiffened penalties and set mandatory minimum sentences even for nonviolent offenders — making them among the toughest drug laws in the nation. Having had prior convictions on his record, Caldwell could potentially have faced life in prison.

Under the Rockefeller laws, a second felony offender who sells as little as half an ounce of a narcotic drug such as cocaine, crack or heroin, or who possesses as little as 2 ounces of such drugs, faces a mandatory minimum sentence of 6 to 12½ years in prison — and a maximum

of life — no matter the circumstances. Even a first-time offender who sells 2 ounces faces a mandatory 15 years to life.

"Any time when you get a first offender who goes to prison for life, there's something wrong with the system," Caldwell declared.

He is not alone in thinking something is wrong with the system.

The state legislature is currently considering at least five proposals to modify the Rockefeller drug laws. Chief Judge Judith Kaye has proposed changes. Gov. George Pataki has also suggested modi- Continued on page 10

