



Reuters/CNS

Catholic Cardinal Edward Cassidy (left) and German Lutheran Bishop Christian Krause relax at the Oct. 31 signing of The Joint Declaration on the Doctrine of Justification in Augsburg, Germany.

## Joint statement signed

By Cindy Wooden  
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY - The Catholic-Lutheran agreement on justification is "a milestone along the not-easy road of the re-establishment of full unity among Christians," Pope John Paul II said Oct. 31.

As representatives of the Lutheran World Federation and the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity were signing the agreement Oct. 31 in Augsburg, Germany, the pope used his midday Angelus address at the Vatican to highlight the document's importance.

"The Joint Declaration on the Doctrine of Justification," the pope said, deals with "one of the principal arguments which set Catholics and Lutherans against one another."

As one of the documents signed in Augsburg said, "Justification is forgiveness of sins and being made righteous, through which God imparts the gift of new life in Christ."

A key dispute during the Protestant Reformation was whether believers were justified and saved through grace alone, or whether salvation required a combination of grace and good works.

The Catholic-Lutheran agreement states that justification comes through faith alone, but that good works are an essential sign of true faith.

The declaration was recognized in the Rochester Diocese by a variety of activities Oct. 31. In Lyons, St. Michael Church welcomed a delegation from St. John's Lutheran Church to its 9 a.m. Mass. A del-

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## 'I was a stranger and you welcomed me'

— Matthew 25:35

### Foster family shortage now critical

Barbara Bush, now religious-education coordinator at St. Theresa's Parish in Stanley, remembers back in 1978 when Theresa — her only daughter out of six children — wanted another girl to play with. Bush saw an ad for foster parents in a newspaper and called the Department of Social Services to fill out the papers.

Since that time, Barbara and Dave Bush have opened their home to about 40 foster children. But they never received a girl with whom Theresa could play until after she had left home.

After more than 20 years as foster parents, the Bushes are ready to pass along their experience to others. The two underwent training for this recently in Albany, and will begin training new foster parents in Ontario County next spring.

"There's more training now than when we started," said retired schoolteacher Dave Bush, who explained that prospective foster parents need all the help they can get.

"You are not getting a kid who has no background," he observed of the demands on foster parents. "You are getting someone with problems because that's really why they're there. You have to cope with that and help the kids cope with the problems. You aren't just a parent who's molding this child to your expectations. You are taking what you get and have to adapt so that child can grow."

#### Need to recruit

The Bushes are an exception in continuing to serve as foster parents after 20 years. Turnover among foster parents is constant — they need respite or burn out completely, according to social workers.

"We are absolutely feeling a critical pinch now," said Cindy Lewis, a foster care administrator for the Monroe County Department of Social Services.

Monroe County currently has about 1,140 children in foster care. That number tends to run fairly stable. But Children Awaiting Parents Inc. estimates that 469 foster families also are needed in its nine-county area: Monroe, Chemung, Livingston, Ontario, Schuyler, Seneca, Steuben, Wayne and Yates.

"We're in a crisis," said Susan Jones, CAP coordinator. "It's going to take us two years to get all those families, and even then we may feel we must continue to (recruit)."

About 100 children in the nine-county region entered foster care each month last year. Most of them came from homes that were deemed unsafe, affected perhaps by addiction, abuse, neglect or illness.

Many — some say 80 percent of children in foster care — have been sexually abused. They often are juvenile delinquents or "persons in need of supervision," as determined in court. Social workers say it's hard to tell how long a child's stay in a foster home will be — a few nights, months or years.

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Story by Kathleen Schwar • Illustration by Amber Stanton