

Crosiers/CNS

A eucharistic minister presents the host during Communion. At their June meeting, the U.S. bishops approved a statement on the real presence of Christ in the Eucharist, re-educating Catholics on the core belief of faith.

Bishops tackle host of issues

By Jerry Filteau
Catholic News Service

ATLANTA — The U.S. Catholic bishops tackled issues ranging from global warming to the Middle East crisis, from liturgy to doctrine to moral teaching at their spring meeting June 14-16 in Atlanta.

The meeting was their final session as the National Conference of Catholic Bishops-U.S. Catholic Conference. On July 1 the two conferences will become one, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. About 230 bishops attended, including Rochester Bishop Matthew H. Clark.

In a statement on global warming they called on Americans "to recognize the seriousness of the global warming threat and to develop policies that will diminish the

possible consequences of global climate change."

They said it is time for "a civil dialogue and prudent and constructive action to protect God's precious gift of the atmosphere."

They urged that energy conservation and anti-pollution policies be developed within a framework of global solidarity and concern for the common good, with special attention to the needs of poorer people and nations.

Before issuing a resolution urging an end to the Palestinian-Israeli violence, the bishops heard an address by Latin Patriarch Michel Sabbah of Jerusalem and listened to a panel of experts analyzing various aspects of the Middle East conflict.

The resolution called for a restoration

of trust, resumption of the peace process and a firm commitment by both sides to the human rights of all, a state for the Palestinians and secure borders for Israel.

To foster a climate more favorable to peace in the long term, it urged American Catholics to promote improved interfaith relations and understanding with Jews and Muslims at home as well as in the Middle East.

In a resolution on "Renewing U.S. Leadership in Refugee Protection," the bishops warned that the nation's "historic generosity in welcoming refugees" has waned remarkably over the past decade.

The resolution marked the 50th anniversary of both the U.N. convention on refugees and the founding of the Interna-

Continued on page 4



Catholic Courier

DIocese of Rochester, New York ■ VOL. 112 NO. 37 ■ THURSDAY, JUNE 21, 2001 ■ 75¢ ■ 12 PAGES

Inside This Week

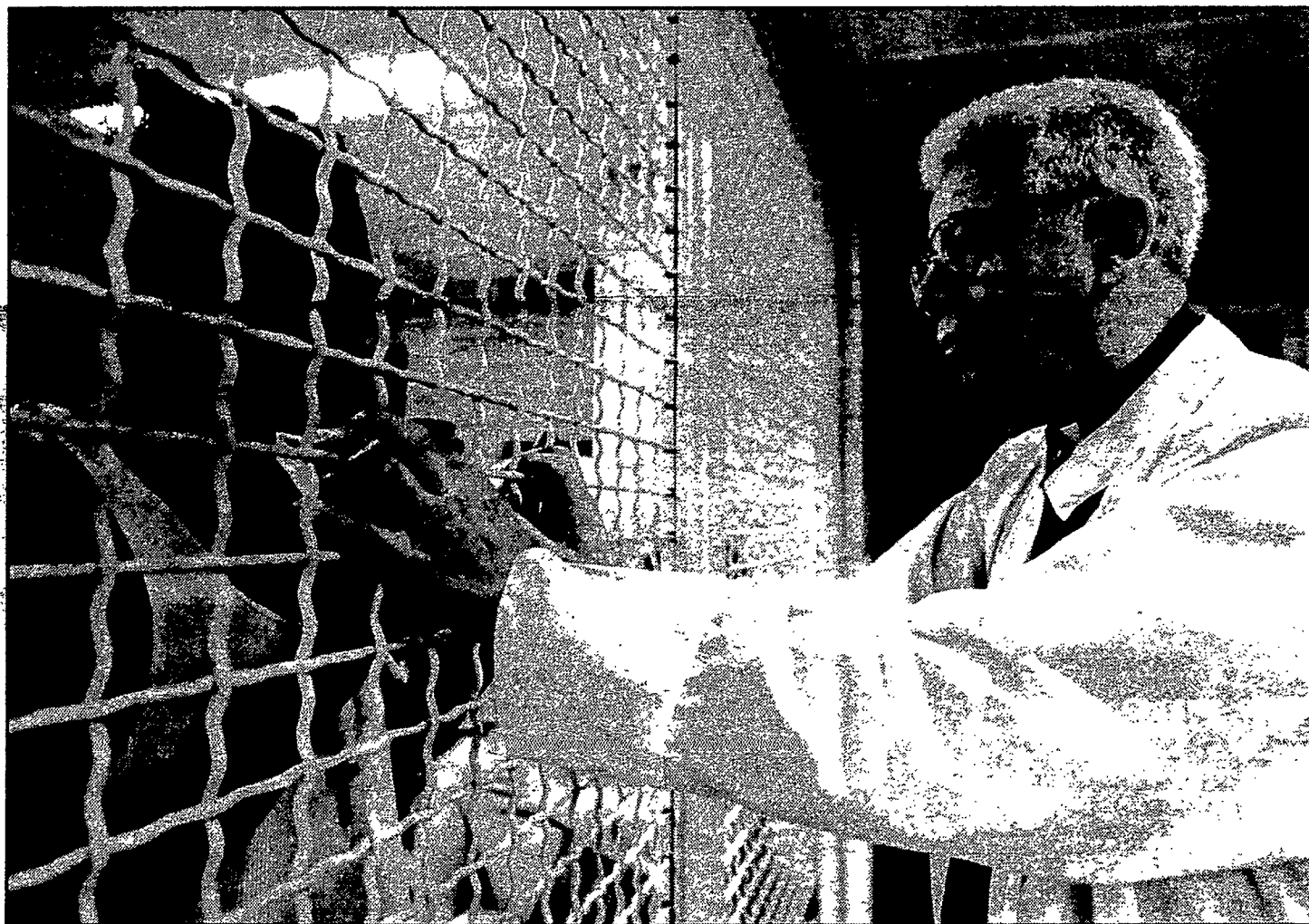


Dwyer accepts national position
Superintendent
lands NCEA role
— Page 3



Diocese helps train organists
Dryden parishioner first in program
— Page 7

Young musicians cantor for parish
Ministry benefits them, parishioners
— Page 5



Jesuit Father John Carriero prays with a female inmate after Mass at the Monroe County Jail May 20. The woman did not attend the Mass, but watched some of it through the grill. After Mass she asked him to say a prayer with her and to give her one of the rosaries being passed out.

Prison chaplaincies change approach

"We want to remind you that we love you," Father John Carriero, SJ, said as he greeted nine women in their 20s and 30s wearing red prisoners' garb.

They gathered for Mass in a corridor of the Monroe County Jail in Rochester, as three guards and several inmates looked on. The Mass-goers focused intently on Father Carriero's homily, and sang along to music from a volunteer group led by Sister Donna Del Santo, SSJ. Some inmates offered poignant intercessions during the middle of Mass:

"(I pray) that all the ladies and men in this facility won't be subjected to the evils of drugs and alcohol," one woman said.

"When I do go home, that I won't go crazy. There's a lot of hate in me," said an inmate who had just learned all her possessions were being sold by family members.

"For my unborn girl, and that I can learn to live a different life,"

said a sobbing woman who was due to give birth in two weeks.

The liturgy was the second for Father Carriero on this recent Sunday morning. Earlier, he and the volunteers met for Mass with 22 male inmates, in a gymnasium a few floors over from the women's jail. The men's intercessions included prayers "for a couple of friends recently released, that they stay strong on the outside," and "for my mom, my children and a 'brother' who is here for the first time."

At both Masses, prisoners circulated freely during the sign of peace, exchanging hugs. Many of the men, after Communion, knelt on the gym floor and buried their heads in their hands.

These men and women had been charged with such crimes as rape, drug possession, parole violation and trespassing. Angelo, 42, said he had attended Mass regularly since being imprisoned at the Monroe County Jail nine months earlier.

Continued on page 10

STORY BY MIKE LATONA • PHOTOS BY ANDREA DIXON