

Pathways Toward Peace



Parishes plan to mark World Day of Peace

Pope John Paul II has designated Jan. 1, 2002, as World Day of Peace, and the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops has passed a resolution establishing the day also as the National Day of Prayer for Peace. Jan. 1 is the feast of the Solemnity of Mary.

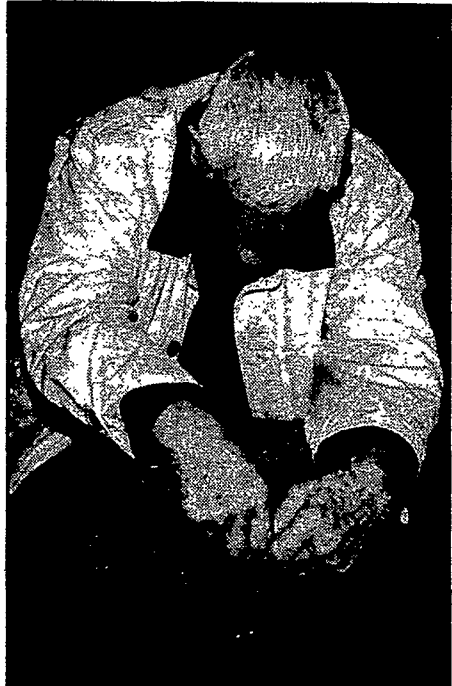
Among plans by diocesan churches to observe the day is a rosary for peace hosted by Our Lady of Good Counsel Church, 640 Brooks Ave., Rochester at 1 p.m. Jan. 1.

"We'd love to pack the church and storm heaven with our prayers for peace," commented Richard McCorry, director of pastoral care for the Roman Catholic Community of the 19th Ward, which includes Good Counsel parish. "Many people have reported feeling powerless in the wake of the Sept. 11th tragedy. Here is something people can concretely do which I believe will carry with it great benefits both to those participating and toward the efforts for peace."

"Our goal that day is to unite people in prayer by offering 25 million Rosaries for peace," stated John Menghini, chairman of the National Prayer Day Organizing Committee, in a news release.

A Web site, prayerforpeace.org, has been developed to help people prepare for the day, and includes a guide to praying the rosary, its origins and ideas for marking the event.

Weekly prayers seek change of hearts



James Stein

David Durkee prays Dec. 10 at St. Michael's in Penn Yan, where a group of parishioners meets every Monday night to pray the rosary for world peace. "We've been praying for the end of abortion and for the sanctification of priests," said Dorothy Barry, coordinator. She said Dr. Ken Berkes, a former parishioner, started the group as a prayer group after parishioners visited Medjugorje in 1988. "We've always prayed for the world," she said. "Now we're asking the hearts of terrorists be turned to hearts of love."



Margaret Flynn (right) and Loretta Parshall (center) pray the rosary with other parishioners.

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Father Richard McBrien's column will return in the next issue of the *Catholic Courier*, Jan. 10.

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