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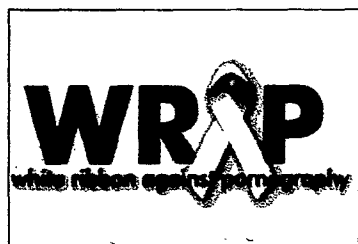
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16 PAGES

Inside

8 appointed to revise U.S. sex-abuse norms
Bishops continue outreach to victims — Page 3

Athletic-ministry clinics address CYO changes
Schedules, starting times are key issues — Page 5



Yearly campaign against pornography begins
Coming group works to warn of its evil — Page 6

Pajama party benefits disadvantaged people
Teen gathering part of Works of Love — Page 11



Diocesan archives full of little-known treasures
Thanks Giving Appeal helps maintain them — Page 12



Bush's Iraq plans protested

WASHINGTON — Congress voted Oct. 11, by an overwhelming margin, to give President Bush the power to attack Iraq unilaterally, remove Saddam Hussein from power and destroy any biological, chemical and nuclear weapons.

Signed by Bush Oct. 16, the resolution was crafted by the White House to show "the United Nations, and all nations, that America speaks with one voice."

But the "one voice" coming from many Catholic and other religious organizations and leaders on both sides of the Atlantic has urged the president to exhaust nonviolent alternatives to war.

Opponents of war did not dispute that Hussein is a threat, but a number of church leaders and groups found holes in the president's plan — from the philosophical, calling it a violation of just-war principles, to the practical, saying there is no plan for rebuilding a post-Hussein Iraq. Many simply reflected on the value of peace.

In the Diocese of Syracuse, Bishop James M. Moynihan and Auxiliary Bishop Thomas J. Costello issued a letter to all priests, encouraging parishioners to voice opposition to a war against Iraq. The bishops offered three "action steps" for doing so: prayer, education and lobbying.

"We live in a world where we go to war quite readily," Auxiliary Bishop Thomas J. Gumbleton of Detroit said in an early October lecture in Indianapolis.

"We use violence to bring peace and it results in the killing of millions and millions of our brothers and sisters," he said, noting that 127



Reuters/CNS

Activists march near the White House Oct. 26 to protest President George W. Bush's proposed war against Iraq. Similar demonstrations were held in other U.S. cities and abroad.

million people were killed in 27 major wars during the 20th century.

An Oct. 10 letter signed by 55 priests in the Diocese of Des Moines said that "a preemptive war on Iraq is morally wrong." Saddam Hussein continues "to do evil things to

his people," but attacking Iraq "on the presumption" Hussein "might one day attack is wrong," they said.

Noting "nonviolence is a fundamental principle of justice," 140 members of the Dominican Leadership Conference meeting in Michigan

signed a statement Oct. 14 saying that military action "does not respect human dignity and the sanctity of all life."

"There must be another way to assure peace," it said.

The National Catholic Stu-

Continued on page 9

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