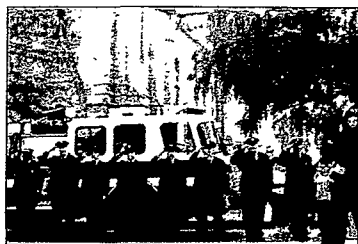


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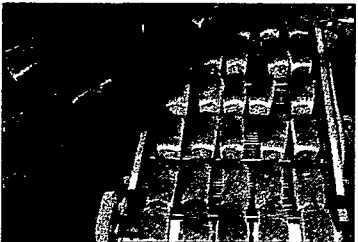
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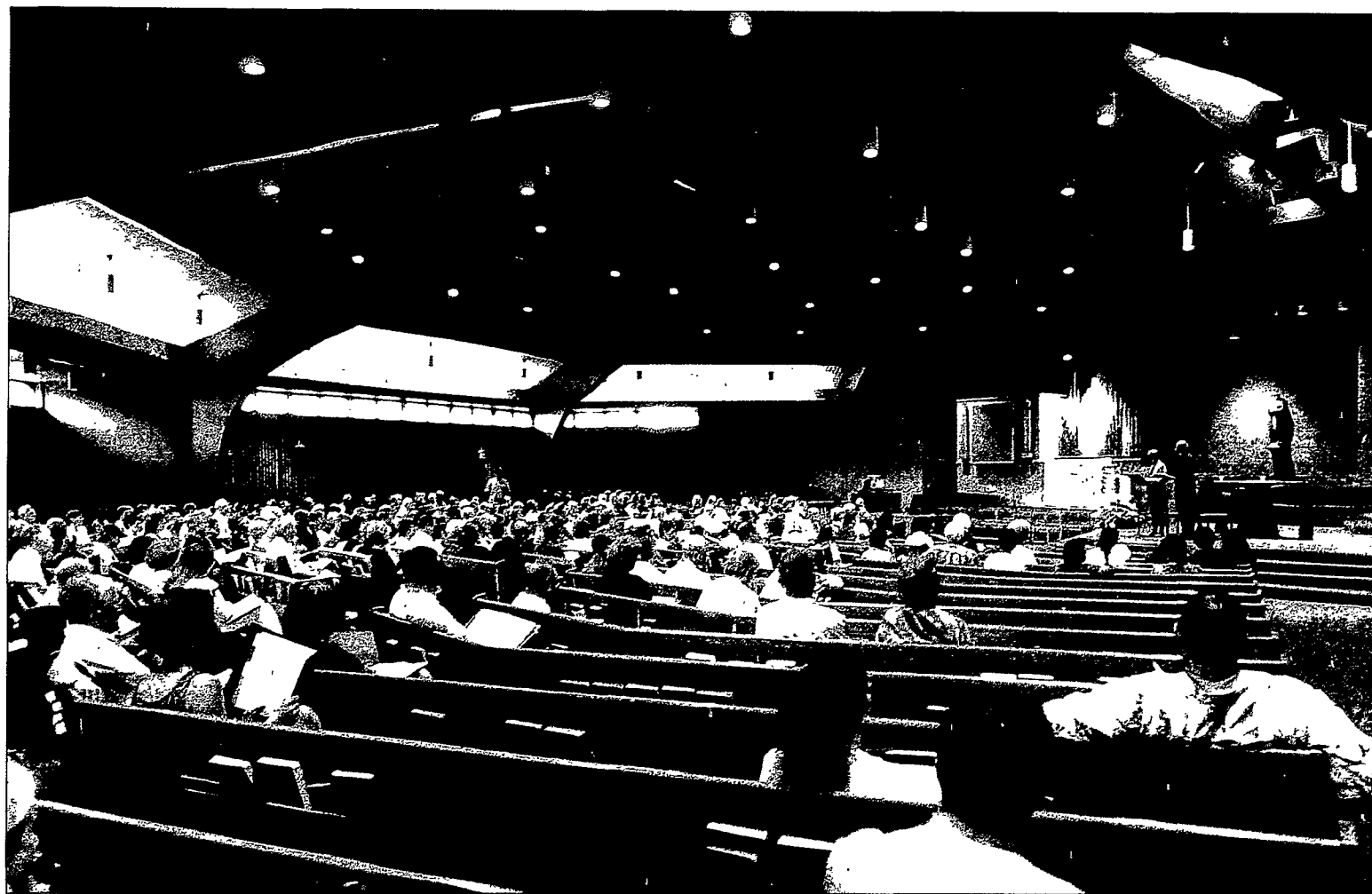


Abbey sustains itself by baking Monks' Bread

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Fairport's St. John of Rochester Church was the site of a July 8 session for diocesan employees on the Code of Pastoral Conduct.

Tougher abuse policy kicks in

From now on, April Pettingill will function differently as youth minister for St. Mary's Parish in Waterloo.

No longer will Pettingill deal one-on-one with a youth behind a closed door, she said. She will be more cautious about hugging teens. And she'll think twice about transporting a youth-group member when no one else is in the car.

Pettingill recently agreed to submit to criminal record checks. Adult volunteers in the parish, on whom she relies heavily to conduct such events as overnight retreats, must do the same.

It's not that Pettingill, who has been the youth minister at St. Mary's for two years, has committed some grave offense and can no longer be trusted. These standards

now apply to all diocesan employees, as well as any volunteers who work with youths and vulnerable adults.

These new regulations are spelled out in the diocesan Code of Pastoral Conduct, which enhances existing diocesan policies for preventing sexual abuse. The 10-page code (which can be viewed at www.dor.org) was announced May 30 by Bishop Matthew H. Clark in response to the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People. The charter and accompanying norms — prompted by the issue of priestly abuse of children — were developed by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops and approved by the USCCB in late 2002.

Mandatory 2-1/2-hour training work-

shops about the Code of Pastoral Conduct are currently being presented for diocesan employees, with similar training being conducted by the Department of Catholic Schools and diocesan Catholic Charities. This process affects approximately 5,000 employees, as well as many more volunteers who are undergoing training over the next few months.

In addition to signing statements saying they have read and understood the code, staff and volunteers also must consent to checks for criminal offenses and whether they are listed in a state's sex-offender registry, plus verification of their Social Security numbers. Refusing to give such consent will result in termination of

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Story by Mike Latona • Photos by Karin von Voigtlander

