

# Catholic Courier

DIOCESE OF ROCHESTER, NEW YORK ■ VOL. 115 NO. 4 ■ THURSDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2003 ■ www.CatholicCourier.com ■ 75¢ ■ 16 PAGES

## Inside



### Pope marks 25 years as Bishop of Rome

Releases document on role of bishops — Page 3

### Debate continues over feeding-tube removal

Catholic teaching had little bearing on case — Page 4

### Judge finds protesters not guilty of trespass

Had decried then-looming war against Iraq — Page 5



### Group makes shawls for people in need

Coverings are symbols of love, prayer — Page 10

### High-school seniors honored for service

Hundreds receive Hands of Christ awards — Page 13



## Blessed Mother Teresa

### Pope beatifies Missionaries of Charity founder

VATICAN CITY — Pope John Paul II offered his thanks to Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta, founder of the Missionaries of Charity, for being close to him in her lifetime and for courageously showing the world what it means to love and serve Jesus completely.

“The venerable servant of God, Teresa of Calcutta, from this moment on will be called blessed,” the pope said at the Oct. 19 beatification Mass as the crowd burst into applause.

For the first time at a major event, Pope John Paul did not read even one line of his own homily. A Vatican official said that with the pope’s difficulty speaking clearly, the crowd would not have been able to understand much of his message, so others were asked to read for him.

St. Peter’s Square and the surrounding streets were a crush of some 300,000 pilgrims and admirers of Mother Teresa.

Under a bright sun, which weather forecasters had said would not appear, the scene was awash with vibrant colors: flags from dozens of countries, banners in languages from Polish to Hindi, the blue-trimmed saris of the Missionaries of Charity, and the colorful traditional dress of Guatemalans and Nigerians.

In an unusually personal homily, the pope wrote, “I am personally grateful to this courageous woman, whom I always felt was alongside of me.”

“An icon of the good Samaritan, she went everywhere to



An Albanian boy mimics a pose of Mother Teresa of Calcutta portrayed in a painting in the main square of Tirana, Albania, Oct. 15. Mother Teresa, born to an Albanian family in Macedonia, was to be honored by Albania with a national holiday set for Oct. 19, the date of her beatification.

### New blessed had local impact — Page 7

serve Christ in the poorest of the poor. Not even conflicts or wars could stop her.”

Mother Teresa was beatified in record time — just over six years after her death — because Pope John Paul set aside the rule that a sainthood process cannot begin until the candidate has been dead five years.

Like the pope, many people in the crowd knew Mother Teresa, volunteered in one of her homes or soup kitchens, or at least heard her speak when she came to their home towns.

They carried official posters as well as their own photographs of the small, stooped nun who died in 1997.

Jack Griffith, 42, of Menasha, Wis., was with a group doing a “saints pilgrimage” around Italy.

“For us, Mother Teresa is important because she is a saint of our own time,” he said.

“She shunned everything and focused on two things: Jesus in the Eucharist and serving the poor,” Griffith said.

Before the Mass began, pilgrims swapped stories about

when they met Mother Teresa or recounted tales of her audacity: For example, when a bank offered her \$1 million, she said it was not enough; she wanted \$2 million.

Retired Australian Cardinal Edward I. Cassidy, former president of the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity, was among the attendees with a story. He was a secretary in the Vatican Embassy in India from 1955 to 1962, the early years of the Missionaries of Charity.

“She was a frequent visitor,” coming to inform the nuncio of her plans and occa-

Continued on page 7

Story and photo by Catholic News Service