

# Catholic Courier

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The Rev. Karyn Carter, director of the support group Family and Friends of Murdered Children and Victims of Violence, comforts Wanda Dempster of Rochester, the mother of murder victim Danille Goodwin. The two participated in a Nov. 26 prayer vigil outside the Arnett Boulevard apartment in which Goodwin was murdered.

## Face to face with violence

A slight breeze on Nov. 26 fluttered the flowers held by 13 people who gathered outside a Rochester residence to bow their heads in prayer, clasping one another's hands to form a circle.

"Once again we come together in sorrow. We come together for Danille and for Jeremy. We come together for the people that live here. We ask you to take Danille and Jeremy into your hands," said Deacon William Coffey, leading those gathered in a prayer vigil for Danille Goodwin, 23, and Jeremy Daniels, 24, who were killed in their Arnett Boulevard apartment early Nov. 25.

Deacon Coffey prayed for the victims'

souls, for their families, friends and neighbors, and asked God to bless the area where the murder took place, making it sacred once more. Four more people joined the circle in front of the apartment as several others voiced their prayers. The group then prayed the Our Father together.

For almost five years, Deacon Coffey has led a prayer vigil at the site of each homicide in Monroe County. A core group of about 10 people participates in most vigils, which usually take place the day after a murder. Deacon Coffey said neighbors, friends and family members of the victims sometimes attend, and that par-

ticipation can reach 100 if the community gets involved.

Deacon Coffey and the other vigil participants have been quite busy this year. As of press time Dec. 2, there have been 52 homicides in Rochester during 2003, up from 42 for all of 2002, according to Rochester Police Department Spokesman Sgt. Carlos Garcia.

Deacon Coffey holds the vigils "to proclaim in the way that we can proclaim that this life that is lost is an important life, a sacred life. We're all diminished, whether they live in Pittsford or in the City of Rochester."

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