

Catholic Courier earns 11 awards

The *Catholic Courier* recently won 11 awards from the Catholic Press and New York Press associations for work published in 2003.

The CPA represents more than 600 Catholic publications in the United States and Canada, including nearly 170 diocesan-sponsored newspapers, 250 magazines and 46 foreign-language publications, with total readership of all CPA publications reaching nearly 27 million. During the CPA's annual convention, which took place in Washington, D.C., May 26-28, the *Courier* received seven awards in the following categories:

- **Best News Writing on a National Event:** Staff Writer Mike Latona received first place for his Sept. 11 and Nov. 6 articles about new diocesan policies in response to the sexual-abuse scandals of recent years.

"A good look at the far-reaching aspects of tougher diocesan policies for preventing sexual abuse," the judges wrote. "The writer didn't ignore the downside of the new policy (people's concern about financial privacy). A strong lead, pertinent details and tight writing made this package stand out. It could have been dry. It wasn't."

- **Best Portrait:** Staff Photographer Mike Crupi won first place for his Dec. 18 portrait of a woman whose husband — an Army National Guardsman — died in Iraq in July 2003. "The lighting and dynamic expression tell the story," the judges wrote.

- **Best Promotional House Ad:** A first-place award was given to the house ad, designed by Graphic Artist Linda Jeanne Rivers, to promote the



File photo

This photo of a homicide prayer vigil — taken by Staff Photographer Mike Crupi on Nov. 26, 2003 — won a third-place award from the Catholic Press Association.

Courier's new Web-site and 2003 reader survey.

"Imaginative, full color series designed to encourage readers to visit *Catholiccourier.com*, sign the guest book and win prizes," the judges wrote. "Eye-catching graphics and concise, snappy copy designed to create traffic. Congratulations."

- **Best News Writing on a Local or Regional Event:** Staff Writer Rob Cullivan won a third-place award for his Dec. 11 article on the role of religion in public schools.

"I enjoyed this unexpected 'Christmastime' article," the judges wrote. "It focused on a previous year's event, yet the event's relevance to the season at hand was clear. The reporter presented views from different sides of the story that led me to a greater understanding of the issues at play. It was interesting to read this very local story as wording in the U.S. Pledge of Allegiance is being challenged in the U.S. Supreme Court."

- **Best Reporting on Senior Citizens:** Latona won third place for his Aug. 14 article on senior citizens and problem gambling.

"This report examines the problem of gambling among seniors. It's a comprehensive and provocative look at an issue the church cannot ignore," the judges wrote.

- **Best General News Photo:** Crupi's Dec. 4 photo of a woman comforting a homicide victim's mother during a prayer vigil was awarded third place.

"Nice moment caught on film," the judges wrote. "The photo went well with the story. It brings out the idea of comforting and shows strong emotion."

- **Best Reporting on Children — honorable mention:** Cullivan received an honorable mention for his series (March 20, April 17 and Sept. 18) on raising children in the

Catholic faith.

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NYPA is a trade organization representing the state's weekly community newspapers. During the NYPA's annual spring convention, which was held April 2-3 in Saratoga Springs, the *Courier* received four awards in the following categories:

- **Photographic Excellence, Division 4:** The *Courier* won first place for its overall use of quality photographs.

"A clear favorite. Photo quality and selection was strong. Overall look of the publication was a success because of how photos were used," the judges wrote.

- **Picture Story, Division 4:** Former Staff Photographer Karin Von Voigtlander's May 29 photo essay on Daystar, a ministry that assists young special-needs children, received a second-place award.

"Lede photo was nice, surrounded by good moments. Photographed with sensitivity," the judges wrote.

- **Graphic Illustration, Division 4:** Rivers received a third-place award for her Nov. 27 Thanksgiving edition cover.

"Interesting photo illustration on the cover is very eye-catching. I'm not one to use vertical typography often, but I really think it works on this particular front," the judges wrote.

"Overall design is clean and very beautiful. It has an elegance about it."

- **Best Obituaries:** The *Courier* received a third-place award for obituaries published Jan. 9 and Feb. 13, including those of Father John J. Quinn, Deacon Jay E. Brown and youth minister Dennis Reno, all written by Latona.

"Dennis Reno obit was particularly moving," the judges wrote. "What distinguishes this paper from all non-winners is its economical style. Good obituaries need not be long ones."

my brother
a
my sister
place
my aunt
for
my nephew
belonging
my friend



Bishop Grady Villas, a gated community, sits on eleven acres of Florida's natural habitat nestled in St. Cloud, Florida. Among stands of trees are six resident homes, a multi-purpose building, administration center, a woodshop, and garden nursery. Here, mentally retarded, independent men and women find an environment of compassion and love. Dignity and respect nurture their personal growth and independence.

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401 Bishop Grady Court, St. Cloud, FL 34770, 407-892-6078
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