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Tales of Nicaraguan atrocities complicate aid issue

WASHINGTON (NC)-Tales of atrocities by Nicaraguan Sandinistas and the opposing rebel forces have complicated the debate over whether to renew U.S. aid to the rebels, or "contras."

A 29-year-old commander of a Nicaraguan rebel brigade said the San-dinistas have brought "repression, discrimination, mass incarceration of our people," yet a U.S. Maryknoll nun working in the country said the government is "really, sincerely on the side of the poor."

And Nicaraguan bishops feel "caught in

the middle" of the conflict, said New York Archbishop John J. O'Connor, who led a delegation of U.S. bishops to Nicaragua and El Salvador.

The contras are trying to overthrow the Marxist-led Sandinista government, which has been accused by church, press and human rights groups of violating basic rights such as freedom of speech, press and

worsup.
President Reagan has said he wants to
"remove" the Sandinista regime "in the
sense of its present structure, in which it is
a communist totalitarian state ... not a
government chosen by the people." Reagan

called the contras "freedom fighters" and has urged Congress to approve funds to aid

But Maryknoll Sister Nancy Donovan, who works in Nicaragua, said the U.S. public "is being lied to" about the situation. Sister Donovan, Maryknoll Sister Peggy Healy and Sister Sandra Price, a missionary of the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur, recently visited Washington to offer alternatives to Reagan's assessment e Nicaraguan situation.

Sister Price said the contras are gaged in a war on civilians, who have suffered "massive kidnappings, murders, rapes" during rebel attacks.

The mountains are literally covered with the blood of the people," she said.

Sister Price said she thinks the U.S.

policy of aiding the contras is "immoral."

"There wouldn't be a war if it weren't for the United States," she said. Obviously the United States has its

interests in Nicaragua, but "it still doesn't justify the murder and terrorism that the U.S. is perpetrating on other people," she

Sister Price was involved in compiling a report, recently released by two publicinterest groups, which claims contra forces have engaged in numerous violent acts against civilians. The report claims the contras have killed a 15-year-old epilepsy victim whose stomach was hacked open, killed a man in front of his wife after they had broken his neck and put out one eye, and engaged in various forms of torture, including tying a person to an ant hill, desecration and mutilations of victims'

Yet others from Nicaragua said the Sandinistas routinely oppress and kill

At a Washington press conference sponsored by the National Forum Foun-dation, a public-interest group chaired by

Sen. Jeremiah Denton, R-Ala., a Miskito Indian rebel troop commander said he believed the Sandinista have used Soviet attack-helicopters equipped to spray poison

on rebel troops or civilians.

The commander, Osorno Coleman, said he originally had supported the Sandinistas and had taught in their literacy program. However, he said, he decided to fight them after "they buried alive 35 of our brothers" and later used the bones for target prac-

Another panelist at the press conference, 9-year-old Martha Murillo, said in translated remarks that about three months ago Sandinista troops attacked her coffee-picker family, murdering her mother and younger brothers and sisters and shooting her in the leg.

An uncle rescued her and fled with her toward Honduras, but while crossing a river at the border they were caught by pursuing Sandinista troops, she said. Her uncle was beheaded, she said, and his body thrown in the river. "They stabbed me with a bayonet in my neck," she said.

Archbishop O'Connor said March 3 in New York that the Catholic Church had supported the 1979 revolution that brought Sandinistas to power, but that the Nicaraguan bishops are caught between a government which has not realized the ideals of the revolution and opposing forces which might also fail to realize them

"Not a single bishop asked for our support in encouraging financial and military assistance for the contras," he said on return from his Central American

"But the bishops were very clear that but the bisnops were very clear that there's a grave moral and psychological issue involved here," he said, adding that it is "imperative" that the world see that all is not "rosy" in either the Sandinista government or the counterrevolution.



IRISHMEN—Archbishop Edward T. O'Meara waves to spectators as he rides in the St. Patrick's Day parade held last Friday in downtown Indianapolis. To his left in the car is Charles E. Stimming Sr., who was honored as Irish Member of the Year by the Indianapolis Athletic Club, which sponsored the parade. (Photo by Jim Jachimiak)

Three bishops urge Congress not to fund more MX missiles

by Jerry Filteau

WASHINGTON (NC)-The president of the U.S. Catholic Conference has asked all members of Congress to vote against funding of the controversial MX missile.

In a triple attack on the administration backed nuclear system, Cardinal Joseph L. Bernardin of Chicago and Archbishop John J. O'Connor of New York also called for votes on the MX.

Their separate statements and a letter to Congress by the USCC president, Bishop James W. Malone of Youngstown, Ohio,

were released simultaneously on March 17, o Incine



two days before the Senate approved \$1.5 billion to purchase 21 more MX missiles. The Senate was scheduled to take another vote on the MX March 21, then send the issue to the House next week

Over the past two years the USCC has raised sharp questions about the MX, but the new actions marked the first time that the bishops' national organization came out in direct, complete opposition to any fur-ther funding of the multi-billion-dollar

"The USCC's opposition," Bishop Malone wrote, "is based on two con-siderations: the potentially destabilizing impact of this weapons system on the nuclear arms race and its cost, viewed in light of pressing human needs here and elsewhere in the world."

A SENATE debate on MX funding was slated for the week of March 17. A first test vote on freeing \$1.5 billion to purchase 21 more MX's was expected within days of the release of the three bishops' statements.

Bishop Malone reminded members of Congress that concerns about the MX were raised in the U.S. bishops' 1983 pastoral letter on war and peace and again last June in joint congressional testimony on defense issues by Archbishop O'Connor and Car-dinal Bernardin, speaking for the USCC.

"Our concerns about the MX have intensified since the pastoral letter was written," Bishop Malone wrote. Citing the joint congressional testimony of last year, he noted that the USCC representatives then said they would have to "recommend against" any nuclear system that was expensive and was of dubious strategic

At that time Cardinal Bernardin and Archbishop O'Connor indicated that there was a growing weight of evidence putting the value of the MX in doubt, but they did not take the step of making that judgment explicitly.

In his letter, Bishop Malone took that step. "We believe the MX should be classified as 'a system of dubious value,"

CARDINAL BERNARDIN, who chaired the committee that wrote the 1983 war and peace pastoral, declared in his public statement that Bishop Malone's letter "expresses my views on the vote facing the ILS Congress". U.S. Congress.

Many strategists think the MX deployment and the Soviet response will lead to "strikingly more dangerous" relations, the cardinal said.

He reiterated his view that "the poor of our nation have suffered out of all due proportion in the budget cuts of the 1980s." He urged that the funds slated for the MX

should be used for the poor at home and "the hungry of the world."

Archbishop O'Connor, who as former chief of Navy chaplains holds the rank of admiral, said that he is committed to a sound national defense, but "I must question in conscience expenditures for any weapons system judged by responsible authorities to risk serious destabilization, particularly while simultaneously diver-ting from urgent human needs the monies that could do so much to alleviate such needs.

The New York archbishop expressed his osition to the MX in the form of a letter to Rep. Henry Gonzalez, D-Texas, chairman of the House subcommittee on housing development. The archbishop, as head of the USCC Committee on Social Development and World Peace, had testified on housing needs before Gonzalez' sub-committee March 7.

At that time "you graciously invited me to submit further suggestions," Archbishop O'Connor wrote.
"Permit me to respond by observing

that, given the years of controversy (See 'NO' VOTE on page 24)



FROM THE EDITOR

Monday is the feast of the Incarnation

It's not shown that way on the church calendar, but Monday, March 25, is the feast of the Incarnation—when the second person of the Blessed Trinity became man. The the second person of the Blessed Trinity became man. The church calendar shows it as the feast of the Annuciation—when the angel Gabriel "announced" the good news to Mary that she was to become the mother of God. But much

more than just an announcement took place on that occasion.

I have long been surprised that the church doesn't give more emphasis to that feast than it does. It is not a holyday of obligation, yet I think it is more important than other feasts that are holydays of obligation—the Solemnity of Mary on January 1, for

We sometimes don't think of the Incarnation as happening at the time of the Annunciation, but it did. Upon Mary's acceptance, she immediately became pregnant by the power of the Holy Spirit. "The Word became flesh" in Nazareth, not nine months later in Bethlehem when the child was born. The church recognizes that Mary's pregnancy began with her acceptance of God's will by placing the feast of the Annunciation exactly nine months before Christmas.

The church isn't even consistent in the emphasis it We sometimes don't think of the

The church isn't even consistent in the emphasis it gives its feasts. On December 8 we observe the feast of the Immaculate Conception (when Mary was conceived) as a howday of obligation, but not the date of her birth— September 8, nine months ater. We do the opposite for her

The reason I believe more emphasis should be given to next Monday's feast is because of the importance of the doctrine of the Incarnation. Almighty God actually lowered himself to assume a human nature, or, as the priest prays during the Offertory of the Mass, God "humbled himself to share in our humanity." He who made us became visible among us, sharing our human nature. This is an awesome thing to contemplate.

THE FAMILIAR story of the Annunciation is told in the first chapter of Luke's gospel, verses 26 to 38. It's surprising how much Catholic doctrine and devotion are contained in those 13 verses of Scripture.

There is, for example, the belief that there are angelsa doctrine denied or doubted by so many in our modern world. Luke tells us that "the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town of Galilee called Nazareth." Not only do angels exist, but we learn that one of them is named angeis exist, but we learn that one of intent is limited. Gabriel, the same angel who appeared to Zachary six months earlier to tell him that his wife Elizabeth would bear John the Baptist. Also, obviously, one of the duties of an angel is to be "sent from God" to deliver messages.

We get the beginning of the Hail Mary from the angel's greeting: "Hail, full of grace, the Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou among women." (The rest of the first half of the Hail Mary is completed by Elizabeth in verse 42.) If Mary was "full of grace," she must have been conceived without original sin on her soul because, since Adam's sin, no one else could be in the state of sanctifying trace with Leve did on the area. Hance the detrined grace until Jesus died on the cross. Hence the doctrine of the Immaculate Conception.

Gabriel then goes on to tell Mary that she shall conceive a son and call him Jesus, and he will be "the Son of

the Most High," the first time we learn that the child to be born is actually the Son of God, the second person of the born is actually the son of God, the second persons of the Blessed Trinity. The doctrine of the Trinity is further alluded to when the angel tells Mary that "the Holy Spirit shall come upon thee," and, "the Holy One to be born shall be called the Son of God." All three persons of the Blessed Trinity are present in these few verses. It is the first time in the Scriptures that we learn anything about the Trinity.

The doctrine of the virgin birth is also included in these verses. Luke tells us that the angel appeared to a virgin. After the announcement, Mary prudently inquires, "How shall this happen, since I do not know man?"; it was her intention to remain a virgin. The angel then explains that her conception would be produced by the Holy Spirit "and the power of the Most High." Thus Mary, the mother of God is also the Blessed Virgin.

BEHOLD THE handmaid of the Lord; be it done unto me according to thy word." This is Mary's acceptance of God's will for her. It is also the prayer that the church God's will for her. It is also the prayer that the charter urges all of us to make. The greatest prayer of petition is for acceptance of God's will. This prayer is included in the prayer that Jesus gave to us: "Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven," and is similar to the prayer of Jesus during his agony in the garden: "Not my will, but thine be done." Mary, at the Annunciation, is the first person in the Gospels to pray this perfect prayer.

But of all that happened at the Annunciation, the greatest was the conception of Jesus, and this too often is overlooked. It just seems strange to me that two of Christianity's greatest mysteries—the Incarnation and the Redemption—don't have feast days called by those names. The feast of the Redemption, of course, is Good Friday—and that's not a holyday of obligation either.

Legislature spurns needs of the poor

by Ann Wadelton

Indiana's pocketbook. How fat is it? How should the money be spent?
Early in this session, legislative leaders,

including Gov. Robert D. Orr, said the state could not afford to fund programs for the poor and unemployed.

Yet, last week, the Senate approved a tax break which will save some citizens \$15 a year and cost the state \$80 million in lost

Sen. Lawrence Borst, R-Indianapolis, chairman of the Senate Finance Committee and sponsor of the tax measure, said the tax break showed the legislators' concern for the needy.

But that is challenged by Dr.

Desmond Ryan, executive director of the Indiana Catholic Conference. "Strip away the political rhetoric," said Ryan, "Then the political rhetoric," said Ryan, "Then ask yourself: how much will \$15 a year help a poor person? How much food will it buy? Or shelter? Or medicine?"

'Legislators would show true concern for the poor by using the \$80 million to fund programs targeted to helping those most in need," said Ryan. "Many such programs were judged too costly for the state to afford earlier this session.

The tax reduction is one more example of the refusal of this legislature to consider the needs of the state's dependent population—the poor, unemployed, and handicapped, said Ryan.

Basically, the tax break would double the exemption for dependents, amounting to a \$15 savings per year for each depen-dent claimed. Cost to the state will be \$40 million for each of the two years covered by

Among bills which were denied a

committee hearing this year were ones which would have:

▶increased benefits for AFDC

recipients (cost: \$7.1 annually);

broadened the AFDC program to include unemployed two-parent families with minor children (cost: \$11.2 million annually plus \$15 million annually for Medicaid coverage); and



APPOINTMENT—Robert Riegel and Archbishop Edward T. O'Meara congratulate Grace Hayes on her appointment as director of the Campaign for Human Development in the ar-chdiocese. (Photo by Richard Cain)

Hayes appointed director of local campaign for poor

Grace Hayes has been appointed ar-chdiocesan director for the Campaign for Human Development, according to Robert Riegel, secretary for Catholic Charities. For the past 10 years, Hayes had been helping with the activities of the campaign under the auspicies of Catholic Charities She has served as staff to the archdiocesan committee for the campaign, liaison with groups funded by the campaign and manager of the annual fund drive.

Under her tenure, the campaign has provided direct grants to more than 60 organizations in the archdiocese, while overseeing \$600,000 in nationally funded

grants to local agencies.

The campaign's goal is to foster greater self-determination for the poor through grants to grass-roots community groups. In

addition, the campaign has also been charged by the National Conference of Catholic Bishops with promoting the education of Catholics about the social justice mission of the church.

This year's education program will focus on celebrating the 15th anniversary of the campaign and on the bishops' forthe campaigness and the state of the cording to Hayes. In October, a state-wide workshop will be held on the church's mission toward social justice and its ex-pression in the forthcoming pastoral.

A native of Michigan, Hayes has a bachelor's degree from Michigan State and master's from the University of Wisconsin. She is a member of Holy Angels parish in Indianapolis.

▶provided prenatal care for poo pregnant women (cost: \$600,000 annually).

Current maximum benefits for AFDC recipients (\$256 a month for an adult and two children) makes their income just 36 percent of the federal poverty level. That maximum benefit is based on a standard of need which has been unchanged since 1969. enate Bill 256 would have set maximum

Senate Bill 200 would have see infamily.

The AFDC program needs to be broadened to include unemployed two-parent families with minor children (AFDC-U). Many Hoosiers still suffer the effects of unemployment, despite the up-swing in the economy. Hoosier unem-ployment is high: 25.1 percent in Ohio County, 16.3 percent in the Gary-Hammond area and 10.2 percent overall in the state. This is compared with 8.8 percent for the

Funding for prenatal care for poor pregnant women is needed because certain poor women in Indiana do not qualify for any medical care while they are pregnant. This leads to documented increases in birth

Archbishop O'Meara's Schedule Week of March 24

MONDAY, March 25-Serra Club of Indianapolis Priests' Night, Indianapolis Athletic Club, 6:30 p.m.

TUESDAY March 26—Confirmation, St. Jude Parish, Indianapolis, Eucharistic Liturgy at 7:30 p.m. followed with a reception.

WEDNESDAY, March 27—Indiana Prayer Breakfast, Hilton on the Circle, Indianapolis, 7:50 a.m.

Evening prayer presentation with RCIA candidates, for the parishes of St. Joseph, St. Margaret Mary, Sacred Heart, St. Ann, St. Benedict, all of Terre Haute, to be held at St. oseph Parish, 7:30 p.m

THURSDAY, March 28—Confirmation for St. Mary Parish, St. Michael Parish, St. Patrick Parish, all of Madison, and St. Anthony Parish, China, to be held at St. Mary Parish, Eucharistic Liturgy at 7:30 Parish, Lichard with a properties. p.m. followed with a reception.

FRIDAY, March 29-Confirmation, St. Luke Parish, Indianapolis, Eucharistic Liturgy at 7:30 p.m. followed with a reception.





Archdiocesan Catholic Charities

Family life education programs are varied

by Robert H. Riegel

Parents and children—families—are the main focus of Catholic Social Services' family life education programs. Over the past five years, the agency, which once worked almost exclusively with individual families on a one-to-one basis, has become more and more involved with working with groups on their family relationships. Last year this direction was recognized by the appointment of Joy Baumgartner, a former school teacher and an enthusiast for families, as the agency's first director for family life education programs.

Mrs. Baumgartner became intrigued

Mrs. Baumgartner became intrigued during her teaching years with the notion of helping parents communicate better with their children. A parent of three herself, she came across the then-recently published STFP (Systematic Training for Effective Parenting) program and began to lead groups of concerned parents through its exercises and discussion topics.

After joining the staff of Catholic Social Services, Joy began to extend the program by training other professionals and volunteers to lead groups in parishes, schools and neighborhood settings. Since 1980 the eight-week curriculum has been offered under the agency's banner some 56 times. While most of these groups have been in Indianapolis, Catholic Social Services has reached out around the archdiocese to provide STEP classes in Bloomington, Columbus, Seymour, Nashville and Greensburg, among others.

Meanwhile, growing out of the STEP program were a number of other developments. STEP-TEEN, an adaptation of the program for parents struggling with the difficult high school years, has been added and appears to be on its way to widespread community acceptance. A special communication program for adolescents themselves has also been written, using the principles of STEP. School faculties have been trained in the same methods of relating to children. And a whole new group of clients has been involved with STEP through referrals of parents by the Marion County courts and Department of Welfare.

"It is really gratifying to see many of these people, who may never have had any support in developing their skills in relating to their children, grow and become more confident parents," says Mrs. Baumgartner, who leads these groups each week at the agency office in the Catholic Center.

If the STEP program focuses on parents, the agency's other main thrust arises from its longstanding concern with children. In 1977, former agency director Jim O'Donnell returned from a national conference bearing a program developed in Colorado to serve a sorely neglected group. And the agency's Children of Divorce program, working with children (and their parents) on their feelings about their own divorce experiences, was begun.

Then three years ago, two of the agency's school counselors, Millie Brady and Ella Vinci, began to realize that the Children of Divorce program only met the needs of some of the children they were encountering. A new and growing group were children in remarriage and stepparenting situations. So Millie and Ella wrote their own new program, now offered by the agency as "Families in Remarriage."

"Being flexible and open to meet the needs of people is where family life education must be," says Mrs. Baumgartner. She stays in touch with the agency's counseling programs and with other community agencies' efforts in family life programming. For example, as the agency has become more involved in

court referrals for difficult post-marital family situations, another group of hurting persons is becoming apparent—the noncustodial parent, usually the absentee father.

"What we'd like to do," agrees Franciscan Sister Sheila Shine, supervisor of family counseling for the agency and active in the (Children of Divorce program for some years, "is have a program combining what we've learned out of our parenting skills classes and from our work with children in divorce, into a group or class on the special problems of being a weekend or part-time parent. For example, we teach consistency in discipline, but it's a lot harder to remember and practice this when you only see your kids every other weekend."

Correction

Last week's feature on the Batesville Deanery Religious Education Resource Center reported on an upcoming Cathechists' Day for the deanery. The Catechists' Day has been postponed and will be rescheduled for the fall.

CCD class conducts survey on priest shortage

by Richard Cain

Nearly half of all church-attending Catholics in one south-central Indiana county favor allowing priests to marry as their first choice for dealing with the priest shortage, according to a survey conducted by a high school CCD class.

According to the survey, 46 percent favored as their first choice allowing priests to marry, 25 percent favored clustering priests at one location with each serving two or more parishes, 14 percent favored allowing women priests while nine percent favored a priest recruiting program which they would be willing to support financially.

support financially.

The survey is believed to be the first of its type asking for input from laypeople on how to deal with the causes of the priest shortage, according to Father Bernard Koopman, pastor of St. Bartholomew in Columbus.

It was a concern among the students that the church become more aware of laypeople's viewpoints about the problem that prompted the idea of doing a survey. "You don't hear whether the people in church are for or against these issues," said Jeff Eichen, a student in the class. "So we thought it would be interesting to find out."

"We hope that this survey would at least help to educate the parishes that the shortage of priests is an immediate problem," said Grace Coyner, who teaches the class and is also a certified public ac-

The survey was conducted Feb. 9-10 at St. Bartholomew and St. Columba parishes, both in Columbus, by the 11th and 12th grade CCD class. The two churches together serve the city with a population of around 30,000 as well as the surrounding farming communities of Bartholomew County. The two churches have combined their CCD programs and the class has members from both parishes.

Questionnaires were left in the pews before each of the Masses, according to Coyner. During the homily, the priest asked the parishioners to fill them out and place them in the collection baskets. A total of 823 surveys was tallied.

The questionnaire asked parishioners to their preference. The responses according to their preference. The responses included priest clustering, allowing priests to marry, allowing women priests, a priest recruiting program, concerned but not my decision, not concerned, and other suggestions. Several respondents indicated more than one first choice.

The class was surprised at the number of written comments. Eleven percent of the respondents supplied additional comments sometimes covering as much as a page. "They're really concerned about the coming shortage of priests," said Carolina Ponce, an exchange student from Honduras and a member of the class.



POLLSTERS—Students who conducted a survey in Columbus on the priest shortage include (from left) Jeff Eichen at the computer, Carolina Ponce, Ben Jackson and Todd Schlotter. At right is their teacher, Grace Coyner. (Photo by Richard Cain)

The results of the survey were more of an eye-opener for the adults than for the students. "The parishioners were much more informed than I expected them to be and had a much more definite opinion that I expected them to have," said Coyner. "This particular class had a much better handle on the reality than many of the adults."

Eichen wrote a program on his home computer to analyze the results by parish and age groups and the class has been busy interpreting the results. They hope to send them to church leaders and the media. "People were just waiting for someone to do something so they could express what they thought," said student Todd Schlotter. "And we did it."

A Lenten retreat

Do we understand Jesus' call to die to ourselves?

by Fr. Thomas C. Widner

It is winter but my thoughts are warming up to the Lenten season. There is a dead tree outside my window, dead for the season, that is. It sleeps under the snow that covers it. The ground too is covered

with the white snow which protects both the tree and the ground from a permanent death. Even in this time of cold, the Lord finds ways to protect his people as well.

There is hopefulness in the winter because nature knows how to protect itself during the seasons. There is

seasons. There is hopefulness in Lent and in this Sunday's readings for the Lord knows how to protect his people during their suffering.

He promises to strike a new bargain with the Israelites. He will write his law on the hearts of his followers. Despite the deadness of his people, God will warm them. He will warm up to them. He will find new ways to win them for himself.

But the words of Jesus are more somber. In order to live with God, he says, we must die. If we only pay attention to ourselves, we will miss out on what his Father has for us. If we want to know him and to win him, we have to expect to lose.

The yuppie is the newest person in our siciety to undergo social scrutiny. His/her lifestyle has faced considerable coverage in news magazines and enjoyed the attention of folks throughout our culture. What shows through clearly about the yuppie, though, is the attention he gives himself. He probably doesn't think of himself as necessarily living apart from the culture, but the yuppie gives the im-

pression he has found what the world has been waiting for.

Taking pride in oneself is a virtue. We are trained to take ourselves seriously and to be thankful for the talents and gifts given to us. We need to take proper care of our physical, psychological, mental and spiritual selves. But the yuppie seems to send out signals which exclude the needs of anyone but himself. The yuppie doesn't necessarily act more selfish than anyone else. But he seems to put his own concerns above the interests of all others. He isn't particularly greedy. He just wants to be comfortable—which is something most of us seem to share.

I doubt the yuppie can understand Jesus' call to die. I doubt any of us influenced by the yuppie lifestyle can appreciate this invitation. The words seem so out of.place. How does one lose a life by preserving it, or preserve a life by losing it? The yuppie, I am told, lives for things.

The yuppie seems ambitious to buy and he seems not to be interested in long-term family relationships. He doesn't really appear interested in people

appear interested in people.

Did God forget to write his law on the hearts of some? Or have we just devised new ways of erasing the law? In an age in which our church emphasizes our personal responsibility for our faith, we seem to be deliberately choosing not to exercise that responsibility. There is death among us. It is the strong, cold death of refusing to act, of refusing the warmth of Jesus's life. It excludes others rather than including them. Jesus points to a way of living which is all-inclusive. Most of us spend our lives trying to exclude others, trying to tend our own little piece of land, trying to build our own kingdoms.

Jesus wrote a new law and he built a fire to warm the hearts of his people. A fire draws people that they may share in its warmth.

3

COMMENTARY

Housing for poor belongs on federal agenda

"We live in a time when it is harder for a free man to make a home than it was for a medieval ascetic to do

When G.K. Chester-

ton penned this discerning observation on the manners and morals of his times, he wasn't thinking specifically of the housing shortage. Presumably had in mind the widespread breakdown in family morality

worrying pastors, social workers, psychiatrists and others in a position to observe its unhappy consequences.

Chesterton was also thinking of those

special obstacles to Christian family living which, if not directly caused by the In-dustrial Revolution, have been occasioned in part by the changeover from the sim-plicity of rural living to the complexity of modern urbanism.

He was suggesting-and clerics ought humbly to take his words to heart-that the present-day married couple is called upon to practice a degree of personal heroism seldom asked of a 12th- or 13th-century

The medieval ascetic had at least one advantage: He lived in an environment and atmosphere that supported the practice of the monastic virtues to which he had voluntarily dedicated his life. Today's married couple, however, finds itself in an environment and atmosphere which is often unfriendly, if not antagonistic, to the standards of Christian wedlock and militates against the practice of its noble

Chesterton was thinking about the difficulty of making a "home" and not specifically of finding a "house." And yet words are even more tragically true today because it is so much m for thousands of people to find a place in which to make a Christian home.

The government's responsibility to help provide adequate housing or housing subsidies for those, particularly the very poor, who cannot find it on the open market is not a liberal vs. conservative issue. This was recognized some 40 years ago by the late Sen. Robert Taft of Ohio, a true-blue conservative who strongly supported some measure of public housing.

Taft held that the government has not only the right but the duty to promote sound only the right but the duty to promote sound family life to the extent of its legitimate power. How? Among other ways, by encouraging private enterprise, through reasonable incentives, to provide decent housing for our citizens and, if necessary, by actually subsidizing the building of dwellings for those for whom private enterprise is either unable or unville or the provider of terprise is either unable or unwilling to

Taft teamed up with a Northern liberal and a Southern conservative to co-sponsor the Taft-Ellender-Wagner housing bill. The bill was almost defeated by critics who charged it was "socialistic" because, ng other provisions, it authorized the continuation of low-cost public housing for low-income families.

Those who really believe the family is the basic unit of society have no right to smile indulgently at the antics of vested interests who make it even "harder for a free man to find a home" free man to find a home.

We owe it to the family to be socialists," if that means siding with Pius XI who, in an encyclical on Christian marriage, said legislators "in making the laws and in disposing of public funds must do their utmost to relieve the needs of the poor, considering such a task as one of the most important of their administrative

We must look beyond labels to see each person

by Richard B. Scheiber

Individualism has come upon hard

imes.
It has come on hard times in politics, especially on national and world levels; it is alive, but not particularly well in the and

corporate world: examples of it in the religious world are few and far between.

Politically, people tend to divide us into blocs: the haves and have-nots; the first, second and third worlds; liberals and conservatives; democrats and republicans; communists and

Then there are the blocs businesses live by: children, young adults, those over 50, blacks, Hispanics, people divided into groups by the region in which they live. This is known as market research, which tends to lump each one of us into one group or another so that we can become targets

easier to hit with the advertising dollar,
There is really nothing all that wrong
with these various methods of slotting people into groups. Such divisions can be useful tools in determining trends, in discovering deficiencies in services, discerning reasons why things happen the way they do, thereby giving us a handle on ways to keep undesirable things from happening that way again.

The danger is that when we become inundated with this sort of information, we tend to see people as groups, not as in-dividuals capable of making their own choices. We can lose our ability to see each person as a unique individual, with inestimable value, created by God in his image. It is much easier for us to put labels on people than to take the time thoughtfully to discover what really motivates another's

At its base, that is what collectivism is:

to push people into molds, ostensibly for the good of the whole. Trouble is, the collec-tivist loses sight of the fact that the whole is made up of individual human beings, not of some great "mass" of people.

Collectivist rhetoric would have us believe this idea is the wave of the future, but as Don McEvoy pointed out in his 'Keeping the Dream Alive" column, distributed by the National Conference of Christians and Jews, collectivism has its roots in ancient tribal societies, which were absolutely collective, with mass control by custom and taboo. "There was no room for individual rights," McEvoy says, "or individual conscience. . . . That is where we started. The crowning achievement of the ages has been the development of individualism, in intellect, conscience and the power to create."

McEvoy writes, "One may identify as a man or a woman, a black or a white, a liberal or a conservative, an employee or an employer, a Christian or a Jew.... answer that first of all he or she is a person, as an individual. And by some strange transformation, through that narrow door of individualism runs the only road which leads to a decent and civilized univer-

We need to remember this in our dealing with other people, even other nations, which are made up of individual people, shaped, of course, by their own culti their own upbringings, the very land on which they live.

Developing this kind of mindset, where e see the individual behind the label, could go a long way towards eliminating, or at least lessening, the sense of perceived necessity for confrontation between necessity for confrontation between various groups. It does not have to be labor vs. management, liberal vs. conservative, Christian vs. Jew or Moslem, man vs. woman. Replace that "versus" and use the word "with," and you begin to see the

But first you have to look beyond the

sense of humor are key to church renewal Dialogue and

by Fr. Eugene Hemrick

"The radicals in the church are finally getting their comeuppance," gloated Fad Hasbeen, as he entered my office.

'What gives you that idea, Fad?" I inquired.

"Don't you follow the news and read the signs of the times?" he snorted. "The pope is calling for a special synod, religious textscrutinized carefully and bishops are screening speakers who come into their

being

"Fad, I think you are misinterpreting the news. You make it sound as if there is a conspiracy by church

"Perhaps not a conspiracy but definitely a concerted effort," snapped

"I admit, Fad, the daily news reports are confusing and disturbing. But what is more disturbing is your feeling the church is out to get people."

"Oh, come on," snickered Fad, "don't be so naive. You know there are priests for liberation theology and nuns who need to be disciplined. Some laity no longer respect priests and feel they should be running the

church. And some radical writers and lecturers do more damage than good. The church is losing control."
"Fad, aren't you exaggerating? It's too

easy to single out one case and make it sound as if everyone is doing it. This causes

"Perhaps the church hasn't panicked enough," Fad shot back.

"And if you begin your era of discipline, Fad, what would follow?"

"Those prone to get out of line would think twice," Fad jeered.

"The old unquestioned obedience and there-is-no-alternative philosophy?" replied.

'You've got the picture," Fad thun-

"Fad, if ever the official church was portrayed as out to get people, deserving of unquestioned obedience and especially as institution where laws were enforced without discussion, we would really be in big trouble!

'How's that?" Fad asked.

"Fad, this may sound simplistic, but the church is a community that depends primarily on grace for its unity. Christ invites, never forces; blessed are those who are invited and accept. Whenever the church has reverted to sheer force instead of dialogue and the force of the Gospels it has lost authority.

"All good and well," Fad countered, "but in a family you need discipline. Christ

obeyed not only his heavenly Father but also his earthly mother and father. There are times when a child doesn't question but obeys.'

"To a point," I answered, "but Religious and laity aren't children. Christ obeyed out of love for the Father and us, not for the sake of obedience in itself.

"All your fine distinctions don't impress me," Fad fired back. "If it's true some people are out of order, how do you change them?"



"Perhaps, Fad, the same way we are trying to change each other now—through dialogue, in the sense that Pope Paul VI saw it as the key to renewal in the church. By raising questions with each other, considering the alternatives and imagining what might result from a particular line of

"But also by keeping our sense of humor. Without humor we can back ourselves into a corner and be forced to fight our way out. Dialogue is another way to proceed."

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ENTERTAINMENT

VIEWING WITH ARNOLD

'Season' OK thriller, but film's idea falls short

The press continues its post-Watergate ump in "The Mean Season," a Floridaslump in based crime thriller that works very hard to make its hero-reporter feel agonies of conscience for the

notoriety he achieves in covering a series of brutal murders.

The last time we were in Miami for a newspaper movie, in "Absence of Malice,"
you'll recall that the once-admired freewheeling investigative enterprise of the press got roughly the same



treatment as a bull in a Spanish bullfight. The point here is similar, although 'Season' takes itself much less seriously, never quite letting the message get in the way of a good old serial-killer-on-the-loose heroine-in-danger melodrama in the Jack-

One thing that happens for sure is that Kurt Russell, as bespectacled crime reporter Mal Anderson, establishes himself among the more respectable leading men of the 1980s. Fresh from his gritty, un-derplayed performance in "Silkwood," and now 33, this ex-child star in Disney movies, ex-pro baseball player, interpreter of "Elvis" and survivor of several bizarre schlockos ("The Thing," "Escape From New York"), appears to have the right stuff to be a Hollywood Presence. He looks rugged and blue collar, but is also senstitive and intelligent. Plus, he apparently

The plot of "Mean Season" (the title refers to Florida's hot and storm-prone summers) is intriguingly similar to Clint Eastwood's "Tightrope," which described the symbiotic relationship between a New Orleans vice detective and a maniac serial sex killer. The idea is that killer and cop have a lot in common, share the same needs, interest and (to some extent) guilt. In addition, there is the implication that the cop's dirty job rubs off on his home life, and eventually the killer goes after the detective's loved ones.

Russell's Anderson is a burnt-out police beat journalist who is about to take off with schoolteacher-girlfriend Mariel Hemingway for a benign job in the Rockies when he gets reluctantly involved with a "last big story"-a motiveless murder of a girl on a beach. The killer notes his byline, calls him up, and says he plans to kill four more, He wants Mal to be his "conduit to the public," and bends his ear about his troubles while giving him exclusive ad-vance scoops on the action. The setup

in the Son of Sam Case.

Mal finds himself riding the one-man crime wave to glory—national media at-tention, star status, a possible Pulitzer. The girlfriend wants him to ditch it all (not knowing it's in a reporter's blood), and fears the relationship with the sicko is fears the relationship with the sicko is changing him. "Are you reporting it oparticipating in it?" she asks. "It's turned into a collaboration." Even the killer, who for half the film is a shadowy profile and a disturbed voice on the telephone (later he emerges as actor Richard Jordan), tells him bluntly, "You need the story and the audience, just like me."

Leon Piedmont's screenplay, adapted from a novel by Miami Herald reporter labby Katzenbach is generally negative.

John Katzenbach, is generally negative about the newspaper's exploitation of the situation, (The editor is played by Richard Masur, always cast as a self-serving, pragmatic type.) But it's hard to dislike Mal, who acts like a man trapped by circumstance rather than an ambitious fathead. To imply that he shares any of the killer's guilt for the grisly crimes is just Hollywood hogwash, and flatly un-convincing. He "benefits," and also pays in anxiety, much as any professional benefits and suffers by taking on a dangerous case

But there is little doubt that the newscovering skills of modern media have created a new monster—the guy who kills to get his name, picture and life story in the r and on television.

All these heavy issues become secon-dary when Jordan inevitably kidnaps Hemingway, and the chase leads to a moodily staged climax far out in the windswept Everglades. Canadian director Philip Borsos ("The Gray Fox") plants a series of false alarms throughout the film to prepare us for a scary twist ending, but it's about as credible as a government plan to cut taxes. He also suggests, rather than shows, the bloody nature of the crimes, and gives the movie a distinct sense of place

Hemingway (last seen in "Star 80") functions mostly as a spokesperson for the writer, and it's often hard to see the changes in the hero she's complaining about (no fault of hers). Jordan makes a memorably oily, introspective villain, adding to the gallery of well-played nuts in movies of recent years.

Meanwhile, journalists continue to decline in movie repectability. Nobody is, of course, above criticism, but the fear is that the passion for a free press declines

(Adequate thriller with ideas to chew on; nonmarital sex, some language and violence; satisfactory for mature viewers.)

USCC classification: A-III, adults.

Television programs of note

Tuesday, March 26, 9-10 p.m. EST (PBS) "A Class Divided." The day after Martin Luther King Jr.'s assassination, a teacher in a small Iowa town tried to teach her class a lesson about prejudice by ating children with blue eyes as superior to those with brown eyes. "Frontline" reports on what those children learned and how they feel about it today when they gather for a class reunion.

Wednesday, March 27, 10-11 p.m. EST (CBS) "The Gift of Life." Reporting on the rapid increase in organ transplants— operations considered experimental only five years ago-is this documentary which vs the process from donor to recipient, the effect on the families involved and the decisions doctors must make in choosing who will benefit from this new chance for

Thursday, March 28, 10-10:30 p.m. EST (PBS) "Capitol Journal." Political journalist and media observer Hodding Carter hosts this new weekly newsmagazine on Congress, featuring field reports from Capitol Hill and around the country, live interviews and commentary by prominent congressional leaders and reporters.

Friday, March 29, 10-11 p.m. EST (PBS)
"New World Visions." Written, hosted and narrated by Vincent Scully of Yale University, this series examines the changing styles of American art, architecture and design from their colonial beginnings around 1650 to the outbreak of



ONE STEP BEHIND-Martin Sheen stars as a Magi who sets out to find the baby Jesus and spends his life and fortune helping the suffering and outcast while always being one step behind the Messiah in "The Fourth Wise Man," a special airing March 30 on ABC-TV. (NC

'Fourth Wise Man' artfully probes spiritual themes

by Henry Herx

A program that is unusual in a number of ways is "The Fourth Wise Man," drama centered in spiritual values, airing Saturday, March 30, 8-9 p.m. EST on ABC.

One of the unusual things about the show is it was produced by a Catholic priest, Paulist Father Ellwood Kieser, in collaboration with a commercial network for presentation as a prime-time en-tertainment special. More important, however, is that the result of this juncture between religion and commerce proves to

be unusually good television.

The drama is based on Henry Van Dyke's classic short story "The Other Wise Man," which tells of one Magi who was delayed in following the star to Bethlehem and who then spent the next 30 years searching for the new king. It used to be a standard in short story anthologies and many will recall having first read it as an English class assignment

This adaptation, scripted by Tom Fontana, who won an Emmy last year for his work on "St. Elsewhere," is faithful to the original story but amplifies its spiritual dimensions while adding some light humor.

The fourth Magi is Artaban (Martin Sheen), who interprets the heavenly star as the sign fulfilling the prophecies about the birth of a new king. He sells all he has to purchase three gems as a gift for the infant and sets off with his servant, Orantes (Alan Arkin), to join the three Magi who have begun their journey already.

Delayed by a dying beggar who needs his skills as a doctor, Artaban is left behind by the other Magi and must sell one of his jewels to outfit his own caravan to cross the desert. When he arrives, the Holy Family has already fled to Egypt and he uses another gem as a bribe to save a child during Herod's slaughter of the Innocents

His search in Egypt proves fruitless and Artaban returns to the Holy Land, where he comes upon a colony of beggars and outcasts who need him as a doctor and teacher. Years go by, the colony flourishes and Artaban all but gives up his search.

But there will be a final encounter in rusalem that will give meaning to his life's search for truth.

This is a deeply religious story and is unusually appropriate for viewing on the eve of Palm Sunday. Its values are universal—helping others in need, making ourselves better individuals-and they are put across effectively in dramatic terms.

It has some outstanding performances. with Sheen's Artaban winning our sympathy as he grows from the pride of youth to the humility of old age. Arkin as his servant is a fine actor in a serious role, but he also knows how to project an occasional aside of dead-pan humor. Equally good in smaller parts are Eileen Brennan, Ralph Bellamy, Richard Libertini and Lance

The production was directed by Michael Rhodes on California locations resembling the topography of the Middle East. The biblical period is conveyed well by the sets and costuming. The overall effect is helped considerably by some imaginative photography.

Recent USCC Film Classifications

Mask				 ٠.			.0	LV	
Missing in Act	tion	2:							
The Beginn								0)
Night Patrol									

DOINT OF VIEW

Bishops' pastoral called model for debate

When the U.S. Catholic bishops released the first draft of their pastoral letter on economic issues, they were greeted with a barrage of criticism from ultra-conservatives such as the Rev. Jerry Falwell, who pronounce the document "socialism," without even having read it.

Socialism, without even naving read it.

Such critics earlier denounced the
bishops for taking a strong stand against
the arms race and backing a bilateral
nuclear freeze in their 1983 pastoral letter,

'The Challenge of Peace."

What makes all this so interesting is the double standard these far right critics use. They denounce the bishops when they speak out on economics or the arms race, but applaud them when they speak out on

There was a great deal to think about in the bishops' draft. It is highly appropriate

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for religious leades to talk about the poor or reigious leades to taix about the poor with compassion; it offers a sharp contrast to the harsh pronouncements of the religious right, whose theology treats the poor as guilty sinners and whose political programs would guarantee that the poor chall always be with us shall always be with us.

My major concern is the manner in which the bishops enter the public debate, whatever the issue. Catholic bishops and fundamentalist ministers have the same right to speak out on political issues, but when they do, they cannot base their claims on narrow doctrinal beliefs-they should try to persuade others on the merits of their case, not on the authority of their faith. On this point, whether or not we agree with specific proposals, the bishops deserve our praise

Consider the passage in which they describe the two purposes they have for writing about the U.S. economy:

"The first is to provide guidance for menbers of our own church as they seek to form their consciences and reach moral decisions about economic matters. . . . We argue from a distinctive Christian per-spective that has been shaped by the Bible and by the content of Christian tradition, and from a standpoint that reflects our faith in God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit."

The bishops show that, even in talking to their own people about political issues, they are offering "guidance," not doctrinal pronouncements—they make no claim to speak directly for God on such matters.

They also point out that, while the demand to protect the human dignity and

the Saints

MARY and the

...THE ANGEL GABRIEL WAS SENT FROM GOD TO A TOWN OF GALILEE NAMED NAZARETH, TO A VIRGIN BETHROTHED TO A MAN NAMED JOSEPH, OF THE HOUSE OF DAVID, AND THE VIRGIN'S NAME WAS MARY. UPON ARRIVING, THE ANGEL SAID TO HER: "REJOICE, O HIGHLY FAVORED DAUGHTER! THE LORD IS WITH YOU. BLESSED ARE YOU AMONG WOMEN." SHE WAS DEEPLY TROUBLED BY HIS WORDS AND WONDERED WHAT HIS GREETING MEANT. THE ANGEL WENT ON TO SAY TO HER, "PO NOT FEAR, MARY, YOU HAVE FOUND FAVOR WITH GOD. YOU SHALL CONCEIVE AND BEAR A SON; AND GIVE HIM THE MAME JESUS. GREAT WILL BE HIS DIGNITY AND HE WILL BE CALLED SON OF THE MOST HIGH. THE LORD GOD WILL BE WITHOUT END." AMARY SAID TO THE ANGEL, "HOW CAN THIS BE SINCE I DO NOT KNOW MAN?" THE ANGEL ANSWERED: THE HOLY SPIRIT WILL COME UPON YOU AND AND THE POWER OF THE MOST HIGH WILL OVERSHADOW YOU. HENCE THE HOLY OFFSPRING TO BE BORN WILL BE CALLED SON OF GOD. KNOW THAT ELIZABETH YOUR KINSWOMAN HAS CONCEIVED A SON IN HER OLD AGE, SHE WHO WAS THOUGHT TO BE STERILE IS NOW IN HER SIXTH MONTH; FOR NOTHING IS IMPOSSIBLE WITH GOD.

MARY SAID, "I AM THE SERVANT OF THE LORD. LET IT BE DONE TO ME AS YOU SAY." WITH THAT THE ANGEL LEFT HER.

ST. LUKE 1:26-39

ST. LUKE 1:26-39



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economic rights of everyone is binding on Catholics, "we recognize that disagreements will continue about what economic policies and institutional arrangements will be most conducive to the protection of the economic rights of all. Serious dialogue on which policies to pursue is of great importance, and there is certainly room for pluralism within the church on these matters."

If there's room for pluralism within the Catholic Church on public policy matters, there is also obviously room for pluralism within American society.

In explaining their second purpose, "to add our voice to the debate about U.S. economic policies," the bishops show again that they respect the rules which govern

Joining the public debate, they say, 'demands that our arguments be developed in a reasoned manner that will be persuasive to those who do not share our faith or our tradition."

By stessing "reason" and "persuasion. the bishops again offer a sharp contrast to the religious right, which declares people un-Christian for supporting a bilateral nuclear freeze or the establishment of a Department of Education.

As a Southern Baptist, I may be more impressed when the bishops quote from the Bible than when they quote from the popes. As a Republican, I may be more skeptical than the bishops seem to be about govern-ment planning and government's ability to deal with some of our national problems.

But the passages I just cited and the draft's overall tone make it clear that if I differ with the bishops on these issues—or quibble with them on the details of welfare—they won't send a delegation to my office to tell me that I'm not a

The bishops are bringing their moral concerns into the public arena. They go out of their way to ask for free debate on the issues; they even welcome disagreement as constructive. They claim no special expertise in economics simply because they are religious leaders; they ask only a fair hearing. They understand that in addresssing economic issues, they must follow the same rules that the AFL-CIO or the Chamber of Commerce must follow.

It would be hard to come up with a

better model for religious leaders wanting to take part in informed, reasonable debate on political matters.

(John Buchanan, an ordained Southern Baptist minister, served as a Republican congressman from Alabama from 1965 through 1981. He is now chairman of People for the American Way, a national non-partisan First Amendment citizens' group working to protect and promote constitutional liberties.)

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to the editor

Defenders of Marxist revolutions

In your review of "The Killing Fields" (The Criterion, Feb. 22) you seem to have missed a most important point. After witnessing the brutal murdering of 25 percent of the Cambodian population by the newly installed Marxist Revolution, the American hero incredibly concludes that the Communists killed 2 million of their countrymen because they were angry at the U.S. bombing! Thus, he was a forerunner of today's "blame America

They are also the people who defend Marxist revolutions, confusing them with the legitimate aspirations of free men. Sadly, their ranks include certain Catholic clergy. They seem to have no difficulty obtaining press and platform where they are accorded the respect due experts, their

lack of credentials and tunnel vision notwithstanding. This tunnel vision will absolutely prevent them from a thorough study of the history of Marxist revolutions, where the gory story of countless millions of executions, and brutal suppressions of the people (and the Catholic Church) are there for all to see.

In any case, somehow the Marxists they In any case, somehow the Marxists they are currently supporting are going to be different than all previous Marxists. Or perhaps they aren't Marxists at all, even though they say they are. That incredible position is being taken by some Catholic clergy today in the case of Nicaragua. It was taken before in the cases of the "As-arian Reformers" of China and Cuba.

John F. Geisse John F. Geisse

Indianapolis

What an old couch means to a kid

Tooling along the road the other day, I chanced across a brown leather over-stuffed couch spilling out its kapok insides beside a ditch, for all the world to see. It reminded me that one of my

grandchildren's favor-ite haunts in ite haunts in their neighborhood is a pink plastic Victorian-style loveseat which sits unattended in a vacant

How orphan furniture arrives in outsettings is something to speculate
on, especially since my
grandchildren live in
Germany and the same mysterious forces

be at work there. But the chief interest lies in the wonder that the most ordinary objects hold for kids. Their imaginations soar at the sight of an ancient couch. It becomes a boat, an airplane, a nest, a gun emplacement, a cave, or even (God forbid) a place to play doctor.

We once lived-on a farm whose entrance was flanked by stone pillars with decorative cement knobs on top. They made wonderful castle walls surroundin dense honeysuckle bushes where we coul es where we could hide from enemies. In bloom the bushes gave off a heady perfume, and if the oc-casion required it their red berries could be smashed to make wickedly satisfactory blood. We also pretended the berries were food until a local oracle told us they were

The manure pit (there's no delicate way to describe it) in the farm yard figured in our play as the dungeon, the home of villains, or Hell. We never went near it, but it was important in our fantasies. The ground floor of the barn's silo contained a round room which lent itself to playing or running in circles to make selves dizzy, depending on our mood.

Certain trees were befriended because their branches created aeries where we could retire to read a book or watch the summer clouds drift by. The windmill was a great jungle gym to climb on, and the pumphouse was dark and cool and smelled pleasantly of gear oil during a hot af-ternoon game of hide and seek.

Gullies in the pasture caused by spring rains yielded up splendid constructions of dams and waterways. We spent hours diverting erosion rivulets, and we found pretty stones and even a few authentic rowheads during our excavations.

The wooden lattice enclosing the space

eath the front porch offered a superior hiding place during our games, or when chores were being handed out. The light filtered in on dustbeams and played over the darkness within, creating eerie patterns determined by the swaying of the trees outside. But on rainy days the smell of mp earth and wet dog fur drove us out. Attics, coal chutes, the far recesses of

closets, stands of corn, tall grasses swaying in the fields, piles of bricks, old machinery—anything promises adventure to the imaginations of kids. It's a rite of spring.

VIDS...

Among the 10 Bashe Honor Award Among the 10 Bashe Honor Award recipients for 1985-86 selected by St. Mary of the Woods College are two Cardinal Ritter High School seniors, Cathy Baker and Michelle de la Rosa. The Award is based solely on high academic achievement, and carries a tuition stipend of \$3,500 renewable annually upon review.

Five Indianapolis-area men were among the 61 seminarians from St.
Meinrad School of Theology who were
recently instituted into the ministries of lector and acolyte as part of their for-mation program for the priesthood. J. Daniel Atkins and Michael O'Mara received the ministry of lector, and Kevin Dugan, Adolph Dwenger and Philip Unwin received the ministry of acolyte.

check it out...

St. Philip Neri Parish, Rural and North streets, will sponsor a Parish Mission each evening Monday through Friday, April 15-19 at 7:30 p.m. in the church. Redemptorist Fathers Harry Grile and Robert Miller will conduct the mission, whose theme is "We Remember, We Celebrate, We Believe." Everyone is invited to attend.

The Mexican American Cultural Center in San Antonio, Texas offers specialized programs promoting effective

Hispanic Ministry this coming summer from June 3 to Aug. 2. For more information contact: Pastoral/Leadership , MACC, P.O. Box 28185, San TX 78228, 800-531-6222 (toll-free

> The Oldenburg Franciscan Sisters will sponsor a public Workshop on Alcoholism and Chemical Dependency on Saturday, April 20 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Speakers will address issues of alcoholism in the family, parish, religious community and among youth. Workshop donation is \$5 for the critical days. 25 for preprint as \$5 for the entire day; \$3 for morning or af-ternoon only. Contact: Franciscan Sister Marie Werdmann, Office of Life Development, Oldenburg, Ind. 47036, 812-

> ✓ Central Indiana Regional Blood
> Center needs volunteers to help with community education, telephone recruitment, switchboard and blood drives. Interested persons may call Catherine Russell, director of volunteer services, at

The National Association of Pastoral Musicians (NPM) will hold its 1985 National Convention on the theme "Blessed Are the Music Makers" during the week of June 24-28 at the Cincinnati Convention-Exposition Center. Events will include the world premier of Dave Brubeck's new work
"Tongues of Fire," a lecture series on
"Translating Theology into Pastoral "Translating Theology into Fastorial Music," and the Clergy Institute. Among the Institute's featured speakers will be Dominican Father Edward Schillebeeckx. For more information contact: Tom Wilson, NPM Conventions, 225 Sheridan St. NW, Washington, D.C. 20011, 202-723-5800.

St. Vincent Wellness Centers will offer a "Well Woman Seminar: Premen-strual Syndrome (PMS)" on Tuesday, April 16, from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Zionsville Wellness Center. \$10 fee. To register call St. Francis Hospital Center volun-teers will hold an Easter Basket Sale to benefit the development fund in the hospital through April 4 or until all the baskets are sold.

Program will be repeated at Margaret Mary Community Hospital Auditorium, Mary Community Hospital Auditorium, Batesville, on Friday, March 31 beginning with registration at 9:30 a.m. Respite volunteers provide companionship and care for homebound persons so that their families may leave home for short periods of time. For reservations call Millie Burkhardt 812-934-2244 or Evelyn Kesterman 812-623-2557.

✓ The Archdiocesan Office of Ministry The Archdiocesan Unite of Banasa, to Priests will sponsor a Workshop on "Diagnostics: Getting to Know the Parish Community" on Friday, April 19 from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at Beech Grove Benedictine Center. The workshop is intended to aid planning for continued faith reauth in parish communities. \$10 fee growth in parish communities. \$10 fee includes lunch. Contact: Ministry to Priests Office, P.O. Box 1410, Indianapolis,

The Terre Haute Deanery Religious Education Center, 2931 Ohio, Terre Haute, will host a free program presented by Father Jeff Godecker on "The Church of South America: Church of Action and Courage" on Friday, March 29 at 7:30 p.m. A carry-in dinner will precede the talk at 6:15 p.m. Bring salad, bread or dessert. Dinner reservations accepted at 812-232-8400 until March 28.

Women in Ministry Week: "Through the Looking Glass" will be held during the week of Aug. 4-10 at Grailville retreat center in Loveland, Ohio. The workshop is limited to 30 women. Cost: \$250 program, meals and lodging. For information write: Women in Ministry Week, Grailville, 932 O'Bannonville Loveland, Ohio 45140.

St. Meinrad receives challenge grant

Trial of alleged papal shooting plotters May 27

ST. MEINRAD-St. Meinrad College recently qualified for a \$500,000 challenge grant from Lilly Endowment, Inc., of dianapolis. The grant is to be used for renovation and energy conservation projects in two of the seminary's oldest buildings.

The grant, first authorized by Lilly Endewment in February 1982, was contingent on St. Meinrad's raising more than \$1.5 million in matching funds by the end of last month.

Archabbot Timothy Sweeney, chairman of the college's board of trustees, said more than 3,400 alumni and friends of St.

ROME (NC)-An Italian court has set

May 27 as the starting date for the trial of

three Bulgarians and five Turks accused of plotting to assassinate Pope John Paul II in 1981, a court spokesman said March 13.

Selection of six jurors and six alternate jurors for the trial began March 12.

The three Bulgarians worked for their government in Italy at the time of the shooting, in which the pope and two American women were wounded. Among the Bulgarians is Sergei Antonov, former the state of the state o

director of Bulgaria's national airline in Rome. He has been under arrest in Italy

Meinrad contributed the matching funds

needed to receive the grant.

Funds raised through the Lilly challenge grant will be used to help finance the first part of a two-phase renovation of St. Meinrad's former library and monastery buildings. Energy conservation is a principal component of the project. When completed, the renovated buildings will provide better quality student housing for the seminarians, facilities for a yearround program of continuing education, and centralized faculty and administrative offices. The total cost of both phases of the project is estimated at \$5 million.

expected to be present for the trial. They

are Omer Bagci, accused of furnishing the gun used in the shooting, and Musar Celebi,

accused of plotting the attack with Agca

and others. Both are being held in a Rome

Two Bulgarian diplomats indicted in the case, Jelio Kolev Vassilev and Todor Stoyanov Ayvazov, returned to Bulgaria and have not been extradited to Italy. A

Turk, Oral Celik, now believed to have fired a second gun during the attack, is described by Italian justice officials as missing. Bekir Celenk, a Turk accused of

lping mastermind the plot, is living in algaria in the custody of the Bulgarian

Several confessors will be present at each of the following locations: **Indianapolis East Deanery**

Communal penance services will be offered during Lent on a parish cooperation basis in parishes throughout the archdiocese. Parishioners are encouraged to

make use of the sacrament of reconon at a convenient time and parish.

Deanery penance service for Our Lady of Lourdes, Holy Cross, St. Bernadette and St. Philip Neri; to be held at Our Lady of Lourdes; March 24 at 2:30 p.m.

Holy Spirit; March 24 at 7:30 p.m St. Simon; March 25 at 7:36 p.m. Little Flower; March 28 at 3 p.m. St. Michael, Greenfield; March 28 at 7:30 p.m.

St. Philip Neri; April 3 at 7:30 p.m.

Indianapolis North Deanery

St. Joan of Arc; March 22 at 7:30 p.m. St. Lawrence; March 25 at 7:30 p.m. St. Matthew: March 26 at 7:30 p.m.

Christ the King; March 27 at 7:30 p.m Immaculate Heart of Mary; March 27 at

St. Pius X; March 29 at 7:30 p.m. St. Lawrence; April 1 at 7:30 p.m. St. Andrew; April 3 at 7:30 p.m.

Indianapolis South Deanery

Holy Name, Beech Grove; March 26 at 7

St. Barnabas; March 28 at 7:30 p.m. St. James; April 3 at 7:30 p.m.

Batesville Deanery

St. Charles, Milan: March 26 at 7 p.m.

Communal penance services St. Lawrence, Lawrenceburg; March 26

St. Pius. Ripley County: March 28 at 7

St. Mary, Aurora; March 28 at 7:30 p.m. St. Maurice, Decatur County; March 31 at 2 p.m.

Immaculate Conception, Millhousen; March 31 at 4 p.m.

St. Maurice, Napoleon; March 31 at 7:30

St. John the Baptist, Osgood; April 2 at 7

Connersville Deanery

Holy Family, Richmond: March 25 at 7

St. Andrew, Richmond; March 28 at 7

St. Mary. Richmond: March 30 at 12:05

New Albany Deanery

St. Mary, New Albany; March 24 at 7

Our Lady of Perpetual Help, New Albany; March 25 at 7:30 p.m. St. Joseph Hill, Sellersburg; March 28 at

St. Paul, Sellersburg; March 28 at 7:30

St. Augustine and Sacred Heart, Jeffersonville; to be held at St. Augustine; March 31 at 7 p.m.

Seymour Deanery

St. Vincent de Paul, Shelby County;

Terre Haute Deanery

St. Benedict, Terre Haute; March & at 7:30 p.m.

In addition to Agca and Antonov, only two of the other accused, both Turks, are

since November 1982.

QUESTION CORNER

hat is Easter duty now?

Q I recall reading in your column about a change in the Easter duty for Catholics but cannot remember what the change was and how it affects us this year. Is there still an "Easter duty" or is it just (Pennup to us?

A Since the begin-ning of Lent I have received a number of inquiries similar to yours. Apparently many Catholics are confused about the same thing.

One law of our church still is that Catholics should

receive the Holy Eucharist sometime during the Easter season (Canon 920). According to our present liturgical calendar, that season extends from the beginning of Lent to Pentecost (not, as

formerly, Trinity Sunday).

Obviously almost everyone who is a practicing Catholic receives Holy Communion much more frequently than that. The regulation recalls days some centuries ago when reception of the Holy Eucharist fell off so seriously that the church felt it had to make a regulation requiring Communion at least once a year. Happily that

Contrary to what many Catholics say they were taught, there is no requirement to receive the sacrament of penance as part of the Easter duty, except in case of serious on of course would be necessary for Holy Communion (Canon

That confusion is compounded by the fact that those who learned the "six precepts of the church" in the past will remember that one of these precepts "to confess at least once a year." Even when there was a serious sin to confe

If you need a reminder, refer to the old Baltimore Catechism which was for before Vatican II the authoritative expression of beliefs and practices of American Catholics. In the chapter on penance was the question, "What is meant by the commandment to confess our sins at least once a year?"

The answer: "By the commandment to confess our sins at least once a year is meant that we are strictly obliged to make a good confession within the year, if we have a mortal sin to confess."

Thus, in the past as well as today, if we are going to stick by the "rule," even annual confession is required only when there

Quite obviously, however, this does not reflect a wholesome spirituality, and is not at all what the church recommends. The act an what the child recommends. It is a sacrament of penance has larger and deeper purposes than simply to make onself worthy of Holy Communion. It is a sacrament in its own right, which places one in a unique relationship with God as the forgiving Lord, and with his continually creative love which strengthens us to live good Christ-centered lives.

Thus, while it is not part of our Easter "duty," Lent is clearly one of the ap-

propriate times of the year for every olic to receive this sacrament humbly and with a sincere acknowledgment of our constant need for God's mercy and healing

(A free brochure explaining annulments and the annulment process in the Catholic Church is available by sending a stamped, self-addressed envelope to Father Dietzen, Holy Trinity Parish, 704 N. Main St., Bloomington, Ill. 61701.

(Questions for this column should be sent to Father Dietzen at the same address.)

1985 by NC News Service

O'Connor views parade despite marshal's IRA ties

NEW YORK (NC)-Archbishop John J. NEW YORK (NC)—Archbishop John J.
O'Connor of New York March 16 greeted
Peter King, grand marshal of New York
City's St. Patrick's Day parade, even
though King supports the Irish Republican
Army, the outlawed Northern Ireland
terrorist organization. Announcing his
decision at a Mass in St. Patrick's
Cathedral before the parade, held a day
before St. Patrick's feast day, the archbishop said he condemned all violence but would review the parade as an event honoring St. Patrick and all Irish people. In 1983, Michael Flannery, another IRA supporter, was named grand marshal, and Cardinal Terence Cooke declined to take his traditional reviewing stand on the steps of St. Patrick's Cathedral until Flannery

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FAMILY TALK

When does neighbor's spanking become abuse?

by Dr. James and Mary Kenny

Dear Dr. Kenny: My next-door neighbor whips her three-year-old with a belt when he misbehaves, as often as twice a week. We can hear the leather hitting the child and hear his screams. I am so upset. I cannot stand to hear a child beaten. Although I have an otherwise good relationship with my neighbor, we have never talked about this. What can I do?—

Answer: Punitive physical punishment is a poor way to discipline. If the whipping is severe enough to leave marks that are visible hours later, this may constitute

Child abuse is very much in the public consciousness today. While parents must have the right and responsibility to raise and discipline their children in their own way, nevertheless, our society is expressing a long overdue concern when some parents abuse this right. You are correct in being concerned, and I think you should take some action.

Talk the situation over with your husband. He may have some thoughts

about how to approach your neighbor.

If your husband brushes you off with the sometime popular view that it's none of your business, that people shouldn't meddle in one another's affairs, remind him that a child in need is everyone's business. Persons who stand by while serious harm is done to another are almost as guilty as those doing the harm.

If, on the other hand, your husband can

show you that you are being overly con-cerned, that you are exaggerating the harm being done to the child, consider his opinion. The line between hard spanking and child abuse can be a thin one. Not every spanking constitutes child abuse.

Then talk to your neighbor. Speak of your feelings and concern. Try not to judge or admonish or criticize her. Tell her it hurts you when a small child is so severely punished.



Be understanding. Share with her how angry you have become at times with your children. Offer to help her find other ways to relieve her stress and escalating tension.

Perhaps she needs a time-out. You can offer some baby-sitting while she recovers her senses. Perhaps she needs someone to talk to. Be there with a cup of coffee to

She may need to learn more about parenting and discipline. Our book, "Whole-Life Parenting" (Continuum, 1982), has many many suggestions on ways to be effective in disciplining three-yearolds without causing physical harm. Frankly, violence is the last resort of the tent. There are many better ways to obtain obedience.

Many states require that you report suspected cases of child abuse or neglect to the welfare department for investigation. If your attempted intervention fails and the child continues to be whipped, with cuts and bruises that can be noted 12 to 24 hours later, then you may need to report your

Such reporting is not like reporting a crime. You are simply calling this situation to the attention of trained persons so the parents can be helped and the child protected.

I am normally very reluctant to let the state intervene in the family. But when life and limb are threatened and your personal efforts cannot effect a change, such intervention may be necessary. Good luck!

(Reader questions on family living and child care to be answered in print are invited. Address questions: The Kennys, Box 872, St. Joseph's College, Rensselaer, Ind. 47978.)



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New Bible study programs are sparking interest

by Jim Jachimiah

At St. Anne's parish in New Castle, Scripture had been dealt with primarily in presentations by the pastor or outside speakers. "But formal Bible study as such took place at the Protestant churches," Providence Sister Rose Louise Schafer, director of religious education, says.

Now, St. Anne's and other parishes in the archdiocese have begun using Scripture study materials offered by the Diocese of Little Rock, Ark. The program includes a series of discussions, to be used in small groups. It was introduced last fall during a workshop conducted by a team from Little Rock, held at St. Rose of Lima parish, Franklin.

Sister Schafer said the program began in January at St. Anne, with a study of the Acts of the Apostles. The series will conclude before Easter.

Three different groups meet in the parish, on three different nights, and about 70 were registered in the program when it began. "It's the largest involvement on a continuing basis that we have ever had," Sister Schafer notes.

"Practically no one had had any Bible study before we started," she says. Many of the participants felt that they were less qualified than the others, and some of them felt uncomfortable as the program began, she adds. But "I think that has completely dissipated now and they feel good about keeping up with it."

Each of the three sessions is divided in half, so there are six facilitators in the program. "It's our intention to train others so it's an ongoing thing," Sister Schafer said. Later this year, probably in September, the parish will examine the Gospel of Mark.

IN PARISHES where the program is used, it is having an effect. Father James Dede, pastor of St. Vincent de Paul parish in Shelby County, explains:

"I hear the people discussing (the program) all the time," he says, "so is seems to have been very effective and very good. I can even sense it when I read the Scriptures at Mass. They're intent on what the Scriptures are saying now. It means more to them. What has impressed me is that they don't want to quit. There is a hunger. They want more."

Father Dede believes that the new interest in Scripture coincides with a spiritual renewal program which was recently conducted at St. Vincent's.

The Scripture study, like the renewal, "is another means of sanctifying the people."

With the renewal program and the Little Rock study, Father Dede has seen a number of changes. "It gives the people a sense of their roots. They get away from their bureaucracies, whether those are the local parishes or on a larger scale." They are less concerned with buildings and other material problems, and more concerned with the spiritual aspect of church life.

As a result, their prayers have become "something that goes to God from the soul and not just something from a book." The people "express their real concern for others."

"AT FIRST I had to suggest things to the people," he continues. "Now they're coming to me with all kinds of suggestions for spiritual things. That's gratifying to me. I'm just more and more impressed with the lay people—if you turn them loose. And I hope more people will turn them loose."

There also has been an effect "in their giving to causes." Father Dede says, "I am amazed at how our parish out-gives so many that are much larger."

Father Dede attends the Scripture study sessions but is not one of the group leaders. "I just sit there and take part," he says. "I tell the people I'm just here to learn. They come up with better answers than I do a lot of times. anyway."

At St. Monica's parish in Indianapolis, there has been a similar link between spiritual renewal and Scripture study. Reed Nelson, who leads one of the groups in the Little Rock program at St. Monica's, says the two are related.

ST. MONICA'S has been participating in Christ Renews His Parish, which Nelson sees as "probably the best thing to happen to the parish in a long time." As a result of the renewal program, "there is a lot more interest in Scripture now. And by the same token, a lot of people who go to the Scripture study want to get into Christ Renews His Parish now. At. ... mutually beneficial thing."

The Little Rock program is the first organized Scripture study to be conducted at St. Monica's. "It's exciting." Nelson says. "People are getting interested in Scriptures for the first time. People are deciding that, yes, they can read the Scriptures for themselves. It's affecting their prayer lives. It is building community."

Part of the reason, he says, is that discussion focuses on personal applications as well as the meaning of the Scripture.

At St. Monica's, too, the book of Acts is being studied for 10 weeks. The next study will deal with the Gospel of Mark. Attendance was around 120 for the first sessions, but now averages about 80, Nelson says. The program is offered on two different evenings each week.

The program "has been well-received and sethusiastically received," he observes. "A lot of people are learning that the Bible is not a boring history book and Scripture study is not a mental exercise. It is intended to be put into practice in our own daily lives and God is really speaking to us through it."

the sunday readings

by Richard Cain

Jeremiah 31:31-34 Psalm 51:3-4, 12-15 Hebrews 5:7-9 John 12:20-33

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

MARCH 24, 198

This Sunday's first reading comes from a little oasis of hope tucked away in the middle of Jeremiah's long, sad chronicle of the decline and fall of the Jewish nation. At the core of this decline was the failure of the Jews to keep God's covenant. Here God addressed the causes of the failure of the covenant he made with Israel on Mount Sinai and laid out His plan for an entirely new covenant, one that wouldn't fail.

God's analysis offers a model of how to turn seeming spiritual failure into success. First, He invited the Jews to look forward rather than dwell on the past. Second, He reminded the Jews that a covenantial relationship with Him must involve true interior conversion, a complete changing around of one's life. The purpose of the law was not to replace the need for conversion, but to help them see the need for a complete change of heart if they were to be truly holy, loving people and to guide them in making that conversion.

Third, He pointed out the importance of rooting out sin in their lives. For it is sin that blotted out the fundamental knowledge each person had within himself of God by virtue of being created in His image. This interior alienation also had social and generational repercussions as it obscured the ability of each person to reflect God to others.

Finally, the emphasis God placed on His own initiative rather than on what the Jews should do invited them to recognize their fundamental dependency on Him. The only thing in the end that cut off the Jews from God was their unwillingness to trust Him. So God's response was to dare them in their failure to trust Him all the more!

This Sunday's responsorial psalm provides an excellent example of how one person turned crushing spiritual failure into a healing encounter by trusting God all the more. It is taken from Psalm 51, which is identified as the psalm David wrote after the prophet Nathan confronted him with his adultery with Bathsheba and his murder of her husband. A reading of the moving story (II Samuel 11:1-12:25) will help place the psalm in context.

The healing courage of the psalmist's trust in God is made more evident when we

realize the full meaning of the word "create." The Hebrew word "bara" used here means to create out of nothing. Looking up the word in an analytical concordance will reveal that up until this point in the Bible it has been used only to describe God's creation of the universe.

The natural human tendencies when faced with the fact that one had sinned are either to deny the sin and its consequences or to lapse into despair. The courage of the psalmist was to do neither. In using the word "bara" he was acknowledging the permanant destructive effect of his sin and his powerlessness to undo it. But at the same time he recognized the supreme power of the God who had created the world out of nothing to create again out of nothing a new heart for him. And he had the courage to ask for it!

This Sunday's second reading also invites us to have more courage in prayer and especially in facing our sins. It is taken from the section in the Letter to the Hebrews which describes how we can have confidence in Jesus as our high priest to obtain an answer from God to our petitions for healing from sin. Our confidence in Jesus is based on two things. First, Jesus through His incarnation identifies with us. He knows what it is like to be human. Second, even though He was human, He was sinless, and therefore is pleasing to God. He has earned for us our salvation.

This Sunday's Gospel also encourages us to dare to draw near to God. It begins with some gentiles approaching one of the apostles with a simple request to Jesus. When the apostles convey that request to Jesus, He responds by talking about His death. His point is that we see Him most clearly in His sacrificial death. For to see Jesus is to see His unlimited love for us, a love that will not stop at even taking upon Himself the awful consequences of our sins, our lack of love for the Father and for

If the worst of human sins (the murder of God) can be the occasion of our greatest blessing (salvation from that sin), then how much more should we be emboldened to trust God all the more. That is what our Easter hope is all about!

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Perception of sin has changed, theologian says

by Kevin C. McDowell

Calvin Coolidge attended a church service where the advertised topic was sin. A reporter asked the president what the preacher had to say about sin. Coolidge is said to have replied: "He said he was against it.

It was once easy to determine that the church was against sin, but since Vatican II, people have wondered whatever became of the concept of sin, according to Dr. Ernest Collamati, chairman of the religion and philosophy departments at St. Mary of the Woods College.

Speaking recently to members of St. Matthew's parish, Indianapolis, as a part of that parish's continuing Renew program, Collamati said, "Nothing has happened to sin. My suggestion is that our awareness, our perception of sin, has undergone tremendous change."

Collamati, who is also a professor of religion and philosophy at the Terre Haute school, described the pre-Vatican II church as being concerned with authority, and the faithful more concerned with obeying that authority, which largely determined what

Before Vatican II, "Theology was essentially frozen. This was not a creative period. In many ways, we were still fighting Protestants."

Form seemed more important than substance, he said. While sins were classified as mortal and venial, there was little discrimination among them, particularly the mortal sins, so that murder became no more grievous a sin in the

layman's mind as impure thoughts.

"The problem, in all honesty, when you look at this, was that there was an indiscriminate concept of sin. If impure thoughts were really mortal sins, you

might as well go ahead and act. That is the inability to discriminate.

"We multiplied mortal sins so much that we ended up with an indiscriminate sense of sin. We need to develop a discriminating concept of sin.'

Collamati said that the inability to discriminate essential from non-essential often led to a "faith resting on rituals. Children would believe it was more important to eat fish on Friday than love a

Today, after a period of wandering, the focus is on "forming a conscience, said. Many of the issues confronting the church today-abortion, nuclear war, euthanasia and social justice-were not critical concerns of the church before Vatican II.

"We have a dilemma. Many are finding that it is not so easy being a Catholic and an American anymore. We can't necessarily use the social structure to bolster family values anymore because their goals and our goals may be diametrically opposite.

"Catholics are being called to form a conscience. We must engage in moral judgments that are crucial to being a Catholic . . . lest we end up with myopic view of the moral teachings and life of Jesus Christ

"So how do we figure out that something is sinful?

"Whenever sin exists, it is relational and involves a pattern of destruction. The church attempts to teach morality, and its source is a basic one—experience. Why are certain things considered sinful? Because in human endeavors, whenever this condition exists, there is a pattern of destruction, and it is this pattern of destruction that has a relational aspect to others in the community and to the church.



SIN-TILLATING—Dr. Ernest Collamati, chairman of the religion and philosophy departments at St. Mary of the Woods College, speaks to parishioners at St. Matthew's in Indianapolis. (Photo by Kevin C. McDowell)

If I destroy myself, I begin the destruction of the human community."

He described this concept as the "ripple

effect" one sees when a stone is dropped in a lake. "If one suffers, all suffer."

This concept is difficult for Americans because the society values individualism and privacy. This prevents many from realizing their position—and consequent effect—in and on the community. "When you are destructive, others are destroyed.
This is a key teaching of scripture," he

"What is Jesus' ethic? If you reduced all of Jesus' teachings to a kernel, it would be reduced to this question: What kind of person do you wish to be?

"You build the human community by building yourself. Sin is that pattern of

destruction that eats away at our being

Collamati said Christ reduced the whole of Jewish law to the requirement to love God and love one's neighbor.

"These concepts were not novel to the Jewish tradition. What was novel is that Jesus linked the two indissolubly. You can't do one without the other and be a follower of Christ. The test of our love of God comes in our care for a fellow human being."

St. Matthew's is in the second semester of an ambitious five-semester Renew program, which has parishioners meeting groups and occassional large groups, such as this one to hear Collamati, in order to increase the spiritual understanding and awareness of their community.

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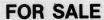
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Trapped

(by the "goods" of life)

By Cindy Liebhart NC News Service

"Sometimes I feel as if I'm no longer in control of my own life," a friend admitted to me somewhat anxiously a few weeks ago.

"I mean, television commercials and magazines flood us with images of these successful men and women who hold demanding fulltime jobs, shuttle children to ballet lessons and basketball practice, have immaculate homes that look like a page out of a decorator's manual, throw parties regularly, do volunteer work at the local nursing home, fix their own cars, read a book a week, work out at the health club...

"What happened to the simple

It is true that many TV programs and commercials create the impression that an active, productive life is characterized by fierce self-reliance and incessant activity. Often in the media, "being more" as a person seems to be equated with having more and doing more.

0 0 0

David Suley knows well the difficulty in trying to achieve — and maintain — a simple way of life. Suley is executive director of International Liaison, a Catholic clearinghouse that places lay people on assignment in U.S. and foreign missions.

A husband and father of two preteen children, he faces responsibilities typical of many Americans — driving children to soccer games and music lessons, commuting daily to the city, keeping out-of-town speaking engagements at least one week a month as well as many weekends a year, meeting house payments, insurance premiums, grocery bills.

For Suley, a key obstacle to simplicity is "the feeling that I have to do everything myself."

With his work-related travel, long hours at the office and the work he brought home every night, Suley realized some years ago that he had no time left for himself or for his family.

Simplifying his life required Suley and his wife to reflect on their priorities and examine their needs — "what we wanted to be and to become as individuals and as a family" — and then to make choices and changes in their living patterns where necessary.

To spend more time with his wife and family, Suley has even had to forego some time-consuming and worthwhile community commitments, refuse invitations on occasion for social engagements and ask others for help or advice.

"We are not called to be the savior of the world or the parish or the neighborhood. We already have one Savior," Suley said. "We are called to do the best we can with the limitations of time, talents and gifts that we have."

This requires the ability to recognize how valuable the talents of others are — to realize that everything doesn't depend on one person, Suley suggested.

Nevertheless, he and his wife have tried to find ways of blending the time they spend together



with service to friends and the larger community.

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An important dimension of simplicity is the ability to make time for yourself. "I have to love myself, to take time out for myself, or else I'll simply burn out and be no good to myself or anyone else," Suley said.

With a little creativity, he

With a little creativity, he transformed his daily drive to work into an enriching, peaceful time. Sometimes he listens to scripture readings, music or personal development tapes. Other times he enjoys the drive in silence.

He has also made daily Mass "the most important appointment of the day."

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Suley suggested that simplicity of life does not necessarily imply poverty or austerity, but it does involve the ability to live on what you need.

What real needs are — and the shape of simplicity in one's own life — must be determined by individuals or couples themselves, not by images projected in the media or by what others call a need.

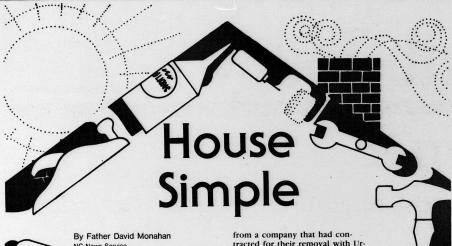
Simplicity might mean that several couples planning an evening together would eliminate costly restaurant bills and baby sitters by dining in one of the couple's homes.

But simplicity might also mean that a couple experiencing stress in their marriage caused by life's hectic pace would take a twoweek vacation alone, Suley said.

Simplicity, Suley says, means "not getting so much that it suffocates you, not getting so much that you have to work and work and work just to maintain it" at the expense of your own wellbeing, your relationships with others and God.

(Ms. Liebbart is media reporter for NC News.)

Ito David Suley, a simple life is a good life. That means not letting "things" become paramount, he tells writer Cindy Liebhart. But, he adds, the form simplicity takes has to be determined by individuals and families.



Art and Marianne Mertens sat down with me in their comfortable living room for a lateafternoon interview

Outside, the wind chill registered below zero. Inside, the wood-burning stove kept us toasty.

The split-level room was graced by a piano at one end. An antique table held coffee and cake

But what about that sign built into the large picture window? "Your BankAmericard Welcome Here," it read — a clue that this house was different.

Different it is, just as the Mertens are different. They agreed before marriage that theirs would be the simple life.

A banner in the family room reads: "Live simply that others may simply live.

Mertens works for Neighbor for Neighbor, an emergency service organization for the poor. He picks up used furniture contributed by others, repairs it and distributes it. For his services he is paid \$727 monthly.
An additional \$320 comes from

Social Security benefits for the two older children whose mother died when they were tiny

Mrs. Mertens occasionally does adoption studies for a social-services agency. "Since July I've made a grand total of \$400," she said.

With an average income of \$1,100 a month, Art and Marianne must cover expenses for the fami-ly whose four children range in age from 7 to 16. During the school year, \$400 a month goes for tuition to the Catholic schools their children attend.

The Mertens built their home in a semirural, racially integrated sec-tion of Oklahoma County, northeast of Oklahoma City. They bought five acres of land at \$720 an acre, Mertens said.

They spent two years collecting building materials. "I bought salvage rights on three houses

tracted for their removal with Urban Renewal," he explained.

Reinforcement for the foundation came from bars cut at local dumps and straightened by Mertens. The window with theBankAmericard sign came from a shop that was being demolished.

Construction lasted four years "I did more than 90 percent of the work," Mertens said.

Finally the family had a solid eight-room house. "I hoped to build it for less than \$5,000," Mertens said. "It cost less than \$4,000."

The Mertens heat with two wood-burning stoves. Wood for the stoves comes from shipping pallets an electric company gives

Mertens to dispose of.
"Buy in quantity" and when prices are low, is Mrs. Mertens description of how the family obtains its food. "We have two big freezers, more than 50 feet of freezer space," she said. And their 70' x 70' garden supplements the Mertens' table.

We get virtually all clothes from Neighbor for Neighbor,"
Mrs. Mertens said. "We don't buy things new if at all possible.

We have old vehicles that Art keeps together with spit and glue," she added. The 1975 Plymouth and a 1972 van waved goodbye to 100,000 miles long ago.

How did this couple get into this frame of mind?

"When studying the Bible I became very aware of references Jesus made to the poor and the emphasis he put on being poor, Mertens said. "I think God calls some people to be poor in fact.

"We cannot see spending thousands on frivolities when so many people don't have necessities," he added.

A fringe benefit for Mrs. ertens: "I sleep a lot better Mertens: knowing we live this way.

(Father Monaban is editor of the Sooner Catholic, Oklahoma City.)

Wearing

By Father John Castelot

St. Paul was in prison. Again. This time at Ephesus.

When Paul's converts in Philippi heard the news they were quite upset. The poor man! In jail!

They knew that conditions in Roman prisons were deplorable. In order to save the empire money, prisoners were given barely a subsistence diet. Paul's followers knew he must be uncomfortable, hungry and lonely.

So, hurriedly, Paul's followers prepared relief packages and sent a messenger to deliver them to their beloved apostle.

Paul wrote a thank you note, which is included in the New Testament Letter to the Philippians. In it he poured out his thanks for their concern, but he assured them that they really didn't have to go to all that trouble. He wrote: "I have learned how to cope with every circumstance - how to eat well or go hungry, to be well provided for or do without" (Philippians 4:12-13.)

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By Father Robert Sherry

Let's sit in on a monthly meeting of the St. Anthony of Padua parish council. Though the parish and its meeting are imaginary, you will see that the members' discussion is true to life.

For six months parish council members have mulled over a question posed by the pastor, Father Miguel Solle: How can our parishioners lead a simpler life during Lent?

The pastor had asked council members to draw up a list of suggestions, based on their own experiences. He wants to publish the list in the parish bulletin and to talk about it in his homily the first Sunday of Lent.

Marilyn Farrell, liturgy coor-dinator, speaks first. "I personally believe that the Bible says all we need to hear about living a simple life. I suggest we compile several quotations from Scripture for the people to pray over during Lent. One for each of the 40 days." Ms. Farrell adds that her

favorite quotations are: "Tell those who are rich in this world's goods not to be proud, and not to rely on so uncertain a thing as wealth" (I Timothy 6:17). Or, "Happy are you who are poor" (Luke 6:20).

The council president, Jim

the world like a cloak

Paul wore the world like a loose cloak. He did not let the World smother him. He could enjoy it or put up with it. He could savor a gournet meal or be content with a hurried snack. He lived what we would call "a simple lifestyle."

A simple life as opposed to what? Not as opposed to complicated. It would be hard to imagine a more complicated life than Paul's. But his life was complicated by people and concern for them, not by concern for things.

Not that he just sat back and let people take care of him. On the contrary, Paul insisted on supporting himself by plying his trade as a tentmaker.

Paul's simple lifestyle left him supremely free for others. He measured his worth in terms of people, not of things.

For a human being to be measured by things is dehumanizing. Something seems wrong when one thinks more highly of ha ring three cars than of promoting families that are loving or serving families that are hurting. A simple lifestyle reminds Christians not to let possessions or status blot out human values. A simple lifestyle allows people to be human themselves, not slaves to a twisted value system.

Jesus put it this way: "Wherever your treasure lies there your heart will be" (Luke 12:34).

•If our treasure is people, our hearts will be fixed on them and that is ennobling.

 If your treasure is in things, our hearts will be enslaved to them and that is debasing.

But when it comes to defining a simple lifestyle specifically, it's not easy. It is so relative. A simple lifestyle in the United States or Canada might seem positively luxurious in Third-World countries.

Every Christian has to determine in his or her own circumstances whether or not a particular lifestyle is in harmony with gospel standards. These are standards that insist on the primacy of human values over material ones.

(Father Castelot teaches at St. John's Seminary, Plymouth, Mich.)

FOOD...

...for thought

The way to spend time, resources, energy: That is what a simple lifestyle is about, said Patricia Davis.

The simple lifestyle grows out of a perspective — one that "recognizes God is the creator and ultimate owner of all," she said. It means recognizing that "all people are equally valuable and entitled to a life of human dignity."

"As children of one creator, we are obliged to be aware of others and share. We have no unlimited right to accumulate things while others are dying," Ms. Davis commented. She is a nurse who holds a master's degree in theology and who currently works in Washington, D.C., as an addictions counselor.

D.C., as an addictions counselor.
Experience "teaches me that less is more," she observed. For her there's a danger in accumulating things thoughtlessly: "Possessions can begin to possess you. It's so easy to accumulate more than you can care for."

And possessions can give people a "sense of self-sufficiency, to think, 'I deserve all these possessions. I don't need others or God,'" she said.

For Ms. Davis, living simply doesn't necessarily mean embracing a life of poverty. Most people need some security and possessions to "make us happy and comfortable," she said.

Instead, it's adopting a certain attitude or approach toward life; making practical decisions in light of the values of Jesus.

Living simply "encourages me to community life," Ms. Davis said. For instance, having only one car in a family "calls on family members to cooperate, to negotiate who goes where when," the mother of three now-adult children explained. "This draws us toward intimacy and community" and it "reinforces the truth that we are dependent on each other. We learn to share."

Ms. Davis told of attending a meeting connected with her work as an addictions counselor. There a former drug addict spoke about how he developed a whole new slant on his life.

The young man explained how annoyed he was after a long and low period in his life to find that after paying his rent, making his car payment and buying food, he had only \$23 left.

But as he brooded, it occurred to him that he wasn't sleeping in an alley anymore, he had a car, his bills were paid and he "still had \$23." Then he realized that he "had what he needed," Ms. Davis said.

nity-style simplicity

lawrence, speaks next. He suggests that parishioners could learn something about simplicity of living by participating in group discussions on the U.S. bishops' oroposed pastoral letter on the U.S. economy.

He explains: "I don't agree with everything in the letter. But I was particularly impressed when the histhops said the highest priority but to be placed on fulfilling her basic needs of the poor. Again I was impressed when they said that meeting the needs of the poor and increasing their participation in society should be a prijority when investing wealth, talent and human energy."

Sister Lupe Martinez is parish coordinator of religious education. She thinks people "learn by seeing and doing." She suggests having parish family evenings during

"We could start with a modest, supper of lentil soup and prayer, she says. "Then we could show films about the starving people in ithiopia and other countries. People might be encouraged to make their personal suggestions about simple living."

mil Sapansky, director of social services, suggests that each year theparish sponsor the training, traisportation and the ministry of sevral volunteer missioners from theparish who would serve in Central or South America.

In Sapansky's view, the missionaries would return with "personal stories of their experience of people who are obliged to live a simple life. We could all learn from them." He adds that he was a missionary years ago and "the experience changed me for life."

The director of the parish thrift shop, Betty Franklin, suggests that during Lent each parishioner practice "living a simple life." One way is: "Abstain from or, better yet, don't serve that extra dish of food at dinner. We Americans can all get by on a lot less."

The chairman of the finance committee, George McCoy, speaks now. "I've been waiting to say this for years. Before we can sponsor anyone or anything, something else must start first. We must begin to give much more in this parish. It is learning by doing. It will remind people each week to live a simple life and to help others. I've been tithing for seven years, and the Lord has blessed me for it."

Six of the 12 members of the parish council have now given their suggestions. What ideas on the simple life would you offer if you were next to speak?

(Father Sherry is director of the U.S. bishops' committee on Priestly Formation.)

...for discussion

- 1. Father John Castelot wonders what distinguishes a simple lifestyle and what it is distinguished from. He poses the question this way: "Simple as opposed to what?" He asks the question after looking into the life of St. Paul and finding it simple, but complicated as well. How would you answer his question?
- 2. Father Castelot suggests that a simple lifestyle has the effect of freeing people. What is it that people pursuing a simpler lifestyle might be freed from, in your opinion?
- 3. Father David Monahan and Cindy Liebhart both write about couples who pursue simple lifestyles. Yet the lifestyles of the two couples are quite different. What does this suggest about the meaning of the word "simplicity"?

SECOND HELPINGS

"Re-treat Your Family to Lent," by Sister Sandra DeGidio, OSM. Suggestions for keeping a Lenten journal, for providing Lenten support to family members and for a renewed understanding of fasting and almsgiving are discussed in this four-page publication. Lent is "a time to get back to the basics of Christian living," the writer says. She suggests that Christians think about fasting from some TV viewing, from impatience or from drugs, including alcohol; that they think about almsgiving in terms of sharing personal energy, sharing one's time or sharing oneself, e.g., baby-sitting without pay for a mother who doesn't get out very often; adopting a family that is needy in some way and sharing material goods, time or compassion with them." (Catholic Update; St. Anthony Messenger Press, 1615 Republic St., Cincinnett, Ohio, 45210. Cost: 25-99 copies, 20 cents each.)

CHILDREN'S STORY HOUR

Francis and the beggar

By Janaan Manternach NC News Service

Francis had everything he wanted. His family was rich. His father owned a big company that bought and sold expensive cloth.

Francis had a lot of fun when he was young. He went to parties and liked to play the flute and to dance. He had fancy clothes, the best foods and plenty of money.

His father wanted Francis to become a partner in his cloth business. But Francis dreamed of becoming a famous knight, riding a white horse, doing brave deeds.

So one day Francis put on his heavy armor and mounted his horse. Carrying his spear in his right hand he rode off to fight the

Along the way he met another knight who was so poor that he had no armor, just a broken spear. His clothes were more like rags. His horse was thin and weak.

Francis felt so sorry for the sad knight that he gave him his own

7. thgkni

shield and sword and his fancy clothes.

Afterward Francis began to think seriously about how he was living. He made a pilgrimage to Rome. There he saw people in the streets begging for money, food, clothes. Francis' heart was touched. He gave them all his money. Then he exchanged his clothes with one poor beggar.

One day he found a leper - a man with a terrible skin disease. No one would come near him. Francis hugged the man and took care of him.

Francis began to believe that people meet Christ especially in the poor. Francis read the Gospels saw that Jesus lived a very simple life. He saw that Jesus was always with people no one else cared about - the poor and sick, lepers, sinners.

So Francis went back home to Assisi. He told his father he would not become a cloth merchant.

Francis moved out of his father's mansion. He began to live



a very simple and poor life. Like the town beggars he begged each day for a place to live, for food to eat and clothes to wear.

Francis' simplicity and care for the poor inspired many men and women to live as he did. They gave their money to the poor

Francis and his brothers and sisters lived in huts and caves or in simple houses. They owned nothing. They begged every day for their food and a place to stay. They cared for sick and poor people. They prayed. They preached to the people about Jesus Christ.

People called them Franciscans. People who knew Francis began to think that he was very much like Jesus. The church recognizes him as a saint. His feast day is celebrated every Oct. 4.

(Ms. Manternach is the author of catechetical works, scripture stories and original stories for

A PUZZLEMENT

Unscramble the words below. All the words are in this week's children's story. Another word is spelled out in the boxes with

Example: 1. gerbag | B | E | G | G | A | R 2. rancfis 3. pesogls 4. taisn 5. mpiles 6. susej

Answers: 2. Francis, 3. Gospels, 4. saint, 5. simple, 6. Jesus, 7. knight

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☐ The people of the church always seem fascinated by the memory of St. Francis. Why do you think Francis fascinates people and makes them feel happy?

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"Balley's Window" by Anne Lindbergh is a highly imaginative story about children learning to include another person in their lives. Balley is a city cousin who comes to spend the summer with his country cousins. The country cousins don't really want him and he feels it. So he does everything he can to make them as miserable as he is. Then Balley accidently discovers a way to break the pattern of mistrust between him and his cousins. In the end the cousins decide to spend summer vacations and other holidren teacher. mer vacations and other holidays together on a regular basis. (Harcourt, Brace, Jovanovich Publishers, 1250 Sixth Ave., San Diego, Calif. 92101. Hardbeck, \$12.95.)



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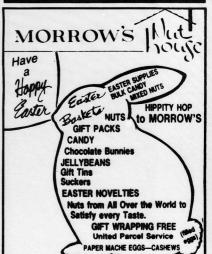
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the active

e List welcomes announcements of parish and church related activities pp them brief listing event, sponsor, date, time and location. No an-nota will be taken by telephone. No pictures, please. Mail or bring notice Friday prior to the week of publication.

d to: The Active List, 1600 N. Meridian St., P.O. Box 1410, 1

March 22

Scecina Memorial High chool, 5000 Nowland Ave., will old a Lenten Dinner from 4:30 to p.m. Complete meal. Adults 3.50; senior citizens \$3; children

The PTO of St. Lawrence Parish, Lawrenceburg, will sponsor a Fish Fry from 5 to 8

A Way of the Cross written by ranciscan Father Justin Belitz id a Soup Supper will be held at p.m. at St. Bartholomew Irish, Columbus.

St. Vincent de Paul K. of C. will sponsor a Lenten Fish Fry at 6 p.m. in the K. of C. Hall, 22nd and "M" Sts., Bedford.

Deadline for reservations for Day-by-Day Retreat for alcoholics and their families March 29-31 at Kordes Enrich-ment Center, Ferdinand. Call 812-

A meeting for Pastoral
Musicians will be held at Our
Lady of Lourdes Church, 5333 E.
Washington St. Dinner and
meeting at 6:30 p.m. in the school
cafeteria. 8 p.m. program
features Frank Harrison and
Lourdes music ministers. Call
Nancy Hublar 257-2064 or Joan
Stucker at 842-1232 for information.

St. Roch Men's Club will sponsor a Fish Fry from 5 to 7 p.m. in the school cafeteria, 3500 S. Meridian St. Adults \$3; children \$1.50. Proceeds to Holy Family Shelter.

A Parish Community Retreat which will last through March 26 begins today at 7 p.m. in Father Conen Hall at St. Lawrence Church, 4650 N. Shadeland Ave.

St. Matthew Parish, 4100 E. 56th St., will conclude its Renew season with "Eyes Upon the Cross" by Don Mueller, a series of vignettes depicting Jesus'

Get Rid of the Winter Blahs! Come and Enjoy Yourself

CARD PARTY

Sponsored by Sacred Heart Church

Sun., March 31 — 2:00 PM

Everyone Welcome

Passion and Resurrection as performed by CTS, at 7:30 p.m.

Holy Spirit Women's Club will sponsor its Annual Lenten Fish Fry featuring Peachey's Catering from 5 to 8 p.m. in the school gym, 7241 E. 10th St. All you can eat. Adults \$\$\frac{1}{2}\$\$ (hildren 6-11 \$2\$; children under 6 free.

St. Vincent de Paul Society of St. Monica Church, 6131 N. Michigan Rd., will hold a Lenten Supper of homemade bread and soup at 6 p.m. Free will offering to benefit Food Pantry.

March 22-23

A CYO Quest Retreat for high school freshmen and sophomores will be held at the CYO Center, 580 Stevens St. from 6 p.m. Fri. to 6 p.m. Sat. Call 632-9311 for in-formation.

A Pro-Life All Night Vigil will begin at 7:30 p.m. Fri. at St. Monica parish. Stations, Mass, speaker, film "The Silent Scream," Rosary, and closing Mass at 12:15 a.m.

March 22-23-24

A Women's Weekend Retreat on the theme "Characteristics of Christ" will be conducted by Father James Farrell at Fatima Retreat House, 5353 E. 56th St. Call 548-7681 for information.

A Retreat for women will be held at Mount St. Francis Retreat Center. For information call 812-

A Tobit Weekend for Engaged Couples is offered at Alverna Retreat Center, 8140 Spring Mill Rd. For information call 257-7338.

March 23

Sacred Heart Booster Club will sponsor a Spring Flea Market on the grounds of Sacred Heart School, 2322 N. 13½ St.,

An RCIA Retreat will be of-fered by Sr. Gwen Goss and the staff of the Beech Grove Benedictine Center, 1402 Southern Ave., Beech Grove. Deposit \$5; balance \$10. Call 788-7581 for information.

St. Vincent de Paul Parish, 1711 S. "!" St., Bedford, will hold a Life in the Spirit Seminar in the school cafeteria at 7:30 p.m.

Chatard High School will offer its Placement Test for eighth graders from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. Doors open at 8 p.m. \$10 test fee due that day.

The third of three free talks consored by Holy Angels Parish ill focus on "Common Issues: will focus on "Common Issues: Divorce, Remarriage, An-nulments, Sacraments, etc." from 7 to 8:30 p.m. in the school, 28th and Northwestern Ave.

Nativity Parish, 7200 Southeastern Ave., will sponsor a Chili Supper from 5 to 7:30 p.m. followed by a Monte Carlo from 7:30 p.m. to midnight. Drawings for 500 Mile Race tickets, \$50, and Beef n' Boards tickets.

The Terre Haute Deanery Youth Day will be held at St. Mary of the Woods village church and school from 1 to 11 p.m. Workshops, swimming, games, liturgy, dinner and dance. \$2 per student. For information call Paula Sasso 812-232-8400.

St. Catherine of Siena Ct. #108 will sponsor a Spring Clean Up Card Party and Salad Spread from 12 non to 4 p.m. at St. Peter Claver Center, lower level, 3110 Sutherland Ave. Donation \$7 at the door.

St. Ann Ladies Guild will hold st. Ann Ladies Guild will hold its first annual Easter Bazaar from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. in the school hall, 2850 S. Holt Rd. Homemade lunch available 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Booths, crafts, kiddie patch, quilt raffle.

March 23-24

Holy Trinity Parish, 902 N. Holmes Ave., will hold a Spring Bazaar beginning at 10 a.m. both days. Meals served from 11 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Sat. and from noon to 4 p.m. Sun. Plants, baked goods, boutlined drawings boutique, drawings.



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"Have you ever thought, Potter, that you might be happier with another firm?

March 24

A Vocation Program on "Love is a Couple: Listening and Decision Making" will be held from 2 to 7 p.m. at St. Paul Parish, Sellersburg, Potluck supper (meat, beverage, utensils provided).

St. John's Festival of Arts will present St. Malachy Choir in a free concert at 4:30 p.m. in St. John Church, 126 W. Georgia St. 5:30 p.m. Mass follows.

A Mother-Daughter Com-munion Breakfast will be held after 10 a.m. Mass at St. Monica arter 10 a.m. Mass at St. Monica Church, 6131 N. Michigan Rd. Speaker: Franciscan Sister Sue Bradshaw. All mothers and daughters ("your own or on loan") are invited to attend.

Scecina National Honor Society and Scecina Booster Club will sponsor a "Cruising Into Spring" Fashion Show and Brunch at 12 noon in the school cafeteria, 5000 Nowland Ave. Adults 46: students 44. Call 366-6377 or 636-1858 for reservations.

March 25

The concluding program of the "Breaking Through" enrichment series for homemakers will be held from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. at Alverna Retreat Center, 8140 Spring Mill Rd.

The Scripture Study Series continues at Alverna Retreat Center, 8140 Spring Mill Rd., from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

The last sessions of the The last sessions of the scripture study program on the Acts of the Apostles will be held at St. Ann Parish, 14th and Locust Sts., Terre Haute, at 9:36 a.m. and at 7:30 p.m.

Deadline for six-day directed retreat at Kordes Enrichment Center, Ferdinand, from Palm Sunday through Holy Saturday. \$25 per day. Call 812-367-2777.

March 26

A Mature Living Seminar on "Gospel Portraits of Jesus" will be held from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in Room 251 of Marian Hall, Marian College. Bring sack lunch or buy

(Continued on next page)

RESPECT

PRO-LIFE ALL NIGHT VIGIL March 22-23

Stations of the Cross - 7:30 Opening Mass — 8:30 PM Closing Mass — 12:45 AM

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Holy Spirit Women's Club

Annual Lenten Fish Fry

Friday, March 22nd

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the active list

(Continued from page 18)
New Albany Deanery Catholic
uth Ministry will present a
digious Studies program on
uicide" from 7 to 9:30 p.m. at

March 27

A Father/Son Evening on the theme "Where is God in my Life's Journey?" will be conducted by Fr. Joseph Schaedel from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. at Fatima Retreat House, 5353 E. 56th St. Call 545-

The study of the Book of Revelations sponsored by the Central Catholic Office of Religious Education and conducted by Fr. Mark Svarczkopf will be concluded at St. James Parish, 1155 E. Cameron St., from 7:30 to 9 p.m. ***

Msgr. Raymond Bosler will present the last of four sessions on "What Can I Do/Believe and Still be Catholic?" at St. Monica Church, 6131 N. Michigan Rd. at

The "Free to be Me" film and discussion series by Fr. John Powell concludes from 8 to 9:30 p.m. at IUPUI Catholic Student Center, 1309 W. Michigan St.

St. Michael Parish, 30th and Tibbs, continues its Lenten Series with Fr. John Ostdiek speaking on "Holy Spirit—Gifts of the Spirit." Mass 5:30 p.m.; soup and sandwich supper 6:15 p.m.; speaker 6:45 p.m.

St. Bernadette Parish ends its mid-week Lenten observances with a 7 p.m. Mass and program on "Faith: In Search of God."

St. Vincent de Paul Parish, 1711 S. "I" St., Bedford, will host an ecumenical Lenten Brown Bag Luncheon in the school cafeteria

A CYO Leadership and Service Institute will be held at 7 p.m. at the Youth Center, 580 Stevens St.

A Personal Development Workshop will be conducted by Sr. Betty Drewes at Kordes Enrichment Center, Ferdinand

from 7 to 9 p.m. Call 812-367-2777 for information.

A Scripture Enrichment Retreat on "Peace and Justice; Peace and War; Peace and Charity" as found in Holy Week scriptures will be conducted by Benedictine Father Conrad Louis

at Fatima Retreat House, 5353 E. 56th St. Call 545-7681 for in-

March 30

St. Vincent de Paul Parish, 1711 S. "I" St., Bedford, will hold its last Lenten Life in the Spirit Seminar in the school cafeteria at

The East Deanery Scripture Workshop rescheduled from March 9 will be held today.

March 28

Deadline for reservations for Sacred Triduum of Holy Week Guided Retreat with Benedictine Sisters at Kordes Enrichment Center, Ferdinand. \$75 fee. Call 812-367-2777

March 28-31

A Christian Awakening Retreat for high school seniors will be held at Mount St. Francis Retreat Center from 7 p.m. Thurs. to 6 p.m. Sun. For in-formation call 812-923-8817.

March 29

St. Lawrence PTO will sponsor a Lenten Fish Fry from 5 to 8 p.m. at St. Lawrence Parish, enceburg.

The Way of the Cross of St. Alphonsus, a Communion supper and soup supper will be held at St. Bartholomew Parish, Columbus, at 6 p.m.

St. Vincent de Paul K. of C. will hold its last Lenten Fish Fry at 6 p.m. at the K. of C. Hall, 22nd and "M" Sts., Bedford.

Scecina Memorial High School, 5000 Nowland Ave., will offer a Lenten Dinner from 4:30 to 7 p.m. in the cafeteria. Adults \$3.50; senior citizens \$3; children \$2.

St. Simon Parish PFO will present its spring carnival "A Night Under the Big Top" from 5:30 to 10 p.m. in the school, 8400 Ray Rd. Complete fish dinner adults \$5; children under 10 \$2.75.

March 29-30-31

A Day-by-Day Retreat for Alcoholics and family members will be held at Kordes Enrich-ment Center, Ferdinand. Call 812-367-2777 for information.

A Retreat for Widows and/or Widowers will be held at Mount St. Francis Retreat Center from 7:30 p.m. Fri. to 2:30 p.m. Sun. Call 812-923-8817 for information.

Scecina High School "Cruising into Spring" **BRUNCH & STYLE SHOW** Sunday, March 24th 12:00 Noon

Scecina High School Cafeteria 5000 Nowland Avenue, Indianapolis

ADULTS - \$6.00 STUDENTS - \$4.00

TICKETS CAN BE RESERVED BY CALLING: 356-6377 or 636-1858

- Spring Carnival -

A NIGHT UNDER THE BIG TOP

St. Simon School 8400 Roy Rd. - Indianapolis

Friday - March 29, 5:30-10:00 PM Fish Fry

Complete Dinner — Children's portions available

Adult & Children's Drawings Games Awards Clowns

"Balloon Animals" . Magician with Animal Act Sponsored by: Parent-Faculty Organization

March 30-31

St. Vincent de Paul Parish will hold a Parish Mini-Retreat conducted by Benedictine Father Mel Patton from 2:30 to 6:15 p.m. Sat. and from 1:30 to 5:30 p.m. Sun. in the school hall, 18th and "I" Sts., Bedford.

March 31

A Sign Mass for the Deaf is celebrated at 10:30 a.m. every Sunday in St. Joan of Arc Church, 42nd and Central Ave.

St. John's Festival of Arts will present Herbert Harris, organist, and Juanita Mae Harris, soprano, in a free concert at 4:30 p.m. in St. John Church, 126 W. Georgia St. Mass follows at 5:30 p.m.

A Sign Mass for the Deaf is celebrated at 9 a.m. every

Sunday in St. Barnabas Church, 8300 Rahke Rd.

Sacred Heart Church, 1530 Union St., will sponsor a Card Party at 2 p.m. Everyone

The Adult Catechetical Team of St. Joan of Arc Church will present a free Workshop conducted by Fr. Cosmas Raimondi and Mary Bein on the Bishops. Pastoral Letter "The Challenge of Peace: God's Promise and Our Response" from 1 to 5 p.m. in the parish center, 42nd and College.

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YOUTH CORNER

Many youth activities offered around diocese

Programs also for adults working with youth

A number of programs and activities are available around the archdiocese to youth and those working with

► A single elimination coed volleyball tournament will be held March 23, at the CYO Youth Center, 580 Stevens St. in Indianapolis begining at 9 a.m. Entry is \$17.50 per team and is open to all jur units in the archdiocese. Teams must consist of three boys and three girls.

►Irene Friend, Chicago archdiocesan director of youth ministry, will speak at the CYO Youth Center on athletics in youth programs 6:30-10 p.m. on March 27. Registration is \$5. Call the CYO Youth Center, 317-632-9311, for more information. The presentation is part of the Leadership and Service Institute, a training and certification program for all CYO adult supervisors.

► The CYO Style Show and Dance will be held March 31 in the Holy Name cafeteria in Beech Grove. The show will begin at 7 p.m. and is open to boys and girls. The dance will immediately follow the show. Cost is \$2 and youth may come only to the dance if they

submitted as soon as possible. For more information, contact the CYO

► The registration deadline for the CYO Youth Conference is April 3. The conference will take place April 12-14 at Roncalli High School. The cost is \$18. For more information, contact the CYO Office.

THE NEW ALBANY Catholic Youth Ministry Office is sponsoring several

upcoming activities:

A Youth Mass and gettogether will be held at 6 p.m. on March 24 at Mount St. Francis.

► The series on adolescent issues will continue at 7 p.m. on March 26, with Julie Cornell's presentation on "Suicide" at the Aquinas Center, 707 W. Highway 131 in Clarksville. Call the center,

entered. Entries should be 812-945-0354, for registration information.

►A senior retreat will be offered at Mount St. Francis March 28-31. For more information, call the center.

► The application deadline for three scholarships is April
1. The scholarships are available to graduating seniors in the New Albany Deanery pursuing higher education or training in either a college or trade school. Scholarship winners will be announced May 8. For information and applications contact the New Albany Deanery Youth Ministry Office located at the Aquinas

►A confirmation team sharing session will take place 7-9:30 p.m. on April 16, at the Aguinas Center. The session will focus on service projects as well as topics prieviously discussed.



YOUTH MINISTRY WORKSHOP-Sister Kieran Sawyer checks the responses from the Ministry Workshoft — Sister herail Sawyer circus the response from the panel of teens at a youth ministry workshop sponsored by the Archdiocesan Youth Ministry Advisory Committee. More than 100 adults and youths who work with teen-agers attended the program, held at St. Columba parish, Columbus. Pictured are (front row) Jenny Mayer, Angie Bewsey, Colleen Logan and Diane Livingston; and (back row) Amy Jo Kruer, Lisa Folkman, Beth Jackson, Ben Jackson, Carrie Redmond and Jennifer Trimpe. (Photo by Tony Cooper)

THE TERRE HAUTE cost is \$2 and will include Deanery is also sponsoring a number of activities for youth.

►A deanery youth day will take place 1-11 p.m. on March 23 at St. Mary of the

workshops, recreation time, a Mass, games, a meal and a dance. Any youth in the deanery may register by calling Paula Sasso at 232-

A seder meal followed

by a potluck dinner will be offered at 6:30 p.m. on April 2, at the Religious Education Center, 2391 Ohio Blvd., Terre Haute. The cost is \$1. Any youth in the deanery may register by calling Paula

Why do we want sex if it is wrong?

Question: Why is premarital sex condemned? Our sex drive begins at age 10, and that, yes, is too you wish. Those wishing to enter for sex. But seven or eight the show must make the article(s) of clothing to be is. So why is it condemned?

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Did God make us to want sex and then say it is wrong? (Louisiana)

Answer: From time to time, the word "chocolate" appears in this column. I suspect this is a subconscious expression of my immense

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craving for chocolate candy in any form.

What I would like very much to do with my life is to stay at home all day every munching on chocolate goodies.

If I thought the way this week's questioner thinks I

would say that God gave me this desire for chocolate, and therefore I can indulge myself 18 hours a day if I so

But my physical and perhaps even psychological health would suffer.

At the risk of deep unhappiness, even tragedy, we have to regulate our desires, whether the desire is for chocolate, or beer, or sexual intercourse.

We have to use God's creation in accordance with God's plan or we run into trouble, whether we are 10 years old, or 18, or 65.

Saying "Thy will be done," as we do every Sunday at Mass, often involves a difficult struggle.

But God has never said sex is wrong. And the Catholic Church proclaims that sexual intercourse is not only good but also sacred

within the framework of marriage.

God does not ask us to refrain from sexual in-tercourse outside of marriage just to make things difficult for us. Rather he guides us in this direction for our hap-

I think premarital sex turns God's wonderful gift into something trivial. And if sexual intercourse is something trivial before marriage, it may be trivial after marriage.

Controlling our sexual desires while we are single requires self-discipline. This is excellent preparation for the strong self-discipline that is required for married life.

Consider too that we become most human when we master our desires and impulses. This type of selfdiscipline leads us to the happiness and satisfaction we seek in our lives.

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March 1 thru March 31

Roncalli senior wins 1985 state wrestling title

Maxwell won the 1985 state wrestling title in the 167 pound weight class. He defeated three opponents in the state championship, the last in a 3-2 overtime thriller.

The win brought his perfect season record to 40-0.

Past honors include the 1981 CYO Cadet Championship (126 pounds), 1982 Marion County Freshman Championship (155 pounds), 1985 Indianapolis City Championship and three regional championships. His overall high school wrestling career sported 105 wins, 15 losses and one tie.

Roncalli qualified three other wrestlers for the tournament, Pat Bender at 138 pounds, Bill Mappes at 155

Roncalli senior Chris pounds and Doug Lutgring at axwell won the 1965 state 177 pounds.

The Rebels, coached by Wiley Craft, finished the tournament in sixth place with 30 points.



Chris Maxwell



Catherine, Roch dominate play festival

CYO One Act Plays Festival held March 10, at St. Catherine's in Indianapolis. Six plays were entered. A standing-room-only crowd of 275 attended the performances

formances.
St. Catherine won best play, best make-up and best costume and design in the light comedy division with "Tom Sawyer's Morning."
Winners in individual categories from St. Catherine were: David Genier (best actor), Lydia Martinez (best actress), Carla Aton (runnerup best actress) and Pete Corsaro and Margee McHugh (best direction). Jim Wad-(best direction). Jim Wad- the Ril dick from Holy Spirit in In- Children.

best actor award.

St. Roch was equally dominant in the comedy farce division winning best play and best make-up with "The Wizard of Oz." Winners in individual categories from St. Roch were: Mark Gaskill (best actor), Todd Windmiller (runner-up best ac-tor), Kris Windmiller (best actress), Tina Schafer (runner-up best actress) and Dick Gallamore (best Tina Schafer direction). St. Monica won best costume and design for its play "The Girl and the Gold Mine."

Money raised through concessions was donated to Riley Hospital for

Gov't defends ties with Vatican

PHILADELPHIA (NC)—The Justice Department March 15 defended the establishment of U.S.-Vatican diplomatic ties, saying that the president has a right to establish diplomatic relations with any jurisdiction he regards as a legitimate nation. The government asked a federal judge in Philadelphia to dismiss a suit brought by Americans United for Separation of Church and State and several religious groups saving the of Church and State and several religious groups saying the U.S.-Vatican relationship is unconstitutional.

Good Friday shopping is 'scandal'

COLUMBUS, Ohio (NC)-It is a "grave scandal" that COLUMBUS, Onto (NC)—It is a grave scannal that Christians turn their time off from work into a shopping spree on Good Friday, Bishop James A. Griffin of Columbus said in his first pastoral letter to his diocese. On the sacred Triduum, "the three holiest days of the church year," the bishop said, "it can no longer be business as usual for the Christian."

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Outstanding CYO musicians give recital

The 1985 annual CYO Contest was held Saturday, Feb. 16 at Chatard High School. More than 400 contestants participated, according to Edward J. Tinder, CYO assistant

executive director.

Judged outstanding in their divisions and classifications were 23 individuals and groups. They

were: Jason Sherman (alto saxophone solo); Kirk Riutta saxophone solo); Kirk Riutta (clarinet solo); Glenda Agostino (flute solo); Nancy Beckerich, Christine Gard-ner, Christina Hingtgen, Alicia Holland, Ellizabeth Holland, Hilary Horvath, Sarah Wiehe and Ellen D. Wu, (piano solos); Molly Cain and Maria Stephens, and Katy Harold and Christine

Hingtgen (piano quest),
Riutta (trumpet solo);
Liberty Ann Beltran (violin
solo); Melanie Canatsey,
Ramsey Harkness and
Marisa Zuckerman (vocal
solos); Ramsey Harkness
and Scott Neitheisel, and Niki
Smith and Colleen Hoeping
(vocal duets); Sara Miller,
toward duets); Sara Miller,
t

Hingtgen (piano duets); Matt Lawrie, Diana Carver, Riutta (trumpet solo); Christina Adimire and Scott

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Cardinal Hume's book could be spiritual classic

TO BE A PILGRIM, by Cardinal Basil Hume, OSB. Harper and Row (New York, 1984). 230 pp., \$13.95.

The spirituality of St. Benedict has enricised the church for many centuries. The great Benedictine abbeys of Europe and America have en in the forefront of the liturgical renewal of our times. Abbot Columba Marmion has nourished the spirituality of countless seminarians throughout this

century.
In that same spirit,
Cardinal Basil Hume's
"spiritual notebook" should become a modern treasure for all to share. He pres

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brevity, charm and unction.
It is most impressive.
Since the book developed through sermons, homilies and occasional addresses, these is a server to be the control of the ere is some uneveness to it, development of the cardinal's thoughts. It appears that quite a bit of the material was rewritten with this publication in mind.

The "death to sin and life to God" theme that pervades Marmion's works finds its echo here. The author makes spirituality attractive to the spirituality attractive to the general reader while he encourages the more advanced to go higher. Whether he's dealing with the sacraments or morality, he always starts with the basics and leads his readers on.

really intriguing. Quite simply, the cardinal takes a look at the wide variety of traditional forms of prayer. traditional forms of prayer.
Then he has a priceless little section on the "prayer of incompetence." That's when you want to pray but can't keep a spiritual thought in your head!

While the book will serve admirably for adult spiritual reading, it has so many valuable insights that an index in a future edition should be mandatory. With that, I would say this gem of a book could well become a modern classic.

(Father Dollen is book review itor of The Priest magazine.)

REST IN PEACE

(The Criterion welcomes death notices from parishes and/or individuals. Please sub-mit them in writing to our office by 10 a.m. Monday the week of publication.)

† ARNOLD, Dempsey, 53, St. Christopher, Indianapolis, March 10. Husband of Virginia; father of

† COBERLY, Helen Catherine, 89, Assumption, "dianapolis, March 12. Mother of Edward, Lewis (Bud), Ruby Hill and Gertrude McAllister; grand-mother of seven; great-grandmother of 19; great-great-grandmother of eight.

† DUKE, Laura H., 68, St. Columba, Columbus, March 2.

† GREGORY, Richard L., 39, St. Christopher, Indianapolis, March 7. Husband of Linda; father of Darcy McDaniel, Tarie and Danielle Zimmerman; son of Connie McNeeley.

† JONES, Leomia, 87, Holy Angels, Indianapolis, March 7. Mother of Eva Simpson.

† LONGONI, Thelma Leona (Lee), 71, St. Agnes, Nashville, March 7. Mother of Michael and Mary Ann.

† NIX, Richard A., 47, St. Columba, Columbus, March 4. Husband of Kay; father of Ralph, Rebecca and Alan.

† REUTER, Mary (Mae) C., 75, † REUTER, Mary (Mae) C., 75, Assumption, Indianapolis, March 13. Mother of Joseph Bridgewater; sister of George and Ernest Norris, Helen Rice and Florence Randall; grand-mother of six; great-grandmother of 11.

† RONNEBAUM, Helen, 78, St. Jude, Indianapolis, Feb. 17. Wife of Joseph E.; mother of Mary F. Peat, Ann Sahm and Robert; sister of Marie Simmermeyer; grandmother of eight.

† SCHERZER, Carrie, 92, St. Pius, Troy, March 3. Sister of Louis.

† SMERDEL, Boyan, 72, St. Christopher, Indianapolis, March 10. Father of Diane McCoy and Dennis; brother of Joseph, Freda Dezelan, Margaret Finley and Josephine Kreffel.

† TUCK, Rilla (Ruth) M., 96, Churchman Manor Nursing Home, March 8. Stepmother of Laurene T. Barnes and Sarah

† ULSH, Thomas M. Sr., 67, Our † ULSH, Thomas M. Sr., 67, Our Lady of Perpetual Help, New Albany, March 12. Husband of Mary Sue Bucheit; father of Thomas M. Jr., and Suzanne Phillips; brother of Mary Byrne; grandfather of three.

VOGT, Angela H. Pfiester, 65, St. Michael, Charlestown, March John P., Phillip, and Sharon Satterly; grandmother of eight; daughter of Louise Pfiester; sister of Mary Jewell, Theresa Voza and Alberta Smothers.

† VOLK, Matilda J., 82, St. John, Enochsburg, Feb. 7. Mother of Helen Stuhrenberg.

† WRAY, Morris L., 49, Holy Spirit, Indianapolis, March 3. Husband of Dee; father of David, Tom, Robert, Tracy and Julie A.; son of Mabel; brother of Betty Weber and Janet Wollenweber.

Catholics Books of special interest to

By Richard Philbrick

WASHINGTON (NC) Here is a list of new books of particular interest to Catholic

"Six Modern Martyrs," by e a modern treasure to share. He presents 271 pp. Brief biographies of Catholicism with Archbishop Oscar Romero, Father Maximillian Kolbe, Martin Luther King Jr. and

"My Country Right or Wrong?" by Eileen Flynn, Loyola University Press, \$3.95, 98 pp. Examines the moral responsibility of the soldier who may be ordered to push the nuclear arms

button and describes what constitutes proper human conduct under these cir-

The Awakening Call," by James Finley, Ave Maria Press, \$4.95, 155 pp. Practical book that provides insight into the actual practice of contemplative prayer.

"Contemporary Catholic Theology," by John Tully Carmody and Denise Lardner Carmody, Harper and Row, \$9.95, 228 pp. Extensively revised edition of a 1980 book aimed largely at undergraduates.

"Sin: A Christian View For Today," by Father Xavier Thevenot, Liguori Publications, \$2.95, 80 pp. Translated from the French. Explores basic questions about sin using the Bible, church tradition and findings from human sciences.

"To Comfort All Who Mourn," by Carol Luebering, St. Anthony Messenger Press, \$4.95, 90 pp. Outlines what a community can do for its grieving members.

"Fresh Bread," by Sister Joyce Rupp, OSM, Ave Maria Press, \$4.95, 159 pp. Hand-book for spiritual growth shaped for reading and prayer throughout the year.

"Jews and Christians: Getting Our Stories Straight," by Michael Goldberg, Abingdon Press, \$12.95, 224 pp. Professor at St. John's University John's University, Collegeville, Minn., suggests that the age-old doctrinal dispute between Jews and Christians has its source in a clash of interpretations centered on two specific Bible

Sr. Lawlor buried March 13

ST. MARY OF THE WOODS-The Mass of Christian Burial was offered here March 13 for Providence Sister Mary Benita Lawlor. She died March 10 at 94.

The former Mary Elizabeth Lawlor was born in Malden, Mass. She entered the Sisters of Providence in 1917 and made final yows in 1925. During most of

her religious life, she served as a cook and housekeeper.
Sister Mary Benita was assigned to Ladywood, Indianapolis, and St. Benedict,

Terre Haute, in this archdiocese She also carried out assignments in Illinois, Maryland, New Hampshire, Washington, D.C. and Massachusetts. She retired to St. Joseph's in Quincy, Mass., in 1980 and returned to St. Mary of the Woods in 1981.

Survivors of Sister Mary Benita include a brother-in-law, Roland Reardon, of Malden, Mass.; a nephew, Roland Reardon, of Stoneham, Mass.; and a grandniece, Maureen Brosseau, of Plymouth, Mass.

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MX opposed as first-strike weapon

WASHINGTON (NC)—The ever-clearer opposition of the U.S. bishops to the MX missile—from serious questioning two years ago to outright rejection this March—is a good illustration of how moral interior. principles enunciated by the bishops can gradually be applied with ever greater precision to public policy issues.

The MX was only a footnote in "The

Challenge of Peace: God's Promise and Our Response," the national pastoral letter on war and peace issued by the bishops in

After outlining moral criteria that the After outlining moral cried to the bishops thought must guide nuclear defense decisions, the pastoral said, "In light of these general judgments we oppose some specific proposals in respect to our present deterrence posture."

The bishops described the first proposal they opposed as "the addition of weapons which are likely to be vulnerable to attach yet also possess a 'prompt hard-target kill' capability that threatens to make the other side's retaliatory forces vulnerable. Such weapons may seem to be useful primarily in a first strike."

In a footnote following that passage, the bishops commented, "Several experts in strategic theory would place both the MX missile and Pershing II missiles in this

In 1981 and 1982, while the pastoral letter was still being developed, a few bishops publicly opposed the MX. Their criticisms usually centered on two areas.

They asked first whether the MX, with its multiple independent warheads, its high accuracy and its own vulnerability on the ground, was not primarily a first-strike

weapon that could dangerously destabilize nuclear deterrence.

nuclear deterrence.

They asked secondly whether the massive costs of the multi-billion-dollar project could be morally justified in the face of unnet human needs in the United States, and particularly in light of the tions about the strategic value.

Following issuance of the pastoral, in September 1983, 14 bishops issued a joint statement urging defeat of the MX.

They cited the pastoral's opposition to

destabilizing weapons whose primary use seems to be first-strike. "This general statement (from the pastoral), in our view, can readily be applied to the MX missile," the 14 bishops said.

In June 1984, in joint testimony for the

3 urge 'no' vote

(Continued from page 1) surrounding the MX missile system and the arguments advanced against the system by a significant number of military experts, it would appear that the necessity for and the efficacy of the system are sufficiently dubious as to warrant that serious con-

dubious as to warrant that serious consideration be given to allocating to housing the monies proposed for the MX," he wrote.

Archbishop O'Connor and Bishop Malone expressed support for U.S.-Soviet arms control negotiations under way in Geneva, Switzerland. They acknowledged President Reagan's claims that he needs the MY was the strengthen the IUS. the MX vote to strengthen the U.S. negotiating position there, but they did not let that argument override their opposition on moral grounds to the funding of the

U.S. Catholic Conference Congressional hearing, Cardinal Joseph Bernardin of Chicago and Archbishop John O'Connor of New York asked for serious "reconsideration" of the MX and came to an explicit recommendation against it.

Just before discussing the MX secifically, they cited cost and impact on the arms race as the two major moral criteria for evaluating any new system. "If particular system is found to be of dubious strategic value ... and yet is certain to cost large sums of money, then se two criteria lead us to recomme against the system in question," they said.
They called the MX "perhaps the single

ntroversial decision in nuclear

most controversial decision in nuclear policy before the Congress."

"In the pastoral letter a year ago," the joint testimony said, "the bishops called attention to the MX as the kind of technological decision which requires intense political and moral assessme believe the same kind of assessment is still needed. If anything, the number of knowledgeable analysts who have expressed reservations or outright opposition

to the MX has increased since publication of our pastoral letter."

Their joint testimony went on to note that "the continued questioning of its strategic value, as well as its assured cost, should be sufficient to require a reconsideration of MX deployment.

Then on March 17, as Congress was moving toward new votes on the MX, Bishop James Malone of Youngstown, Ohio, president of the U.S. Catholic Cone, wrote to all congressmen that the USCC was urging them to vote against the

Cardinal Bernardin and Archbishop O'Connor issued separate statements backing Bishop Malone, on grounds of the new dangers to Soviet-American relations that the MX poses and on grounds of what Archbishop O'Connor called the "urgent human needs" unmet because of MX

Three days before the three-pronged USCC attack on the MX was made public, Bishop Maurice Dingman of Des Moines, Iowa, was in Washington to meet with congressmen from his state and urge them

'In the pastoral we had it (the MX) on a back burner," Bishop Dingman said in an interview. "But I felt all along that we would put it out on the front burner-and that's exactly what we're doing."

Vatican's role against racism questioned at U.N.

UNITED NATIONS observer to the United country's system of racial (NC)-The Vatican's commitment to ending racism was both questioned and defended by members of a U.N. panel which monitors compliance with an international anti-racism pact.

The Vatican's permanent

Nations, Archbishop Giovanni Cheli, told the panel the church combats racism the Vatican's report had locally and internationally.

Panel member Afhai Shahi, former foreign minister of Pakistan, said that a Vatican report on its anti-racist efforts contained 'very little" information on

A Swedish member said "inexplicably not mentioned political action." He argued that the Holy See did not deny its political nature as an international entity. But he said that the Vatican "seems what South Africa's Catholic to be more ready to take such bishops are doing to action in some countries than eliminate apartheid, the in others."

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Dutch division over pope's visit

survey of Dutch Catholics showed sharp division over the May visit of Pope John Paul II and reported that a majority disagreed with church teachings on abortion, birth control, divorce and obligatory celibacy for priests

Sixty percent of those surveyed also disagreed with the appointments of bishops since the Second Vatican saying the nominations have gone to churchmen who are too

conservative and who do not dialogue with the faithful.

Ordination of women priests was favored by 57 percent.

The survey was taken by Nipo-interviews, a private public-opinion research organization, and published in the March 2 issue of Elseviers, a Dutch national weekly news magazine. The results were based Catholics in the seven dioceses of the Netherlands.

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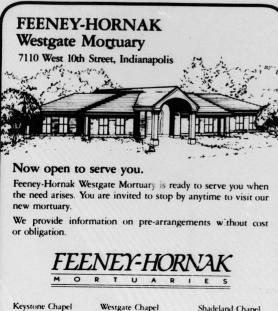
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