

Hot air balloons floated over the countryside near Wisconsin Dells during a weekend of races and a mass ascension.

# They cherish Mother Teresa's gifts

"By Joanne Huebner

When Mother Teresa arrives here June 13 to accept another of the many honors bestowed on the 1979 Nobel Peace Prize winner, two Wisconsin couples will be cherishing priceless gifts she sent

Last week, two little girls from Mother Teresa's children's homes in India arrived at Mitchell Field and into the arms of Barbara and Richard Allmann, of Franksville, and Karen and Allen Henseler, of Utilbart

"We have a lot of people to be thankful for,"

said Mrs. Henseler, 34, the new mother of 5-yearold Carla, "but probably one of the most important is Mother Teresa."

Meeting her "would probably he the biggest honor we've had in our lives," she said.

Mrs. Allmann, 36, the mother of Margaret Ann,

Mrs. Alimann, 30, the mother of mangaret rains 20 months, agreed.

"The nuns sent a note and asked us not to spoil her, but as grateful as we are, I don't know if we're going to live up to that," she said.

Margaret — called Maggie by her new brother and sister, Matt. 8, and Molly, 9 — and Carla are

among the first children from Mother Teresa's orphanages to arrive in Wisconsin.

Another girl, who lives with her family in Appleton, arrived five years ago.

Both Mrs. Allmann and Mrs. Henseler are hoping arrangements can be made for them to meet the woman who has dedicated her life to helping the homeless of India. Mother Teresa will be here to accept Marquette University's Perc. Marquette Discovery Award and more than \$65,000 to support her work.

Children

Turn to Page 7

# Churches face major issue in the '80s

First in a series

Some clerics believe the 1980s will be the decade that brings churches face to face with the issue of homosexuality, including the once unthinkable possibility of homosexually active clergymen.

Scholars have documented homosexuality among clerics nearly to Christianity's beginning. But only since the late 1960s has the gay-pride movement made homosexual rights a modern issue in the church.

While religious publications have dealt with the issue of homosexual clergy, and while some churches have argued publicly- whether to ordain homosexuals, the public remains generally unaware that some clergymen are homosexually active.

"We just started dealing 20 years ago with the idea that ministers are sexual beings," said the Rev. Harold Wells, a United Methodist minister in Des Moines, lowa, who is researching the subject. "Now we are dealing with a part of that, that some ministers are homosexuals,"

Information for this series was compiled over a period of several months by a team of four reporters for The Milwaukee Sentinel. The team's work was under the direction of Kelth Spore, Sentinel city editor. Reporter Dan Patrinos headed the team and did much of the writing for the series. Other reporters on the project were Ron Legro, Jim Bednarek and John Fauber.

"I think the crucial issue within the churches in the 1980s is going to be homosexuality."

Wells' belief that the issue must be brought into the open was echoed by several clergymen and others interviewed by a team of Milwaukee Sentinel reporters.

During seven months of research, the reporters found that small, informal networks of homosexual clergymen exist across the country, extending into Wisconsin.

Through these networks, the re-

porters were introduced to homosexual clerics of several denominations who said they have defied the teachings of their churches, which hold that homosexual activity is morally wrong.

Church officials say only a small percentage of clergymen is involved.

But church officials concede an increasing number of clergymen have publicly acknowledged their homosexuality in recent years, something that did not seem possible a decade ago.

Most Christian churches take the position that people with homosexual orientations should be accepted into the fold, but condemn homosexual activity.

The active homosexual clergymen

The active homosexual clergymen interviewed by The Sentinel said their sexual activities ranged from an occasional "fall" to a promiscuous, but discreet litestyle involving gay bars, steam baths and one-night liaisons at out-of-town motels.

Some clergymen acknowledged their sexual orientation, but said they

· Series on clergymen prompted by letters; Page 5.

attempted to remain sexually abstinent, struggling with their homosexuality in a society that generally despises homosexuals and considers homosexual activity as deviant.

The Sentinel reporters conducted dozens of interviews, eventually learning of 45 clergymen, including 33 in Wisconsin: who said they were homosexuals or were reliably described as homosexuals.

Thirty-eight of the clergymen were Catholic priests, including 30 in Wisconsin. The preponderance-of-Catholic priests in the group is explained by the fact that the project was prompted by information from a Catholic layman.

Most of the homosexual clergymen were asked for Interviews. Fifteen consented; among them were eight Catholic priests.

Clerics

Turn to Page 13 p

: JUNE 1, 1981.

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Sue Kirkbride and Rob Stevens kissed under a balloon on E. Capitol Dr. in Shorewood.

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# Series on clergymen prompted by letters e Milwaukee Sentinel began its y of homosexuality and the hi hast fall when a Catholic layeave reporters six letters-about men. Consequently, in a few instances, reporters concealed their identities and from other sources, and visited the rectories of clergymen. Dozens of interviews were and visited the rectories of clergymen. Dozens of interviews were and visited the rectories of clergymen. Dozens of interviews were and visited the rectories of clergymen. Dozens of interviews were and visited the rectories of clergymen.

The reporters realized that much more extensive research would be needed. They began calling on priests and ministers of other denominations

They talked with:

The Rev. Harold Wells, a United Methodist minister in Iewa who has interviewed 70 homosexual clergymen for a book he is writing.

•Father Clinton Jones, an Episco-pal priest in Connecticut who has counseled 125 homosexual clerics in the past 15 years.

• Father Richard Wagner, a Catho-lic priest in California who recently completed a study of 50 homosexual priests for a doctoral dissertation.

Father John Harvey, a Catholic

Study Turn to Page 10

JUNE 1, 1981

evaluation. A Catholic priest in California recently interviewed. 50 homosexual priests (none from Wisconstin) for a study and found all but 2 were sexually active. The sample was not scientifically interview. selected. .

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-Weakland said he "wouldn't be surprised that we are going to have to deal more clearly with the cases of homosexual priests who get out of the closet, as it were, declare themselves and are ac-tive.

"Pick up a newspaper anywhere, and you'll find that there are priesta around the nation today who publicly admit that they are gay ... (whereas) 10 years ago you would never have found this."

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would admit they were actively homosexual "because they would realize that this is the kind of
double standard you can't live by and we can't tol-

Weakland added it would "make no sense at all" to expect unmaxried heterosexuals to remain cell-bate but not homosexuals.

It think (the homosexual) should declare this orientation to his confessor and spiritual director, if that is not already known — I can't imagine that it wouldn't be — and I think there, he has to be open in getting all the psychological and spiritual aids and counseling that he can.

"But to say publicly that his orientation is homo-sexual I feel in our present society, without any doubt, would compromise greatly his ministry as a priest."

Weakland sald a compassionate attitude toward

The integrity of a homosexually active priest oncerned Blahop Richard Skiba of the Milwaukce

"I think there



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# nurches face major issue in the

Clerics

From Page 1

Reporters told all clergymen they talked with that their names would not be used in any stories and would not be given to church officials.

In four instances, reporters gathered informa-tion by conceeling their identities, and in one of those cases, a reporter Islsely stated he was a homosexual. Those efforts involved visits to recto-ries and a private home to confirm information.

The reporters did not invite any physical contact and sought to avoid it.

These are some of the clerics whom reporters arned about:

A Catholic priest in Wisconsin who says he has had dozens of affairs with clergy and laymen. He wrote about his encounters in lurid, private let-

A Presbyterian minister in the Midwest who has a wife and children but who quietly "cruises" for male sex partners.

An American Lutherau minister who was forced to leave his post in a Midwestern city after choosing to "come out" about his homosexuality. He later was accepted in another Midwest parish as an assistant pastor.

A Catholic priest in Wisconsin who says he likes to fondle men and who secretly admires handsome boys in his parish. He sees himself as having an "occasional weakness" that he has satis-fied with adults despite guilt feelings.

An unmarried United Preabyterian minister in a Midweatern state who was celibate into his mid-dle 50s before affirming his homosexuality and having his first sexual experience.

A Catholic seminarian in Wisconsin who is struggling with his homosexuality and wants to lead a cellbate life.

OA bisexual Episcopal priest in Wisconain who is married and hea children. He says: "I know that my wife knows and she knows I know, although we have never spoken about it.

"I think I'm a good father — my children love me. This may blow your mind," he told a reporter, "but I'm a good husband. We love each other. We share most everything — but not all."

The homosexual clergymen fit few stereotypes. Some of them hold administrative positions. Others preach in small town churches. They inhight be stream from the seminary or retired. Most are well deducated, some have advanced degrees in theology.

There are no documented estimates of the number of homosexual clerics. Few studies have been conducted. A Catholic priest in California recently interviewed 30 homosexual priests (none from Wisconsin) for a study and found all but 2 were sexually active. The sample was not scientifically selected.

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Washington

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son's life in order (for him) to be a credible proclaimer of the Gospel and a spokesperson for truth," he said.

Bishop Cletus O'Donnell of the Madison Diocese noted that in 1975, bishops in the US Issued a pastoral letter that said homosexuals should not suffer loss of their basic rights.

They should have an active role in the Christian community." O'Donnell said,

He said homosexual activity was morally wrong, but because homosexuals "bren't allowed to marry (persons of the same sex), they should be afforded special understanding and care."

He added that an active homosexual should not be working as a priest,

Most of the homosexually active clergymen Sen-tinel reporters talked to considered themselves good ministers and priests.

Daniel C. Maguire, a Catholic theologian, is among those who believe the situation should be discussed openly. He teaches at Marquette Univer-sity and is president of the Society of Christian Ethics.

"Sunlight is the best disinfectant," said Maguire. who is a strong advocate of homosexual rights,

"What has to be done is to take the lid off this secrecy and face up to the fact that there are prob-lems in the cellbare clergy. The experiences of the clergy should not be hidden."

Tuesday: Views on cellbacy differ.

### scheduled

The Milwaukee City Council, Boy Scouts of America, will hold a weekend campour Friday, Saturday and Sunday at Camp Journal, or Highway 83 northwest of Hartland.

About 2,000 Scouts About 2,000 Scouts and leaders from 150 troops are expected to attend, making it the largesta camping event led by the local Scout council.



Page 10-Part

From Page 5

priest in Maryland who has been conducting retreats for homosexual priests during the past three years.

Father Thomas Kane, a Catholic priest and psychologist in Massachu setts, who has counseled about 500 priests, ministers and rabbls with a homosexual orientation during the past 12 years.

The Rev. Charles Goldsmith, a Milwaukee psychologist and United Church of Christ minister whose clients have included more than 100 homogexual clergymen of all main-line religions and Catholic nuns in the past 19 years. He is director of a Milwaukee sex clinic and president-elect of the Wisconsin Psychological Association.

Goldsmith said that traditionally the church "has kept its skirts clean by just getting rid of the people (who cause a problem). That way you don't have to wrestle with it and you don't have to find new forms or new ways to deal with it."

. In the process, the reporters started discovering that when they tried to arrange interviews, local clergymen often already knew why they were calling.

"It's the grapevine in the gay community," said one member of the Mllwaukee scene. "You wouldn't believe how fast word can get around."

#### Bishops reportedly met

Most of the word seemed to be getting around the Catholic Church, upon which the project had first fo-

A telephone call came from a staffmember of the Wisconsin Conference of Catholic Bishops. False rumors were spreading that priests had been approached by reporters and threat-

ened with blackmail if they didn't

Bishops reportedly met to discuss the subject. The rumors continued with one priest charging The Senti-nel series would be anti-Catholic and was designed to torpedo the Milwau kee Archdiocese's annual fund drive.

The reporters assured church officials no one was being blackmalled, that the stories also would deal with other denominations and that names of homosexual clergymen wouldn't be published or given to church offi-

Church officials showed compassion for homosexual clergy, laced with anxiety that openly discussing the situation would cause scandal and confusion.

Bishop Cletus O'Donnell of the Madison Dlocese echoed such concerns during a lengthy interview.

"I am sick and tired of everyone shooting at us from every angle and forgetting the tremendous good," told a reporter. Young men thinking of going into the priesthood might change their minds after seeing The Sentinel articles, he said.

"Now that doesn't mean we want to suppress it - put it in the closet. he added.

#### Fear a familiar topic

Milwaukee Archbishop Rembert G. Weakland indicated he had been contacted by at least one of the homosexual priests interviewed by reporters. The priest apparently was fearful of what might happen to him.

That fear became a familiar topic to the reporters, who soon found themselves discarding any thought that this was a clear-cut issue. They began to examine their own stereotypes, myths — imposed by a culture that generally despises homosexuals.

"We are just beginning to lift the edge of the surface, and there is a

tremendous reluctance to do that." said Eugene Kennedy, a psychologist, himself a former Catholic Maryknoll priest, now married. He has counseled numerous priests.

"What we have is something close to hypocrisy." he said of the church-es' reluctance to deal openly with homosexuality.

#### Afraid of his honesty

Louie Crew, a University of Wis-- Stevens Point English professor who founded Integrity, a national Episcopal-oriented organization for homosexuals, said people were not so much afraid of his homosexuálity as his honesty.

"The primary mood of the church is still very hostile. It's hateful out of ignorance," Crew said.

Homosexuals have suffered so much repression that they are more sensitive to human and spiritual is-sues, he said. Thus, he asserted, homosexuals often make good clergymen.

"Gays don't need the church so much as the church needs gays," he

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### Viet veterans continue fasting

Los Angeles, Calif. - UPI- Viet-nam-era veterans on a hunger strike repeated Sunday their vow to last until death unless President Reagan meets with them at Wadsworth VA Hospital.

The 11 strikers rejected a plea from Robert Muller, executive director of Vietnam Veterans of America. to end their fast.

Muller said a letter from Donald Custis, acting administrator of veter-ans affairs, "has committed the president to the most significant goals Victnam Veterans have been lobbying for over the past several months."

The hunger strikers, supported by veterans staging a sit-in at the hospital lobby, are demanding an inspection of the Veterans Administration by outside experts; additional re-search into the effects of the toxic defoliant Agent Orange and recognition of the so-called delayed stress syndrome as a disease

Two of the hunger strikers were in the 13th day of their fast while the others have gone without food for 6

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