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Reporting Regional Business News

insideinfo

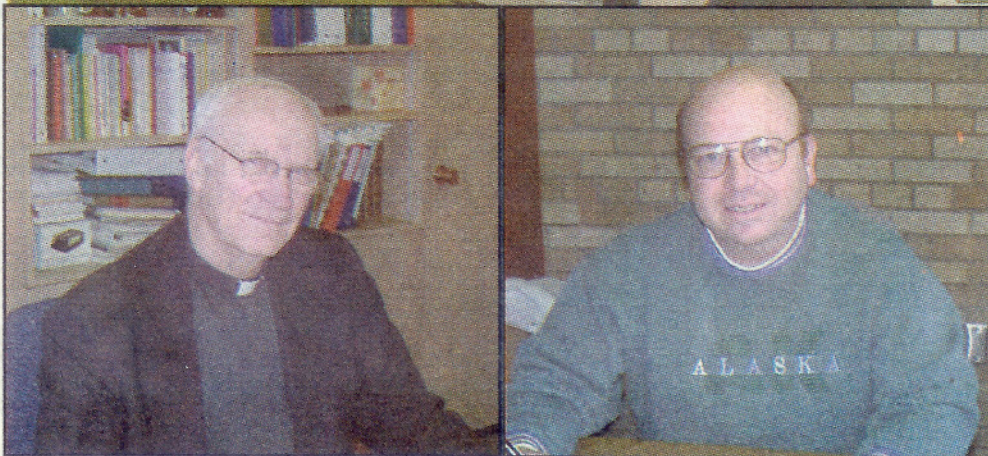
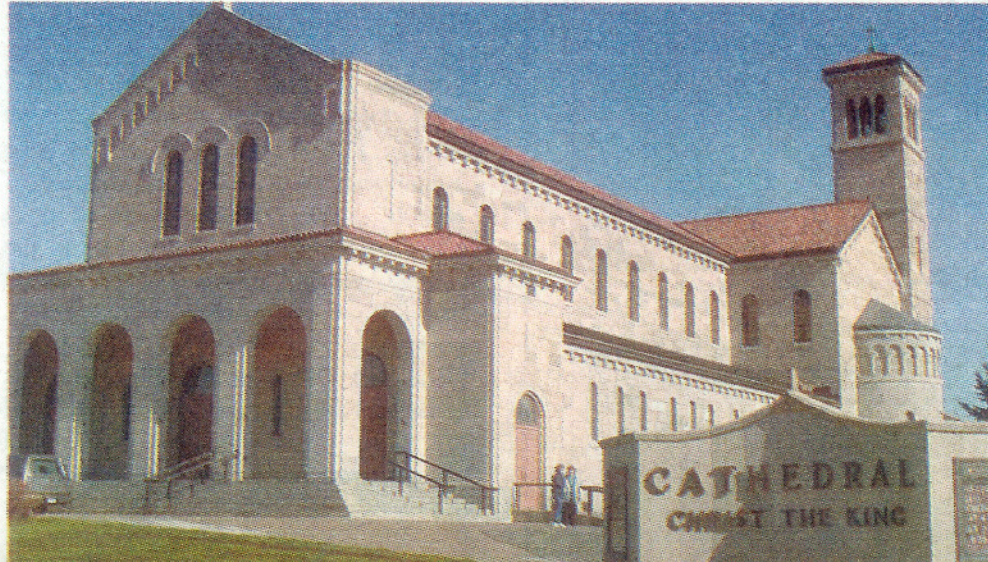
aroundtheregion

One step ahead, one back
in taconite industry

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Banks & Financial Services

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photos by Pamela Rust

Superior's Cathedral of Christ the King is an icon in an institutional Church called to account in a sex scandal cover-up. Above, two local players, the Rev. Philip Heslin, left, of the Superior Diocese and the Rev. Bill Fournier, parish priest at St. Lawrence Catholic Church in Duluth.

Local Church dodges fallout of sex scandal

By Pamela Rust

One in every four U.S. citizens is a Catholic, and millions of them feel angry and betrayed by the sexual misdeeds of priests, and a cover up by some church leaders.

A recent Gallup poll by CNN/USA Today reveals 79 percent of lay Catholics would want a priest who has sexually exploited young people removed from the priesthood. Other polls show a majority of Catholics want no leniency for first-time offenders, and want bishops and cardinals involved in cover-ups fired from their positions.

While the separate Catholic dioceses of Duluth and Superior have instituted zero-tolerance policies, neither has escaped the problem, with one convicted offender serving a prison sentence.

How are parishioners reacting? An important measure is the collection plate.

Church finances continues on page 2A