

Vote on Abortion Bill, Bishops Urge Albany

Albany — The Bishops of New York State have unanimously called upon the Legislature to "act immediately on the Donovan-Crawford anti-abortion bills" and bring them to a favorable vote on the floor of both houses.

The two bills, S 20 (Senator Donovan) and A 2774 (Assemblyman Crawford) restore the protections of the former abortion law for both mother and child. They have been bottled up in committee.

Approval of these bills, the bishops said, would end the "slaughter of the innocent unborn" now legalized under the tragic 1970 abortion law.

"According to current esti-

mates," the bishops pointed out as they asked for action on the bills, "the lives of 300,000 developing infants will be destroyed during the first year under this outrageous law."

Their words echoed a position felt by many in the state that since the bill passed by a single vote in the previous legislature, the new legislature should put the law to a vote during this session.

"In view of the hundreds of thousands of signatures gathered on petitions to the Legislature it would be unthinkable if no action were to be taken on the bills this year," said Charles J. Tobin, secretary of the Catholic committee, in releasing the bishops' report.

More than 500,000 signatures had been presented to Sen. Donovan at an anti-abortion rally held March 29 in Albany by groups from across the state opposed to the 1970 law.

In addition to urging a vote on the anti-abortion bills, the bishops addressed themselves to young, frightened, expectant mothers and urged them to "shun the thought of abortion."

They promised increased and expanded aid to those frightened at the prospect of new

life. They also urged others of like determination to join with them "in providing expanded counseling services and help to frightened mothers in caring for their children."

As recently as December the bishops issued a complete pastoral on the topic of abortion. At the time they stated a clear position opposing abortionists and "their death-dealing trade."

The current bill in the Florida Legislature to legalize euthanasia was predicted by the

bishops last December when they said to the people of New York:

"We plead with you to recognize the terrible consequences of legalized abortion. Once innocent life at any stage is placed at the mercy of others, a vicious principle has been legalized. Thereafter, a simple majority may decide that life is to be denied the defective, the aged, the incorrigible, and granted only to the strong, the beautiful and the intelligent."

Council Considers Optional Celibacy

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convey their opinion that "the Bishops chosen to be American representatives to the Synod in Rome be knowledgeable about problems of world justice and peace as well as the ministerial priesthood."

The council also endorsed an NFPC statement on "Priests and Holiness" with the following: "The unique call of the priests of our times is to struggle as leaders for the renewal of society and the Church. It is within the context of this

struggle that the priests develop his spirituality.

"We call for a rededication of all priests to the mission of the Church today and for the reform of the institutions in it, a reform which provides a climate of freedom to hear the call of the Spirit."

In other business the Council asked that the diocese move "for implementation of due process" as suggested by the Canon Law Society of America and that a committee look into affiliation of the diocesan priests with the NFPC.

Representatives Named To Ecumenical Group

Bishop Hogan this week named a six-member body of representatives from the Diocese of Rochester to the Board of directors of the new Genesee Ecumenical Ministry (GEM), successor to the Rochester Area Council of Churches.

The diocese accepted membership in GEM by the concurrence of Bishop Hogan and the diocesan Priests' Council on March 2. The Bishop has been studying the issue for many months and the Council has discussed diocesan membership in the area Christian association at three separate monthly meetings.

The Bishop's appointees are Msgr. Charles V. Boyle, pastor of St. John the Evangelist Church, Humboldt Street, Rochester, and chairman of the Diocesan Ecumenical Commission; Father Joseph P. Brennan, rector of St. Bernard's Seminary; Sister Jamesetta Slattery, SSJ, of Nazareth College; Sister Mary Walter Hickey, RSM,

Mercy High School faculty; Gerald Sass, Our Lady of Lourdes parish, Rochester.

GEM, born early in 1970 and organized by denominations rather than churches, will undertake "a common Christian mission beyond parish ministries and responsibilities."

The governing board of directors will be composed of two representatives from each member denomination; six from the Catholics; five appointed by the black Rochester Area Ministers' Conference (RAM); four elected from "sectors" (neighborhood or regional groupings defined by the board) and nine at-large members.

Members so far are: the area Methodists, Presbyterians, American Baptists, United Church of Christ, Episcopalians, Reformed Church in America and RAM.

The Lutheran Church in America and the area Orthodox Clergy Association have indicated they may join soon.

Cardinal Resigns Vatican Post

Vatican City — (RNS) — Eugene Cardinal Tisserant, 87, French-born dean of the College of Cardinals, resigned from his post as head of the Sacred Roman Church library and archives.

Notice

An individual, posing as a member of the editorial staff of the Courier-Journal, has been making telephone inquiries, relating to drug usage, into the lives of Rochester area residents.

Should anyone call, identifying himself as a member of the Courier staff and proceed to ask questions on drug use that you consider to be unduly personal or self-incriminatory please notify the Courier office at 454-7050 and the Rochester Telephone Co.



Hundreds of angry Catholics from Long Island and upstate areas converged on Albany recently, under the banner of the Celebrate Life Committee of Huntington, Long Island, in opposition to the abortion law. More such demonstrations are planned for the future, giving rise to the question, "Are New York States' Roman Catholics finding their own militancy?"

Pope Stresses Hope at Easter

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fulness was based on "the realism of the Gospel."

Pope Paul spoke from the central balcony of St. Peter's Basilica at noon before imparting his traditional Easter blessing, "Urbi et orbi" (to the city of Rome and the world).

About 100,000 Romans, pilgrims and tourists, gathered in St. Peter's Square, cheered the Pontiff when at the end of his address he wished them a happy Easter in 16 languages, including Russian, Chinese, Vietnamese and Arabic.

The cosmopolitan crowd in the sun-bathed piazza was in high spirits. Young people — Italian soldiers off duty, young priests, seminarians and nuns from many countries, Boy Scouts and youthful tourists in informal attire — were prevalent in the throng and generated an atmosphere of good-natured fun.

While the 73-year-old Pope officiated at a solemn outdoor mass at an altar in front of the portico of the Basilica before his address and benediction, hundreds of toy balloons floated over the huge congregation in the square.

The Pope administered communion to 21 children from underdeveloped countries, including seven Africans. An African hymn was played at the end of the mass.

Americans, Germans and

PROGRESS

The greatest progress in the treatment of breast cancer has come in recent decades. Surgery, radiation, hormone therapy, drug therapy, or combinations of these methods are used successfully, according to the American Cancer Society.

Frenchmen appeared to be the strongest foreign groups in the crowd.

Earlier on Easter morning Pope Paul drove from the Vatican to Rome's northern outskirts to say mass in the new Church of Saints Urban and Lawrence for the inhabitants of the Prima Porta district, which was hard hit in a flood of the Tiber River six years ago.

The Pontiff began with a bleak picture of present world conditions — "new wars and symptoms of others more fearsome," armaments, social strug-

gles, protest movements, moral decadence, neglect of religion, and strains within the church itself.

In what he termed his "Message of Hope," the Pontiff said:

"The dignity of the human person shall be recognized not only formally but effectively. The inviolability of life from that in the mother's womb to that of old age shall have general and effective support. Unworthy social inequalities shall be overcome. Relationships between peoples shall be peaceful, reasonable and fraternal."

Parent-Aid Support Making Albany Effect

Albany — State legislators report they have been swamped with mail from supporters of the Parent-Aid Bill, demanding that the proposal be brought out of committee for a vote in the Legislature.

In particular Assembly Speaker Perry B. Duryea has reported an avalanche of mail.

Duryea was the focus of a letter writing campaign by parents and other supporters of aid to non-public school students. They have been seeking his support to move the Parent Aid Bill (Assembly 123, by Queens Assemblyman Al Lerner) out of committee and to the floor for a vote.

Most observers are convinced that if it is brought to the floor the vote will be favorable for Parent Aid. The bill provides assistance to parents of children in non-public schools on a sliding scale based on tuition costs and parental income. The bill was bottled up in committee last year and never reached the floor for a vote.

One peak of the letterwriting campaign this year was Monday March 29 when it was reported a total of 49 bags of mail were delivered to Speaker Duryea's offices. On the following Saturday it was announced that the Speaker had received over 400,000 pieces of mail so far this year as compared with a total of 120,000 letters during the whole of the 1970 session.

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