

A Sister Explains Her Anti-War Protest

By LAURENCE E. KEEFE

On the afternoon of Monday, April 17, Rochester police arrested Sister Margaret Hall, RSM, in front of the Internal Revenue Service offices at 41 State St.

At the time of her arrest, Sister Margaret was lying on the sidewalk with four other members of a group named Clergy and Laymen Concerned, all wearing signs on their backs identifying them as "Dead Cambodian," "Dead Laotian," or other dead Indochinese.

More than a week after her

Bishops Urged To Help Black Catholic Office

Atlanta — (RNS) — Catholic bishops of the U.S. were urged here to lend their support to efforts of the National Office for Black Catholics to raise funds in dioceses having concentrations of black Catholics.

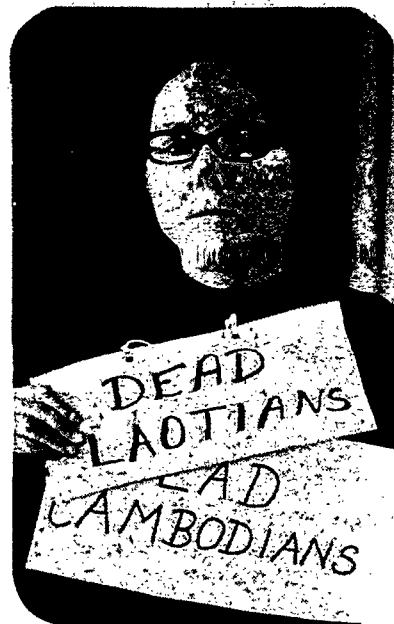
The recommendation was made in a report from the bishops' Ad Hoc Committee for Liaison with the NOBC.

The NOBC has been developing a plan for an appeal for funds to be made some time in October in parishes that serve black communities. An honorary national committee is being formed and Auxiliary Bishop H. B. Perry of New Orleans, the nation's only black Catholic bishop, has agreed to serve as chairman.

Members of the committee also said they were happy to report that communication between the committee and the NOBC had improved greatly in recent months.

"Broadly stated, our goal is to enable black Catholics to contribute more effectively to nation-building among black people," the committee said. "This can be stated in three specific objectives:

- "To move black Catholics to positions of responsibility for the Church in the black community.
- "To move the Church in the black community to make an effective contribution to black liberation.
- "To move the total Church in America to act against oppression and repression."



SISTER MARGARET HALL

arrest for disorderly conduct, Sister Margaret, free on her own recognizance, talked about participation in what she calls "non-violent direct action" against the war in Vietnam.

"I think it's pretty bold of the government to charge anyone with disorderly conduct," said Sister Margaret. "They are the ones conducting themselves in a disorderly manner in their bombing of Indochina."

Purpose of the April 17 action, said Sister Margaret, was to erase the widely held notion that because United States casualties in Indochina have dropped, the fighting has been winding down. The contrary has been true, maintain members of CALC, because of U.S. air raids. "Asians still die and suffer," Sister Margaret said.

"An important part of any action like ours is clear communication," said Sister Margaret, talking about her purposes in demonstrating. "I was willing to be arrested. I suppose we should be willing to take a risk, since we are asking people not to pay part of their income tax, which is asking them to take a risk."

An important figure in several demonstrations mounted by CALC has been the figure they refer to informally as the "Spectre," a tall woman in black robes with white makeup on her face and a sign which reads, "Taxes Buy War."

"The makeup is a very important part of the effectiveness of the 'Spectre,'" explains Sister Margaret. "The first time we used it, the girl didn't have the white on her face, just the black robes, and several people who walked by nodded and said, 'Good morning, Sister.'"

Sister Margaret's involvement with "nonviolent direct action" came about slowly. A Rochester native, she graduated from Brockport State in 1970 and taught for a year at Cardinal Mooney High School. After spending last summer with the Catholic Peace Fellowship in New York city, she returned to Rochester to begin full time work with CALC.

Sister Margaret does not claim to represent the community of Sisters of Mercy in her antiwar activities, but she says, "My religious background has brought me to this political position."

"Lots of people are probably upset by this kind of thing," she admits, "mostly because of stereotypes about nuns."

In support of her right as a religious to engage in political activity, Sister Margaret cites the Interim Constitutions of the Rochester Sisters of Mercy, published in 1971.

The section of the Constitution entitled "Social Justice" urges each sister to form a social conscience, affirms the "mystery of individual conscience," and adds:

"As a Congregation we will loyally stand behind her person, even when we might not be able to stand behind her action."

Photo Workshop At Nazareth College

The photography classes of the Nazareth College Art Department will offer a workshop with Rochester photographer Alice Wells on May 3, 4 and 5. All sessions will start at 1 p.m. in the Nazareth Arts Center and are open to the public.

The workshop will consist of a demonstration of her work, seminar sessions and an exhibit of her pictures from a traveling exhibit of her work put together by the Visual Studies Workshop, 4 Elton St., Rochester.

Miss Wells has had her work exhibited locally at the Eastman House and the Visual Studies Workshop and nationally at many colleges, galleries and museums.

GARAGE SALE

The Women's Guild of Cardinal Mooney High School will hold a garage sale May 6 at the high school on Maiden Lane. The sale begins at 9 a.m. and will close at 3 p.m. Proceeds will be used for the Guaranty Tuition Fund of the school. Mrs. Salvatore DiCesare is chairman of the event. Cochairman is Mrs. Fred Stadtmiller.

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- T hickening or lump in breast or elsewhere
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