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Photo by Ben Susso

Here to Stay

For the third year since the Supreme Court decision legalizing abortion, thousands of protesters gathered in Washington Jan. 22. About 20,000 demonstrators marched from the White House to the Capitol to protest and to express their support for a right to life amendment to the Constitution.

Local marches also took place in major cities throughout the country. The Rochester Right to Life march last Saturday ended four days of pro-life activities in the area.

Father Robert Collins, director of the Diocesan Family Life Office, and William Polito, head of the area Right to Life, traveled to Washington to join the march and to contact the local representatives in Congress.

Sen. Jacob Javits and Rep. Barber Conable were unavailable, so messages were left for them. Father

Collins and Polito were able to speak with Sen. James Buckley and Rep. Frank Horton. Buckley is a major supporter of a right to life amendment, and the author of the one presently before Congress. Horton expressed doubt that a right to life amendment would pass this year. He stated that the best chance for the pro-life cause could be in seeking a reversal of the Supreme Court decision. He added that he favors an amendment to make abortion a state question, a version defeated last year.

Many legislators, including Senator Buckley, spoke to the marchers, advocating election of pro-life candidates. A telegram from presidential candidate Ronald Reagan supporting passage of the amendment also was read.

Father Collins said that more than anything else, the march told the legislators that the abortion question is not going to go away.

Bishop Joseph L. Hogan spoke in St. Mary's Church to participants in Right to Life March at its conclusion last Saturday in downtown Rochester. Taking part in services at the church were Rev. Harold Oswald of Elim Tabernacle Church, Bishop Hogan, and Father Charles Bennett of St. Mary's (left to right in inset). Below, some of the marchers who braved sub-freezing cold to protest the Jan. 22, 1973 decision by the Supreme Court which liberalized abortion in the U.S.



Sister Roberta Named Fr. Brent Successor

Sister Roberta Tierney, SSND, has been chosen to head the Diocesan Division of General Education (Catholic schools) when Father Daniel Brent leaves the post, probably sometime in the Spring. She has been deputy superintendent of schools for the past two years.

Father Brent, who has served the education department throughout most of his 18 years in the priesthood, has been superintendent since 1969. He expects a new appointment within a few months, he said last week.

Sister Roberta joined the school office three years ago, as curriculum coordinator. She had been principal at St. Philip Neri for the previous five years, and she continues to live at the parish convent. She entered the School Sisters of Notre Dame from St. Michael's parish, Rochester, and was educated at Seton Hall University in South Orange, N.J., and at the State University in Buffalo. She has taught at St. Margaret Mary School, Irondequoit, and also in Brooklyn.

Father Brent's departure will leave the school office and the



SISTER ROBERTA

entire education department largely in the hands of women from religious communities. Sister M. James Lynch, SSJ, heads the department, as coordinator of educational services. Sister Michael Lappetito, RSM, is director of the religious education division. Each has several assistants and consultants, including a few lay people. There are five sisters in the general education division as assistant or regional superintendents.

The Beauty Around Us

Churches within the diocese provide some striking and interesting architectural design such as these ornate columns in St. Peter and Paul in Rochester. Photojournalist Ben Susso will be featuring some of the churches in an occasional Courier-Journal word and photo essay. The first of the series is on Pages 10 and 11 in this edition.

