

# COURIER-JOURNAL

24 Pages

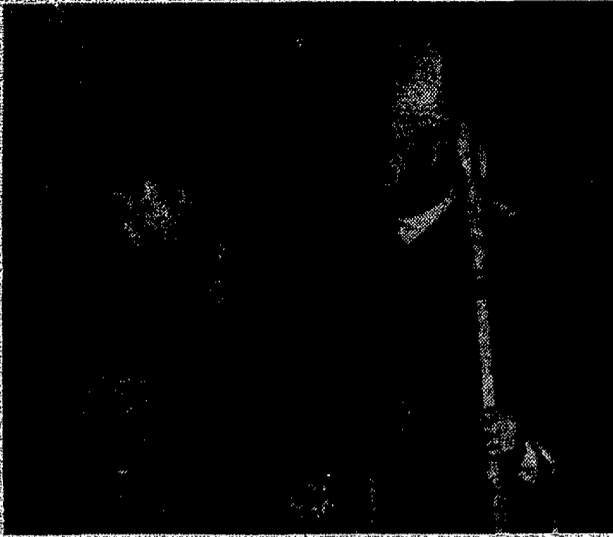
Wednesday, September 29, 1976

NEWSPAPER OF THE DIOCESE OF ROCHESTER

20 Cents



Bishop Joseph L. Hogan celebrated the lawyer's Red Mass at Old St. Mary's Church on Friday, Sept. 24. Some of the lawyers attending the noontime Mass are seen above, left and right. After the Mass, Bishop



Hogan greeted members of the congregation, including Sgt. D.A. Treat of the New York State Police, center photo. Text of the Bishop's Homily appears on page 3.



## Must Rededicate Ourselves to Respect for Life

My dear people,

The celebration of our nation's bicentennial birthday presents us with an occasion to reflect on our nation's history and an opportunity to renew our allegiance to its basic commitments.

During the past 200 years, the United States of America has grown from a community of pilgrims to a major world power. As America pursued her own natural development, she likewise gave witness to the values and ideals that have been a part of her heritage since its inception as a nation. The people of our great nation have always had the desire and commitment to safeguard and assure fundamental rights for all people within our country's boundaries.

America has not hesitated to influence other nations to respect human dignity and human rights. Despite repeated proclamations in behalf of human dignity, however, America has now begun to experience an erosion of that respect for human life, inasmuch as we see all around us increased instances in which human rights are threatened and violated.

Our response to this trend, embodied in our Pastoral Plan for Pro-Life Activities, is directed toward three specific programs:

- \* A program of public information to clarify and deepen an understanding of the basic issues at hand.
- \* A pastoral effort to address the specific needs of women with pregnancy related problems and those who have had or have taken part in an abortion.
- \* A public policy effort to be directed toward the legislative, judicial and administrative areas to insure effective legal protection for the right to life.

It is my happy privilege to inform you that these programs are now being coordinated by the Human Life Coordinator in each region of our 12-county diocese.

Respect Life Sunday provides us with an opportunity to rededicate ourselves to the basic rights guaranteed to all Americans, among which is the right to life. The success of the Respect Life program is mainly attributable to the efforts of each parish in promoting the sanctity of life and dignity of each person through its prayer life, its programs and its public image. It is my sincere prayer and hope that you will support fully the programs of the Pastoral Plan for Pro-Life Activities in your parish.

With a blessing, I remain,

Devotedly yours in Christ,

## U.S. 'Pastoral Council' To Begin Oct. 20

In what has been described as the "first national assembly" or the "first national pastoral council" of the American Catholic Church, some 1,200 delegates from 125 dioceses will attend the U.S. Bishops Conference on Liberty and Justice for All in Detroit, Oct. 21-23.

Bishop Joseph L. Hogan will lead the Rochester delegation which will include eight voting delegates in addition to himself.

These delegates are John Erb, director of Urban Social Ministry, at the Office of Human Development; Gayraud Wilmore, professor of Theology at Colgate-Rochester; Sister Molly Brown, Genesee Hospital Mental Health Outreach Program; Sister Patricia Frisk, theology teacher at Nazareth Academy; Ada Marie Isasi-Diaz, Religious Education coordinator at St. Michael's; Father Jerome Robinson, director of the Black Ministries Office; Father George Wiant, OHD staff member; Barbara Lamphere, Cayuga County Action program.

Attending the meeting as observers will be Father Charles Mulligan, Father Joseph Jankowiak, Sister Mary Wintish, Father Daniel Torney and Timothy McGowan. Others are expected to join the contingent.

A Call to Action, the theme of the conference, is the culmination of a two-year bicentennial celebration of the American Catholic Church.

The 1,200 delegates are invited to consider, debate and vote upon recommendations for action which have arisen from an extended process of dialogue and open discussion all over the country, according to the "working papers" plan for the conference.

Under the auspices of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops (NCCB), parish discussions and seven national hearings were held to discuss directions of the

### Last Chance To Register

The last opportunity for those who have not yet registered to vote will be Saturday, Oct. 2 from 1 to 9 p.m. and Tuesday, Oct. 5 from 3 to 8 p.m. Registration booths are at the same place as voting stations.

This week the Courier-Journal begins a special series on the topics to be discussed at the October conference. Diocesans are welcomed to react to the proposals which may be found on Page 7.

Church in the face of injustice and oppression.

Eight issues or topics have been chosen for discussion and voting at the Detroit conference. Others may be added or substituted at the assembly. The results will be sent

## Right to Life Unit To Survey Candidates

The Rochester Right to Life Committee, which conducted a survey of candidates in the recent primary, also will query those running in the general elections in Monroe County Nov. 2. The survey will center on those running for state and national offices.

Of some 30 candidates in the primaries, 19 responded, according to George C. Wiedemer, who along with Sheila Iuppa is co-chairman of Rochester Right to Life. Since the same questions will be asked in the election survey, the primary winners will not be surveyed again, Wiedemer said.

Four questions are asked of national candidates and three of those running for state office. The national questions are:

- \* Would you vote for a Human Life Amendment to the U.S. Constitution?
  - \* Would you sponsor a Human Life Amendment to the U.S. Constitution?
  - \* Would you vote for a States Rights Amendment to the U.S. Constitution?
  - \* Would you support any amendment to the U.S. Constitution? If so, specify circumstances.
- The state questions are:
- \* Would you vote to ratify a human life amendment to the U.S. Constitution?
  - \* Would you vote to ratify a States Rights Amendment to the U.S. Constitution?

along to members of the NCCB for consideration at their meeting next March and the result will be a five-year pastoral plan "by which the American Church will attempt to move directly and effectively to help bring about a greater degree of liberty and justice for all," according to the working papers.

The eight general topics are: Church, Family, Neighborhood, Work, Race and Ethnicity, Personhood, Nationhood and Humankind.

Respect Life Sunday, the educational phase of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops' Pastoral Plan for Pro-life Activities, will be observed at the weekend liturgies, Oct. 2 and 3.

According to Father Robert Collins of the Office of Family Life, the weekend will also be an occasion for special collections to aid local right to life groups in their activities.

A letter by Bishop Joseph L. Hogan also will be read from the pulpit during the liturgies.

\* Would you vote to ratify any amendment to the U.S. Constitution? If so, specify.

"Our intent with this survey is to make the voter aware of the position of the candidates on the abortion issue," Wiedemer said. "For the primary we handed out to each church in the 130th and 131st Assembly districts, copies of the results of the positions taken by the candidates in those particular districts and we think it had a measurable effect on the outcome of that primary."

Both candidates who received an AA rating from Right to Life in those districts, Donald A. Deming in the 130th, and Gary Proud in the 131st, were victorious in the primary.

"We hope to accomplish the same result, but on a county level, throughout the 80 or so parishes some time in mid-October, preceding the November elections," Wiedemer said.