

Abortion in Italy Draws Objections from Doctors

Rome (RNS)—Legalized abortion officially went into effect on June 6 in Italian hospitals and health clinics, but it faces an uneasy future.

As the Roman Catholic Church continues its denunciation of the new law, which provides for free abortion to women over 18 within their third month of pregnancy, health care specialists warned that Italian hospitals are not ready to

deal with expected demands for abortion.

Cardinal Hugo Poletti, Pope Paul's vicar for the Diocese of Rome, issued a statement denouncing implementation of the new law. He reminded Catholics that abortion is still considered "a grave sin by the Church, one with special sanctions, namely excommunication."

He called on workers in

the health field "to demonstrate their conscientious objection" to the new law.

The Italian lay organization, Catholic Action, reaffirmed its opposition to the law.

Those upholding abortion, meanwhile, are fearful that there is not enough room in hospitals and gynecological clinics to meet the demand and that there will not be enough doctors willing to perform the operation.

Under the law, doctors have until July 6 to tell the government that they refuse to perform abortions for moral reasons. (If a mother's life is in danger from pregnancy, however, any Italian doctor is still required to perform abortion.)

A survey by Il Messaggero, a leading Rome daily, revealed that in one Rome hospital 49 doctors have said they will refuse to perform abortions, three have said

they will carry out the operations and 80 remain undecided. According to Catholic Canon Law, anyone involved in an abortion is liable to excommunication.

The Italian Association of Catholic Hospitals announced last week that its hospitals will not

perform abortions.

In Florence, Dr. Franco Gasparri, director of the city's obstetrics clinic said, "About 70 percent of the doctors here have said they will be 'conscientious objectors' to abortion. And objections by the para-medical staff are almost unanimous."

Party for Father Biondi

Christ the King Parish will honor Father Michael Biondi, CSB, with a farewell party, Monday evening, June 26, at Valle's Steak House on East Ridge Road.

assignment to Christ the King.

All are invited to the party and ticket information may be obtained from George Galen, 266-2022, or Bob Flaherty, 342-1795.

Father Biondi has been associate pastor at the parish for the past two years and is being assigned to Texas.

A native of Rochester, Father Biondi was on the faculty of Aquinas Institute for 22 years before his

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Photo by Martin Toombs

Benefactor Honored

Ivan Sasonov Day in the Twin Tiers Rehabilitation Center at St. Joseph's Hospital June 5 was marked by ceremonies honoring the former hospital employee and Elmira resident for his donation to the center. From left, Sasonov; Stanley Douglas, hospital community relations director; Sister Martha Gersbach, hospital administrator. Sasonov's donation will be used for equipment for the rehabilitation unit. A plaque noting that June 5, 1978, was Ivan Sasonov Day also was unveiled as permanent testimony to his generosity.

CJ

Calendar

MIMEworkshop, 50 Chestnut Plaza, Twilight Crane presented by Theater of the Open Eye (from New York) at 8 p.m. June 17, 2:30 p.m. June 18.

GEVA PLAYERS— At MIMEworkshop, 50 Chestnut Plaza, presenting The Bald Soprano, 8 p.m. June 16.

UR SUMMER THEATRE — That Championship Season, June 14-17, 21-24, May Room, Wilson Commons on campus; 8 p.m. curtain. Box office, 275-4088.

SUMMER FESTIVAL— At St. Salome's, 4282 Culver, June 16, 17, rain or shine. Kiddie land, country store, food booths, spaghetti supper Friday, 4:30-7 p.m.

FESTIVAL IN THE PARK— Saturday, June 17, noon-7 p.m. in Henrietta Town Park. All kinds of music, 40 artists and craftsmen, activities. Free.

RUMMAGE SALE— In St. Pius X Church hall, Van Etten, June 15-17, Friday and Saturday, 10 a.m.-8 p.m.; Saturday, 9a.m.-noon.

FRIENDS, INC. — Singles 18-35, picnic at Creekside Lodge, Elliston Park, Wednesday, June 21, right after work; \$2.

CATHOLIC DAUGHTERS— Court Our Lady of the Cenacle, reception of new members June 20 at St. Philip Neri Church, 1782 Clifford; Mass at 6:30 p.m.

SACRED MUSIC CONCERT— A Right-to-Life benefit, featuring Mrs. Fanny Linder, at St. Margaret Mary Church, Apalachin, 7 p.m. Sunday, June 18.

BALLET PERFORMANCE— Presented by Dance Center of Rochester, at Jewish Community Center, 1200 Edgewood, 8 p.m. Saturday, June 17. Free.

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