

Joan M. Smith, Editor

# DeSales Students Adamant About Their Anti-Abortion Stand

By Joan M. Smith

Eight DeSales High School students were numbered among the thousands who participated in the March for Life in Washington D.C., Jan. 22, the seventh anniversary of the Supreme Court's decision that limited government regulation of abortion. Mack Spelley, chairman of the school's English and Religion departments, and member of the Geneva area Right to Life Movement, organized the group. It was after participating in last year's local march that he decided to have DeSales represented in the national event. In his opinion the march was worthwhile, a success, and showed the growing political strength of the Right to Life Movement.



Photo by Terrance J. Brennan

Marchers were: Mack Spelley, Jerry Morgan, Richard Evangelista, Alison Venuti, Ellen Cooley, Steve O'Donnell, Mark Chilbert, Bob Laws. Not in picture but also a marcher was Chris Colizzi.

The students agreed with him. Senior Alison Venuti said she had realized the pro-life political clout was growing but had had no idea that there were political leaders willing to risk their status to fight until the Supreme Court rescinds its 1973 decision legalizing abortion. She referred to California representative, Robert K. Dornon, and Senator Jesse Helms, North Carolina, both of whom are sponsoring a Right to Life amendment.

His classmates told of busloads after busloads coming in from other states, even from Texas. And there were people of all ages, they noted — the elderly, little children — all walking in the rain.

It was an orderly march, they said, and they found the

police helpful, especially in controlling traffic so the line of march was kept clear. They did encounter one harrassing incident — a lady on the sidelines shouted, "We should tar and feather you and run you out of town."

DeSales have strong feelings about abortion and they are extremely concerned about what they see as a growing

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devaluation of life, not only through abortion but also euthanasia.

"It's like everyone is down on respect for life..." stated Ellen Cooley.

And according to Jerry Morgan it was because of a disrespect for life — first through discrimination then through extermination — that Hitler got his start.

In discussing the fact that the abortion ruling is not compulsory — that individuals have a choice —

whereas an anti-abortion bill would be law and is looked upon as an infringement of people's rights, the young adults quickly pointed to the rights of babies — "What about their rights?" they demanded to know.

As to the abortionists' argument that no one knows the exact moment when a baby becomes human, Richard summed up his colleagues' attitude when he said, "After conception, there is life, and all life is a growing process — it takes time, and if you don't give it time you snuff out life."

## Preparing For Business World

Senior Richard Evangelista was impressed with the numbers of people involved in the Right to Life. "It's bigger than people think it is," he said. "The flow of people was constant."

Nazareth Academy's Future Secretaries Club's goal is to develop both accuracy and speed in typing skills through daily tests. Students achieving 30 or more words per minute are recognized monthly and this public

recognition entitles them to obtain a pin — a small typewriter, in various colors, denoting their rate of achievement.

Throughout the year members develop skill in spelling, using a list of 400 words suggested by business men as most important to their work. In May, a test of 100 words drawn from this list is given and a trophy awarded.

The FSC members enjoy many special activities throughout the year. An annual favorite each May is a panel of four students from the preceding year's graduating class who are now working. These young business women return to answer questions about their company's practices and expectations of them.



Photos by Terrance J. Brennan

## A Special Victory

For the first time in eight years the Nazareth students beat the faculty (11-10) in the school's annual event — and the instigators of this feat — the juniors. In making their way to the final game against the faculty, the juniors won their game against the seniors; the sophomores beat the freshmen, and then the juniors went on to defeat the sophs.

## BKer to Debate

Robert M. Nicosia of Bishop Kearney High School will represent the Monroe County American Legion in the 43rd Annual High School Oratorical Contest. He will compete for the Seventh District Title on Sunday, Feb. 10 at the Mynderse Academy in Seneca Falls.

This contest is endorsed by the Committee of the

National Association of Secondary School Principals, the New York branch of the association, and the New York State Association of Teachers of Speech.

The purpose of this contest is to create interest in and respect for the basic principles of our form of Government. It centers on the Constitution.



## Award Notices

Elaine Holbig, Future Secretaries Club president, and Kathy Terhaar, Junior Future Secretaries Club president, post monthly awards given to members of both clubs.

## The Way it Was — Feb. 5, 1975

Aquinas Institute was 50 years old. Father Albert Gaelens, then principal, said that the school's major accomplishment was "the fact so much of the leadership in this community has been from Aquinas graduating classes."

Bishop Kearney awarded 18 scholarships to incoming freshmen based on the December entrance test and the students' elementary school record. The scholarships were valued at \$7,200.

Cardinal Mooney had an open house during Catholic Education Week, Feb. 2-8. "The week has been designed to give the local community a glimpse at the inner workings of a Christian educational institution," said Brother Aubert Harrigan, then principal.

Also the school's Afro-Asian classes heard the Arab viewpoint of the Mideast crisis from guest speakers invited to the school by Brother John Davies, then head of the Social Studies department.

Bishop Joseph L. Hogan wrote an open letter expressing his sorrow at the decision to close DeSales. Bishop Hogan served as principal of the school during the 1953-54 school year.

Bishop Kearney beat Brighton 5-4 in a Monroe County Hockey League game for its 1st victory of the season after eight losses and a tie.

The Aquinas swim team had two star performers, Terry Ryan and Andy Fornarola, in the City-Catholic League. The team hadn't lost a backstroke event in four years — and that without a pool.