

Protestant Pro-Lifers Step Up Their Anti-Abortion Campaign

By Ann Dargis

Washington (RT) — The pro-life movement has been associated in the public mind with the Roman Catholic Church, but one of the fastest-growing pro-life movements in the United States is Protestant.

In the growth of that movement, evangelical Christians are trying out their political wings and could be helping to launch one of the most formidable reform movements this country has ever witnessed.

The only national interdenominational, Protestant, evangelical pro-life movement in the nation, the Christian Action Council was conceived in 1975 when a group of Christians meeting in Billy Graham's home decided a "biblical witness against abortion and in defense of life must be heard in our nation."

Within the past 15 months, the CAC has spawned 50 active local CAC groups throughout the country "with dozens more in various stages of initiation," according to Curtis J. Young, executive director of the organization.

"We're trying to get Protestant evangelicals in the movement who have for too long neglected involvement and left an unfair burden on the Catholics," Young said in an interview at CAC headquarters here.

For too long Christians have been silent on the abortion issue, Young said. The only reason abortion demand exists, he said, is that Christians have failed to organize their opposition.

"Many Christians have not known how to respond or they haven't had the time, or taken the time, or their pastor hasn't addressed it because it seems controversial."

"Then there's the whole question of propaganda that says unless you speak as a secular person you can't speak. That's a barbaric assumption Christians have to utterly reject. They need to know how to reject that."

Young believes another reason for the lack of Christian involvement is "the trap of exalting personal peace and affluence above every other value."

Put in perspective, he sees the pro-life movement as the most significant reform movement in the history of the United States.

"It affects virtually every area of life," Young said. "Abortion is the door through which a new death-selecting ethic is coming. The idea that there is such a thing as a life not worth living is spreading to newborns and to the other age spectrum in euthanasia."

Young considers abortion to be the most horrendous evil which has ever taken place in this country — worse even than American treatment of blacks in the 19th Century. Treatment of the blacks, he said, "was barbaric, but the intent was to subjugate, not kill."

"Abortion represents an assault on the family through government, specifically judicial, intervention," he said.

'Abortion is the door through which a new death-selecting ethic is coming.'

He alluded to Roe v. Wade, the 1973 case in which the Supreme Court decided unborn infants are not "persons" and therefore do not have any of the rights of "persons," including the right to life.

A primary purpose of CAC and its local branches is to inform and organize local Protestant communities to oppose abortions, principally by laboring for a Human Life Amendment to the Constitution which will recognize the legal "personhood" of the unborn.

The CAC staff includes a congressional liaison. CAC's monthly newsletter keeps its readers up-to-date on new legislative and judicial developments.

"We definitely base our actions on the teachings of the Holy Scripture, and are very aggressive in promoting ethical standards of Scripture as a basis of law-making," Young said. "We have a right to persuade people that we're correct, and as we do, that'll be reflected in law."

Young is thoroughly optimistic about the United States adopting a Human Life Amendment.

"God vindicates the fatherless," he explained. "He will not permit the shedding of innocent blood to continue."

Another reason for his optimism is the growth of the pro-life movement, not just CAC, which he said shows no sign of reaching a peak either in size or enthusiasm. "And as the movement grows in size, it grows in maturity from educational programs: We're learning the processes of change and influence in our society and using them. People get excited when they see they can make an impact on society."

Local CAC action has been varied. Last November the Macon, Ga., group shut down the city's first clinic for second trimester abortions the first day it opened by getting a restraining order. The group, 300 strong, later crammed the city hall for a rally.

Young said the CAC in Philadelphia is in regular correspondence with 100 churches. This group and others are actively committed to educating their communities about the abortion issue.

In addition, many CACs minister to women with crisis pregnancies through local churches, meeting the financial, emotional, spiritual, psychological and physical needs of women who need support to go through with their pregnancy.

Although Young believes Christians are waking up to the issue, he said he still sometimes runs up against a "very lethargic and what we consider to be a very uncourageous leadership in evangelical circles and they don't like to be threatened when a prophetic voice is heard."

ME Plans 'Happening'

The Greater Rochester Diocese chapter of World Wide Marriage Encounter will conduct an all-day celebration of the family on Sunday, Feb. 24 at St. Agnes High School.

According to Greg Kane of Avon, the event, billed as a "Happening," is slated to open at noon. The emphasis on the day's activities will be total family involvement, he said.

"During the course of the Family Happening, Rochester Marriage Encounter wants every family participating to get an opportunity to share and grow as a unit, while learning to perceive each family member as an individual," Kane said.

Slated are a series of peer-level workshops, entertainment for younger children, and a pot luck dinner. The celebration will conclude with Mass at 8 p.m.

For the pot luck dinner, families attending have been

asked to bring a covered dish to pass.

Reservations for the event are made by calling 442-2948, or 328-1260. Registration will also be taken at the opening of the afternoon.

School Tour

A tour of Our Lady of Perpetual Help School will be conducted at 1 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 27, for parents interested in sending their children to the school. The tour provides the opportunity for parents to see a typical day's activities. Registration for September will begin on Monday, March 3.

Seniors

The Senior Citizens' Social Club will meet at the Church of the Annunciation on Sunday, Feb. 24, from 2 to 5 p.m. Alan Peters and orchestra will provide the music for dancing.

Singles

The Spiritual Singles Group will celebrate its first anniversary with a Mass celebrated by Bishop Matthew H. Clark at St. Andrew's Church on Portland Avenue, at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 26. A coffee hour will follow the Mass. Further information on the group is available from Patty Genco, 663-3990.

GATES, N.Y.
DUNN TOWER II
One Bedroom Apartments, Subsidized Housing for Seniors and Handicapped
TEMPORARY OFFICE
189 LAKE AVE.
Philippon Realty
Managing Agent
Office Hours, M-F 10-4
Equal Housing Opportunity
458-6111

St. Charles Borromeo
DEWEY AVE. PHARMACY
Prescription Specialists
Cosmetics—Toiletries
Photo Finishing
2910 Dewey Ave. 865-2210

Hicks
Home Heating Inc.
424-4848 271-4650

KAKE CORNER 1688 CLIFFORD AVE.
near Goodman
3 tier serves up to 100 \$35
4 tier serves 175-200 \$50
3 tier whipped cream with custard filling - serves up to 100 \$55
We Deliver Call 482-1133

FUNERAL DIRECTORS
• QUALITY STANDARDS
• DIGNITY IN SERVICE
• INTEGRITY IN BUSINESS

BURNS - HANNA FUNERAL HOME
1795 Ridge Rd. E. 487-5745

Paul W. Harris FUNERAL HOME INC.
570 Kings Highway South (corner Titus)
SPACIOUS PARKING Private casket selection room 544-2041 AIR CONDITIONED

ARNDT FUNERAL HOME
1118 Long Pond Road near Maiden Lane 225-6350
Ronald John Arndt — Funeral Director
Parishioner at St. John the Evangelist
On Premise Casket Selection — Parking for over 70 cars

Mercy Sisters To Confer

Sisters Mary Noreen Graney and Jane Kenrick will represent the Rochester Sisters of Mercy at a conference Feb. 22-28 in Kingston, Jamaica. The meeting, organized by the Sisters of Mercy of the Union, is "the first overseas conference of Mercy Sisters" ever called, according to an announcement from the local Motherhouse.

Sister Jane will come up to Jamaica from Chile, where she has been a missionary for several years. Sister Noreen, a member of the local congregation's Executive Council, will accompany Sister Jane back to Chile for a visit.

Deaths

Sr. Martin, RSM

Sister Mary Martin Holleran, former office manager at Mercy High School and bursar general for the Rochester Sisters of Mercy, died Feb. 8 at the Motherhouse infirmary, after a brief illness. She was 80 years old.

Nazareth College, and occasionally she was an instructor at the former Catherine McAuley College or taught a high school class in Latin. German, shorthand or typing.

According to Sister Mary de Pazzi, a lifelong friend, Sister Martin applied her mathematical acuity to cards "from Crazy Eights to Bridge," and also was a sports fan, following football, baseball, basketball and bowling.

The Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated Feb. 11 by Father Robert Kennedy, Motherhouse chaplain.

Sister Martin was a native of Elmira and a 1916 graduate of Elmira Free Academy. She was experienced in accounting and secretarial work when she joined the congregation at the age of 32. Because of the nature of her work, she lived at the Motherhouse throughout her religious life. She was a graduate of

"She was a brilliant woman, a marvelous bursar, a great business woman," Sister de Pazzi said.

Sister Martin leaves a nephew, Martin Holleran, and his wife, and friends in Elmira and Binghamton.

... a powerful statement about the violent world in which we live; a story about heroes...

William J. O'Malley, S.J.
THE VOICE OF BLOOD
Five Christian Martyrs of Our Time

THE VOICE OF BLOOD
Five Christian Martyrs of Our Time

by William J. O'Malley, S.J. \$7.95 PAPER

Five men, all Jesuits, were killed in 1976 and 1977 in El Salvador, Rhodesia and Brazil, because of their faithfulness in serving the poor. "A stunning—at times blood-chilling—clarion to faith. Simply, yet vividly told. These accounts do more to bolster belief than all the arguments of St. Thomas. They make God's existence seem self-evident to the reader, as for Paul on the road to Damascus—the light is palpably, irrefutably there."
—WILLIAM BLATTY, author, *The Exorcist*

Father Wm. J. O'Malley, SJ
will autograph his new book
Saturday, February 23rd
1 p.m. to 2 p.m.

Park Avenue Book Store
360 Park Ave. (at Oxford St.)
271-6120

Wash federal ordered for all Medica U.S. Su New Y the I restricti

The review by U.S Doolin Amen constitu governi Medic paymer to bloc the New Suprem case.

Offic

Sc

Last decision Suprem New Y reimburse schools while tender reportin

When decisio Tierney Roche Educati optimis as a be discern

M

Di

Msr was t superini schools Augusti Feb. 15 years of since 19

Bisho celebra Christia Mother Duffy's retireme Christ celebrat evening McCa Augusti