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# COURIER-JOURNAL

NEWSPAPER OF THE DIOCESE OF ROCHESTER

24 Pages — 2 Sections

Wednesday, August 20, 1980

OUR 97th YEAR

25 Cents

## Prayer Service Supports Sanctity of Life Sunday

By Martin Toombs

Waterloo — More than 100 persons attended the public prayer service in Lafayette Park in Waterloo Aug. 10, observing Sanctity of Life Sunday.

Earlier in the day, churches participating in the effort observed the theme in their respective parishes.

The day's activities were part of an effort to get the Taylor-Brown Memorial Hospital to end abortions in the facility, in which 4,008 have been performed in the past 10 years.

The service opened with the singing of the "Battle Hymn of the Republic," and ended with "America the Beautiful." Following the closing, most

participants stayed for a recitation of the rosary.

Father Albert Shamon, St. Mary's pastor, noted the need for such a service, or else people will be "lulled into apathy," and start to "think it (abortion) is all right."

But we must "speak out the Gospel truth," he said. That effort is not designed to impose a morality, he contended, but rather, those seeking easy abortions are trying to impose "quality of life" ethics on society, he said, in which a person's right to live is measured according to his or her usefulness. "It is a solution of problems by death," Father Shamon said, and will progress from abortion to infanticide and euthanasia.

Father Shamon supported

his statement with quotations from several scholars and humanitarians, showing their feeling that a society must preserve respect for all life.

He also criticized the "pro-choice" label those who support elective abortion use, noting that as a moral evil, "abortion is never a matter of choice," as "no one has the freedom" or the right to do a moral evil.

He also told those attending to write the Taylor-Brown board members, indicating their feelings on abortion, and urging them to vote to change the policy.

He concluded by noting that he would like to continue the prayer services on a weekly basis until the policy is changed.



## Pontiff Asks Prayer For Synod on Family

Pope John Paul II hoists a small child during a recent general audience. Last week he published a letter asking the entire Catholic world to pray for the upcoming Synod of Bishops which will deliberate questions of the Christian family. That letter appears on Page 5. Below is the pontiff's own prayer for the success of the synod.

Lord God, from you every family in heaven and on earth takes its name  
Father, you are Love and Life  
Through your Son, Jesus Christ, born of woman,  
and through the Holy Spirit, fountain of divine charity,  
grant that every family on earth  
may become for each successive generation  
a true shrine of life and love.

Grant that your grace may guide  
the thoughts and actions of husbands and wives  
for the good of their families  
and of all the families in the world.

Grant that the young may find in the family  
solid support for their human dignity  
and for their growth in truth and love.

Grant that love,  
strengthened by the grace of the sacrament of marriage,  
may prove mightier than all the weaknesses and trials  
through which our families sometimes pass.

Through the intercession of the Holy Family of Nazareth,  
grant that the Church may fruitfully carry out her worldwide mission  
in the family and through the family.

We ask this of you, who are Life, Truth and Love,  
with the Son and the Holy Spirit.  
Amen.



More than 100 pray at the Waterloo service.

## Friends from Africa Reunite in Rochester

This summer has been a reunion time for two old friends who grew up in the same village in Ghana.

Father John Boateng-Mensah, a priest of the diocese of Kumasi, and Father James K. Duah-Agyeman, former chairman of the board of Rochester's Office of Black Ministries, have been reminiscing in recent weeks about their boyhoods in the village of Abira.

The friends were physically separated when educational opportunities brought Father Duah-Agyeman to the U.S. and the same led Father Boateng-Mensah to Rome. And, by an odd quirk, the friends were ecclesiastically separated when the village of

Abira was split in two by the Vatican. One half of the small town is now in the territory of the diocese of Kumasi, the other in the diocese of Sunyani.

Following a five-year stint in Rome studying music, Father Boateng-Mensah has taken a holiday to visit Rochester. He will leave at the end of the month to assume a brief position of pastoral ministry in Austria, before returning to Ghana.

In Ghana, he said last week, he will be responsible for organizing music and liturgy. "We sort of want to indiginize our liturgy in regard to our music and traditions," he said. "We want to make the

whole liturgy as indiginous as possible. . . to play our music in the traditional way and with the traditional native instruments."

He quipped that the post would mean he would be the diocesan liturgical "Emcee."

The 35-year-old priest who entered the preparatory seminary at 14, was ordained in 1973 in Ghana.

He said that in renewing the celebration of the Mass "there is a great need to make it as accessible as possible and meaningful to the greatest numbers. There is a need for it to be celebrated in peoples' own language and with peoples' own traditions."