



A marcher's sign proclaims its message at the back of Rochester's Bethel Full Gospel Church Jan. 17 during a prayer service which preceded a procession to the Liberty Pole by pro-lifers marking the eighth anniversary of the Supreme Court decision on abortion on demand. About 200 took part in the ecumenical rites.

## 50,000 March for Life In Annual Demonstration

Washington, D.C. — More than 50,000 pro-life demonstrators from around the country, including many from the Diocese of Rochester, marched here last week in protest of the 1973 Supreme Court decisions on abortion on demand.

lifers met with President Reagan; Richard Schweiker, secretary of Health and Human Services; and several members of the House of Representatives for 30 minutes after the march.

The major focus of the "March for Life," an annual event, is the establishment of

a constitutional amendment guaranteeing the right to life of the unborn.

President Reagan has often stated his agreement with the pro-lifers. Earlier in the day, Secretary Schweiker said that his office would pursue a policy of opposing abortions.

A delegation of seven pro-

Sr. Marlene Vigna, RSM



Viewpoint: Sisters Reflect

## A Dream For Future

Most Roman Catholics whose religious education predates Vatican II, will remember the "shape" of the Church as distinctively triangular. Positioned at the apex, the Pope surveys a descending hierarchy, with the laity as the base on which the triangle rests. This "tidy" and structurally convenient model, with its single-directioned-upward accountability, however, does nothing for the heart.

Christians will forever be indebted to the Second Vatican Council for its re-emphasis on the primacy of the Baptismal commitment and its universal summons to ministry within the Church. Today, Christians are less concerned with distinctions between "ordained," "official" ministries and more deeply involved in building the Kingdom whatever be the circumstances of their lives. It is becoming clear, as in no preceding age, that the universal Christian vocation is the same; only the smaller details of how one builds the Kingdom differ. Bernard Cooke notes in "Ministry to Word and Sacraments":

"The entire Christian community is the body of Christ, sharing in Christ's prophetic-priestly role, 'ordained' in Baptism to concerned service..."

This priesthood, a corporately-possessed baptismal gift, defines the Christian community that is, at its core, both priestly and sacramental. Therefore, "ministry," once perceived as the exclusive domain of the hierarchy, is redefined as the responsibility and right of all believers.

Facilitating movement from stratification to a more

fresh view of the content and context of revelation. Each believing community is called to make a re-definition of "staff" from "doers" to "enablers." Creatively enabling recognition and liberation of the community's gifts, and inviting the faithful to a ministry where mutual exchange, insight, and learning reach their fullness remains a challenge to the full-time staff. This challenge enflashes a more-circular model of Church, a model whose countenance is that of a Christ who calls us not servants but friends, in order that the Kingdom might be built with vitality, freshness, mutuality and surprise.

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Sister Marlene Vigna, RSM, is the pastoral assistant at St. John the Evangelist Parish on Humboldt Street.



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Saint Augustine's School - Saint Monica's School  
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