



Sisters Mary Ann Binsack, Margaret Mary Mattie, Barbara Moore, Margaret Deegan and Jean Marie Kearse, superior general, review plans for the congregation's Dec. 12 celebration.

Rochester Mercies Note Congregational 150th

The Rochester Sisters of Mercy, a 287-strong community which has served in the area for the past 125 years, will celebrate the 150th anniversary of the Irish foundation of their group Dec. 12, at the Motherhouse on Blossom Road.

The congregation was founded by Catherine

McAuley in Dublin on Dec. 12, 1831. The group was to serve the poor, the sick and needy, and the uneducated.

Frances Warde, a friend and associate of Sister Catherine, brought the congregation to the United States in 1843. From a first settlement in Pittsburgh, Sister Frances founded congregations from New

England to Nebraska. The Rochester congregation dates its foundation to June 1857.

Saturday's program will emphasize the gifts of the Holy Spirit as they are manifested differently in each person's ministry or service. Sister Elaine Kolesnik, spokesperson for the congregation said.

The day will be chaired by Sister Mary Ann Binsack, Sister Margaret Mary Mattie and Sister Barbara Moore.

A three-member panel will speak on the Spirit in relationship to presence, charisma and the future. Panel members will be Sister Jean Marie Kearse, superior general; Sister Muriel Curran, SSND, vicar for religious; and Sister Mary Fidelis McDonough, a Sister of Mercy from Pittsburgh.

A Mass celebrated by Father Robert Kennedy, diocesan director of continuing education, will close the festivities. The Mass, the theme of which is "Manifestation of the Spirit," will include a ceremonial renewal of baptismal vows by all present, and of religious vows by the Sisters. Co-workers of the Sisters are invited to the panel, liturgy and final reception.

city of Santa Ana filed a cross-appeal, arguing in a California appeals court that the "beyond reasonable doubt" standard is generally recognized to apply to criminal, not civil cases. But the state court rejected that argument, thereby upholding the jury finding.

In reversing the California panel, the high court majority declared that the Supreme Court "has never required the 'beyond a reasonable doubt' standard to be applied in a civil case."

Although the majority ruling may help local officials in the regulation of obscene materials by sending them a clear signal that the "beyond reasonable doubt" standard does not have to be applied to determine obscenity, observers here believe it does not perceptibly alter the high court's basic view of obscenity.

High Court Clarifies Quality of Proof in Obscenity Cases

Washington (RNS) — The U.S. Supreme Court has ruled that juries in obscenity cases are under no burden to prove that the materials at issue are obscene "beyond a reasonable doubt."

The standard of proof, the high court held in an unsigned 6-3 ruling, may be required by the states in civil cases involving obscene materials if they so choose, but "that choice is solely a matter of state law." The federal constitution, the majority insisted, does not require such a standard.

The appeal to the court was brought by Santa Ana, Calif., officials after a trial court imposed the "beyond reasonable doubt" burden of proof on a jury hearing a case involving 17 films shown at a local theater.

Applying the standard, the jury concluded that 11 of the 17 were obscene beyond a reasonable doubt, while four were not obscene. It was unable to reach a verdict on the other two.

Following the decision, the

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Youth Leader: Pro-Life More than Anti-Abortion

Louisville, Ky. (RNS) — The pro-life movement should stand for more than just opposing abortion, according to the leader of the 30,000-member National Youth Pro-Life Coalition.

Mary Anne Hughes, 22, an electrical engineer from Ft. Wayne, Ind., who was elected to a two-year term as president of the coalition, said her group tries to follow the "consistency principle." Therefore, it not only calls for an end to abortion but also opposes the death penalty, genetic engineering and the arms race.

"We say that if you take a pro-life position, to be consistent you need to look at many issues besides abortion,"

Bishop Hickey Recovering

Bishop Dennis W. Hickey has been discharged from the hospital and will be convalescing at home. Bishop Matthew H. Clark asks for the continued prayers of all diocesans for his continued recovery.

Deadline

The deadline for submitting news to the Courier-Journal is noon on Thursday preceding the following Wednesday's publication.

she said.

For example, the coalition adopted a resolution at its 11th annual "Thanksgiving for Life" convention here, supporting "education on draft alternatives" for young men who might be faced with a military draft.

"I'm not saying our peace platform commits us to a pacifist position," Ms. Hughes said, "but it commits us to find a positive solution to problems that could lead to war without resorting to an arms buildup."

Because of such stances, the coalition tries to maintain close ties to organizations "on both sides" of the political spectrum, she said.

Such contacts give the coalition activists a chance to "educate" liberals on the abortion issue and conservatives on such issues as peace, capital punishment, hunger and social justice, members believe.

Abortion remains the "spark" which brought the nonsectarian coalition into being and its main priority, but opposing human suffering is the underlying philosophy, Ms. Hughes said.

"The immediate issue for our group is abortion, since 1.5 million lives are lost each year in this way," she said. "But we feel the pro-life position needs to go far beyond that one issue."

Children's Entertainment

There will be entertainment for children, ages 4-8, in the Children's Room of the downtown Rochester Public Library. There will be films and crafts from 10 a.m. to noon, and 1-3 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 12. The program is free but registration is required. To register, phone 428-7360, or visit the second floor Children's Room.

Dec. 10 Luncheon

The Rochester Federation of Women's Clubs will meet for its annual Christmas luncheon at noon, Thursday, Dec. 10, at Barry's Restaurant, 4370 Dewey Ave. For reservations call Ethel Comfort, chairman, at 482-8775.

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