

COURIER-JOURNAL

NEWSPAPER OF THE DIOCESE OF ROCHESTER
Our 98th Year

16 Pages

Wednesday, January 27, 1982

35 Cents

Respect Life Sunday... Time to Act

By Peg Turiano

Fifty million, worldwide, yearly; 1.5 million, in the United States, yearly; 6,500, in the Diocese of Rochester, yearly!

If these figures represented lives taken by the death penalty, the bomb or disease, they would stir the souls of all but the most hardened to immediate, vocal and sustained action. They do represent death of persons, but persons who are small and easily hidden from view. I am referring to abortion deaths. We do not need large crematoria or bulldozers like the Nazis used in Germany for full-grown bodies. The bodies of the unborn are very small and in abortion are usually dismembered. Even the last trimester babies who are aborted only weigh about five pounds. Easily disposed of — easily forgotten.

Thirty-two percent twice, 23 percent three times.

If these figures represented repeats of convicted rape, incest or murder and the perpetrator were still allowed to exact

Mrs. Turiano and her husband, Angelo, are program coordinators for the diocesan Human Life Commission.

the crime on another victim, the judicial system would be called to an accountability for its leniency. However, these figures represent the percentage of women who choose two, three and more times to end the life of their unborn children through abortion.

The courts' 1973 decision was to allow abortion on demand for any reason at any time of pregnancy and therefore the taking of life is allowed — in fact said to be a right.

Most abortions are done in the eighth or ninth week of pregnancy. The unborn child feels pain from the sixth week and can even be taught conditioned responses. Therefore, these babies feel what is happening to them when they are aborted!

Generous people have been fighting the horror of abortion for many years,

forcing us, the public, to see in our minds, and remember the small victims of a society which has turned its back on its major resource, new life, our children.

Some successes toward protecting life have been achieved but far from enough. The U.S. has known abortion on demand for nine years. It is becoming an acceptable way of life for many. We all know sisters, cousins, friends who have had abortions. Somehow it doesn't seem so horrible when it was done to save young Sally from being embarrassed or Mary and Joseph from having a child with Downs Syndrome in their 40s.

Does the death penalty seem easier to accept if the criminal is a person who has sliced human flesh? Does the bomb seem more acceptable when the nation we bomb was the aggressor? Is this what we as Christians are asked to be?

At last there is real hope of breaking this cycle of death on demand. The U.S. bishops have called for

Continued on Page 4

Bishop Urges Support

In a letter to be read at all Masses next weekend in celebration of Respect Life Sunday, Bishop Matthew H. Clark asks all dioceses to support financially "our pro-life efforts."

Noting that is the only time that he asks such contributions, the bishop said the funds "will be used to help women in distress because of pregnancy. The collection also finances our diocesan Human Life Commission."

In reiterating his support of the Hatch Amendment to the Constitution, Bishop Clark

asks all to sign "the Life Roll Cards which your pastor has made available."

Such organizations as Birthright, Melita House and Got a Friend will share in the funds collected, according to the Human Life Commission.

While Right to Life organizations may apply for aid, such funds "cannot be used in campaigns of persons running for office" or for the Right-to-Life Party.

Each of the 12 counties in the diocese will receive back 45 percent of its donations

through pro-life organizations "aimed primarily at direct counseling, referral and other services for people dealing with an unexpected pregnancy, for the purpose of bringing the pregnancy to term."

No organization can receive aid "which helps a person carry out a decision to induce an abortion."

Fifty percent of the contributions supports the staffing and programming of the diocesan Human Life

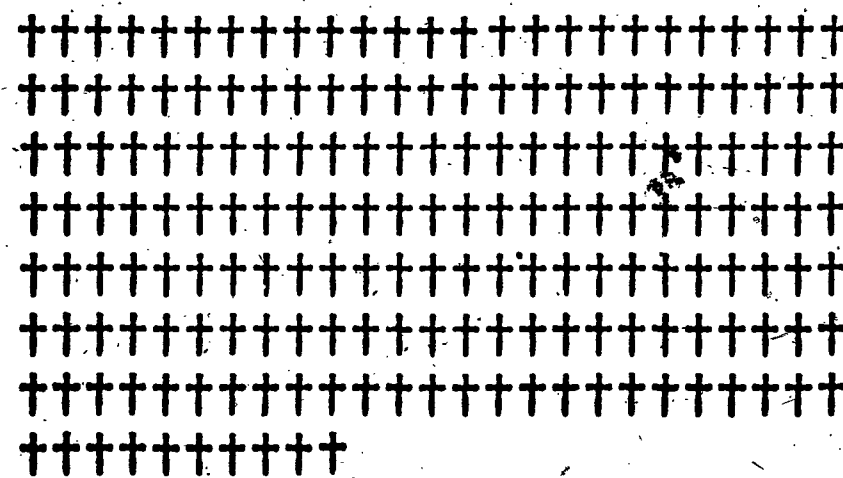
Continued on Page 4

A grim reminder of U.S. war casualties

Each cross-mark represents 50,000 people killed. The war casualties represent all American combat and combat-related deaths.

| | |
|----------------------------|------------|
| Revolutionary War (25,324) | † |
| Civil War (498,332) | †††††††††† |
| World War I (116,516) | ††† |
| World War II (545,108) | †††††††††† |
| Korean War (54,246) | † |
| Vietnam War (56,555) | † |

WAR OF ANOTHER KIND — WAR ON THE UNBORN. 12,000,000 killed by legalized abortion, as of January 1981. In excess of 1,500,000 more expected annually. The U.S. Supreme Court legalized abortion on 22 January 1973.



Statistics compiled by Barbara Syska Research Analyst, National Right to Life Committee

From Abortion: The Silent Holocaust. By John Powell, S.J. Copyright 1981, Argus Communications. (With permission)

Poland Tribute Passes \$50,000

By late last week dioceses had given \$50,253.13 to the Tribute to Poland Fund, the director of the diocesan Missions Office announced.

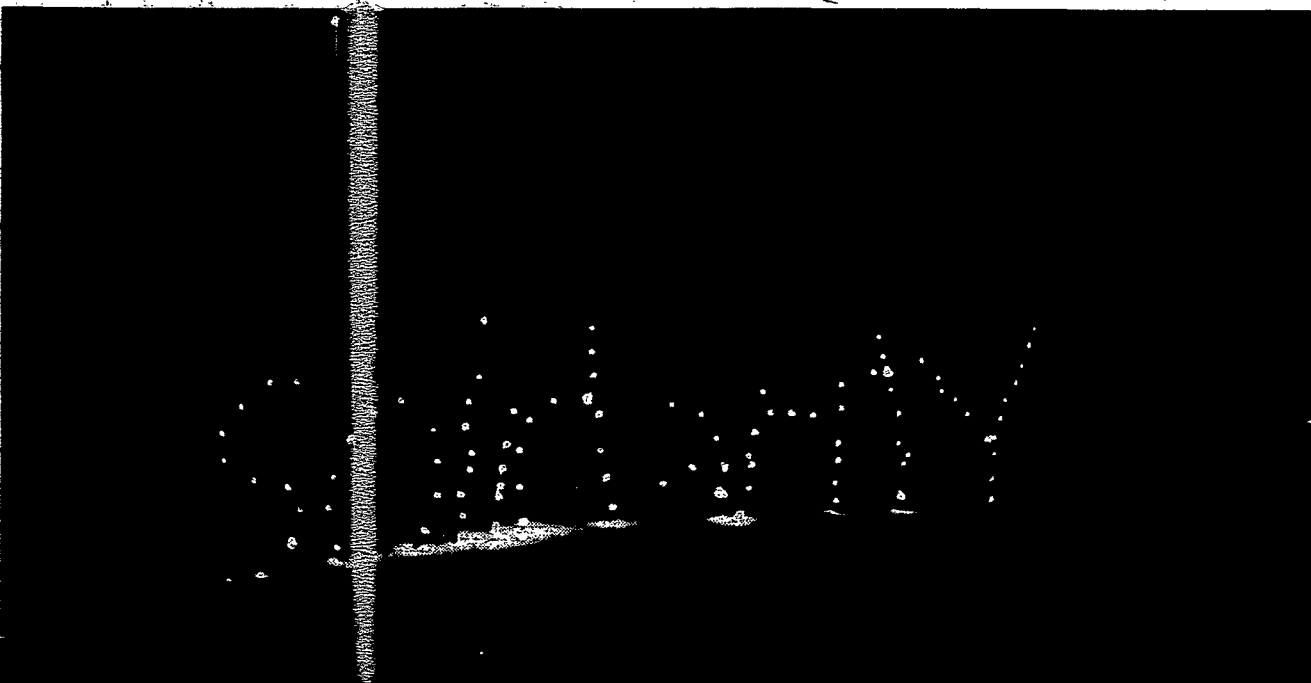
Father Joseph Reinhart, through whom monies for Polish relief are being channeled, indicated that large sums are being donated through parishes with large Polish ethnic populations and by individual contributions.

The money will further the work of Catholic Relief Services in Poland, which, of last week, amounted to more than 23 million pounds of food and clothing valued at \$12.6 million sent to Polish bishops for distribution.

CRS describes itself as the overseas aid and development agency of American Catholics. It was founded by the nation's bishops nearly 40 years ago. Ironically, one of its very first programs was to aid the people of war-torn Poland. The organization was active there from 1943 to 1957.

A report from CRS said that the national contribution to the Tribute to Poland Fund now totals \$3.3 million.

Interested individuals are asked to send contributions to Tribute to Poland, 123 East Ave., Rochester, N.Y. 14604.



The Thomas McGuigan family of Brighton erected this sign on Christmas Eve in front of their Penfield Road home commemorating the crisis in Poland. McGuigan said he plans to leave it up through the winter.