

Help Heal the Breach?

insert about the issues raised at the s' activities. The bulletin was the joint parish staff at St. Patrick's, and was for said.

ther Conboy, the parish staff is ed to honest and open dialogue," on at frequently responses "come in

y, SSJ, pastoral assistant, said several threatened, particularly because they the depot. They're taking it personally, told they're bad people. They are, they are simply uninformed in that comfortable community. We like it the

n about which the counter de- eateden, Father Conboy said, is the n's rights."

es itself on convening women speaking is regarded as having taken a healthy ward that," he said, also noting that mitted civil disobedience in Seneca

ppy and healthy attitude" is absent in community today, he said.

sh office manager, said that for many he focus is on the people (at the camp) and then they overlook anything else.

e. We try to tell them to look beyond they're for is bigger than that issue. ople to do that."

arked that some parishioners are

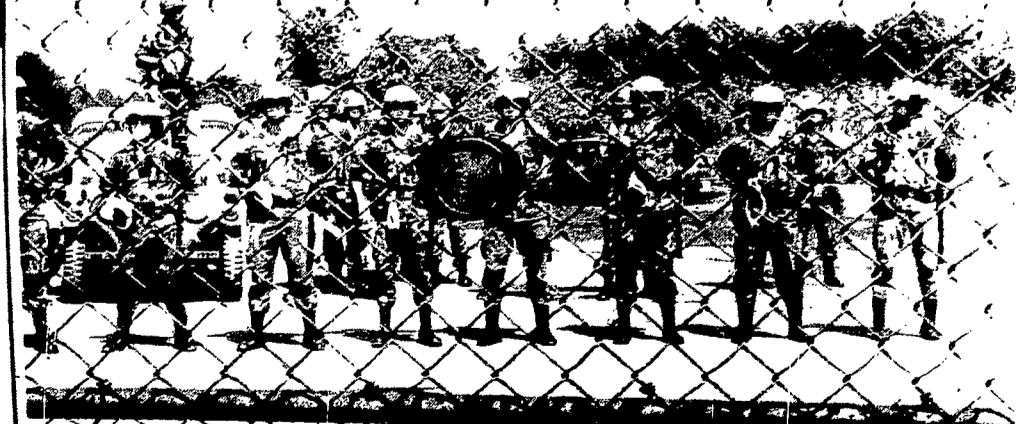


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RESTRICTED AREA WARNING

THIS DEPOT HAS BEEN DECLARED RESTRICTED AREA BY AUTHORITY OF COMMANDING OFFICER IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THE DIRECTIVE ISSUED BY THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE AUGUST 54, PURSUANT TO PROVISIONS SECTION 21, INTERNAL SECURITY ACT 1950. UNAUTHORIZED ENTRY IS PROHIBITED. ALL PERSONS & VEHICLES ENTERING HEREON ARE LIABLE TO SEARCH, PHOTOGRAPHING, MAKING NOTES, DRAWINGS, MAPS...OR GRAPHIC REPRESENTATIONS OF THIS AREA OR ITS ACTIVITIES IS PROHIBITED UNLESS SPECIFICALLY AUTHORIZED BY THE COMMANDING OFFICER. ANY SUCH MATERIAL FOUND IN THE POSSESSION OF UNAUTHORIZED PERSONS...WILL BE CONFISCATED



Military police stand ready just inside the truck gate as the protestors approach last Monday.

"making those the excuses. And some feel that if you take away the presence of the encampment, the issue would disappear."

The parish was host last week to Susan B. Anthony, the grandniece of the famed women's leader and a women's spokesperson in her own right, who had visited the encampment.

A convert to Roman Catholicism some 22 years ago, Miss Anthony has gained a reputation as spiritual leader as well. Her presence at the camp was as a prayer leader and a supporter in the demonstrations.

And the parish has found itself answering for giving food for a breakfast for the marchers. The parish's answer is simply, "What would Jesus have done?"

Speaking from the admitted perspective of several miles distance, in Geneva, Father William Spilly of the Finger-Lakes Office of Social Ministry acknowledged that, perhaps, the local Church is late in responding to the women's encampment. However, he said, area clergy and parish staffs will gather next Wednesday to discuss the camp and the challenges it offers to the Church. In addition, planning is underway to respond to what is expected to be a major demonstration at Seneca Army Depot on Oct. 22.

At the camp itself a number of women religious, both from this diocese and beyond, have made an impact.

Among the visitors to the camp have been diocesan Sisters of St. Joseph and Sisters of Mercy.

A few weeks ago, 45 Sisters of St. Joseph led a prayer service and procession from the camp to the main gate of the depot.

According to Sister Mary Lee Bishop, "Members of the group said that they feel very welcomed by the women of the encampment to share who they are as Catholic women and most especially as Catholic Sisters."

Sister Mary Lee also cited Sister Susan Nowak who observed, "The procession began in an attitude of grief and mourning over the violence being done to the human community by the threat of nuclear war. In the prayer, the faith in the Resurrection of Christ as having overcome all evil was clearly evident through the songs, readings, and personal reflections shared by the women religious."

At least one woman religious, the sole member of her congregation in the diocese, and women from Catholics Against Nuclear Arms, were at the camp.

Sister Margaret Smith, RSCJ, a Sacred Heart religious who lives in Rochester; and Marian Kelley and Clare Regan of CANA, also of Rochester, discussed the camp's attempts to effect a reconciliation with those persons who denigrate the campers.

The women agree that the negative attitudes they encounter may be based on misinformation or lack of information.

Sister Margaret, returning a friendly wave to an obscene gesture thrown from a passing car, said "I found in the townspeople an unawareness of a whole world beyond their own lives." She described an incident in which she and other demonstrators were cursed as "walking through a verbal gauntlet."

In particular, she was distressed by the women calling insults. "To see the women, I cannot describe them. What is happening to the women in these towns? They are being psychologically raped by their men. Yes. I would say that."

Miss Kelley, who is 70, said of the insults, "I have never experienced that kind of hostility."

She likened the event to the accusations hurled against Jesus, "He was accused of consorting with the marginalized."

Sister Margaret said that following the incident in which she was cursed, representatives of other townspeople came to her and apologized.

She feels that it is up to campers to go out to the areas where the hostility exists and to talk with the people, "otherwise I don't know what adult education is."

In addition, she has committed herself to speaking with the guards at the depot gates, and at least in one instance has, perhaps, made a mark.

She said that during one demonstration at the gates, she spoke with a guard about the issues involved, the guard remaining stony-faced until she remarked, "You know, you are just as oppressed as we are."

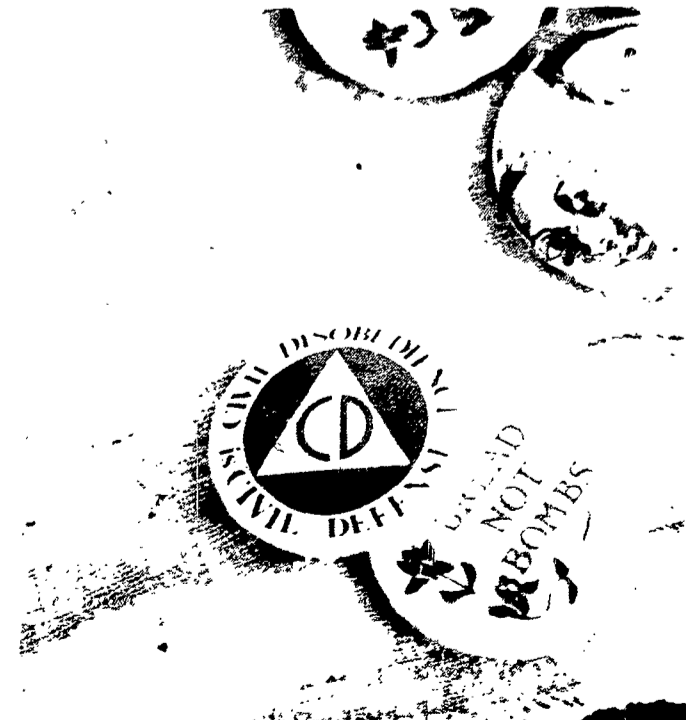
For just a moment, she said, the guard's face broke; and it was evident to her that her words had struck a responsive chord



One protestor embraces another after her arraignment at the fairgrounds on Wednesday.



These four women prayed outside the fairgrounds office during the arraignment.



This button proclaims the protestors' stand.