

Rally Marks Birthday of South African Political Prisoner



Father Laurence Tracy opts against using a megaphone during the rally, saying: "Us preachers are pretty good at talking."

By Teresa A. Parsons

A demonstration Tuesday, July 16, organized by the National Alliance Against Racism & Political Repression marked the 67th birthday of Nelson Mandela, a leader of the African National Congress and hero of the worldwide anti-apartheid movement, who has been a prisoner of the South African government for 23 years. Nearly 50 supporters and speakers representing community organizations, churches, labor unions and peace and justice groups gathered in front of the Federal Building in downtown Rochester at noon to draw public attention to the plight of Mandela, his wife, Winnie, and all political prisoners in South Africa as well as worldwide.

Most speakers drew parallels between the Mandelas and political prisoners and struggles elsewhere in the world. In his speech, Father Laurence Tracy, pastoral assistant for the Spanish Apostolate in the Rochester area, called Mandela a man of vision, but pointed out that he was not unique.

"Prisoners of conscience — political prisoners — number in the thousands, past and present. While most of them are not known, their causes are known because the cause is one against oppression, racism,

militarism and exploitation for a just and fair society for everyone in the world," he said.

Calling attention to four Puerto Rican nationalists, who he said were imprisoned by the U.S. government in Puerto Rico for over 20 years, Father Tracy noted that they were offered their freedom if they would cease political activity and the struggle for the

Recently, Mandela refused a similar offer of conditional release which would have required him to cease political activity and exiled him to the Bantustans, remote territories in South Africa set aside as "reserves" for native black peoples. "I am not prepared to sell the birthright of the people to be free," he said in a statement.

May they live as symbols of courage and hope for all of us who struggle against injustice whether hiding behind the name of apartheid, Nazism, facism or, yes, even patriotism.'

Father Laurence Tracy

independence of their nation. They refused to do so and were not released until 1979 by President Jimmy Carter for humanitarian reasons. Oscar Collazo, Lolita Lebron, Rafael Cancel Miranda and Irving Flores were the longest-standing political prisoners in the world at that time.

"May they live as symbols of courage and hope for all of us who struggle against injustice whether hiding behind the name of apartheid, Nazism, facism or, yes, even patriotism," Father Tracy said in closing.

"I'm here out of human, Catholic and clerical concern for the freedom of all people," he later added, describing his reasons for attending the rally. "Nelson is a sign of hope for all those fighting for peace and justice in the world."

Speakers were coordinated by the Rev. John Walker, a member of the Alliance who is affiliated with United Church Ministry in Rochester. The Baptist minister was executive secretary of the diocesan Office of Black Ministries from 1979-81.



Maria Scipione of Nicaraguan Invasion Contingency Action (NICA) presented the group's viewpoint while listeners held signs for passers by to see during a rally from noon to 1 p.m. in front of Rochester's Federal Building Tuesday, May 16, as part of National Mandela Freedom Day.



The Rev. John Walker listens intently to the various speeches before stepping forward to make introductions for the next group of speakers.

Spencerport Knights Elect New Slate

Ralph Handley, past grand knight of Pope John XXIII Council, Knights of Columbus, Spencerport, has announced that a new slate of officers was elected at the last council meeting and they will be officially installed at ceremonies to be conducted in mid September.

Newly elected officers were: Grand Knight John Goosley, Brockport; Deputy Grand Knight John Dietrich, Hamlin; Chancellor

Dr. Robert Morris, Spencerport; Treasurer Arnold Schockow PGK, Spencerport; Advocate David Burgess, Brockport; Guards John O'Brien, Wellington Woods and Harry Johnston, East Ave., all of Brockport; Lecturer William Lenhart, Hamlin; and Trustees Ralph Handley PGK, Brockport, and William Zurowski and Edward Lavell, both of Spencerport.

Caledonia Knights Install Officers

James Nailos, immediate Past Grand Knight of Father William Devereaux Council, Knights of Columbus, Caledonia, has announced that the newly elected slate of officers of the council will be officially installed on Thursday, July 18, following an installation banquet at the Iroquois Hotel.

Those being installed are Grand Knight Michael Stephany; Deputy Grand Knight Robert Yeakel; Chancellor Peter Connelie; Recorder Robert Goodwin; Treasurer Arthur

Leo; Advocate Brian Brunette; Warden Thomas Robinson; Guards John Ball and David Nailos; and Trustees James Nailos PGK, Larry Muscarella, and Joseph Sullivan, PGK. Reappointed as chaplain was Father Ronald Gaesser of St. Columba's Church, and as financial secretary Thomas Ulatowski.

Members interested in attending the installation banquet should make their reservations with John Ball

LOAN AGENTS WANTED:

If you enjoy helping individuals and firms solve their financial needs, and at the same time earn yourself a legitimate and conscionable fee for your service in joining borrower and lender together, (after we have taught you our system), without disturbing what you are doing now for a living, then this could be the answer to your dreams and ambitions. (Please do not apply if you have any objections to becoming a wealthy person). The instructions are absolutely free. However, a \$10,000 membership-performance fee is required, refundable from first completed loans, (time payments and barter available). (Based on 10% service charge up to \$1 Million, thereafter 5%, \$1 Billion and over, 2½%). Write in strictest confidence, or if in a hurry, call: (203)-848-8552, Dr. Louis Bates, Bates Business Consultants, 123 Maple Ave., P.O. Box 233, Montville, Conn. 06353, U.S.A.

— OUR 50TH ANNIVERSARY 1935-1985 —

SUMMER SALE
20% OFF
ALL SEASONAL MERCHANDISE
FROM REGULAR STOCK

Whillock Bros.
TRADITIONAL CLOTHIERS

24 WEST MAIN STREET • 454-1816

Summer Hours: Mon.-Fri. 10:30-5:30

AMERICAN EXPRESS•MASTERCARD•VISA•WHILLOCK'S CHARGE

