

Local march participation

Continued from Page 1

enough money to bring Mildred Jefferson, a Boston surgeon and former president of the National Right to Life Committee, to the parish to speak on Respect Life weekend in October. Jefferson "really got people going," according to Mary Lou Reifsnnyder, one of the organizers of the series.

Since abortion is an issue that obviously touches the lives of young people, Father Dave Mura, diocesan director of youth retreats and family camp, came to St. John's in November, 1984. Nearly 200 teens and parents participated in a discussion of human sexuality and the connection between premarital sex and abortion.

Then, in January, 1985, 15 parishioners went to Washington, including Father Bernard F. Dollen, the pastor. "Father Dollen came back a changed man," recalled Reifsnnyder. "He's not really an activist type, but when he went, he saw that pro-life people aren't nuts or crazy."

Reifsnnyder credited this year's turnout to Father Dollen's support during the ensuing year. Several of his homilies have focused on life issues, including one weekend last February when the "Silent Scream" was shown in place of a homily at all Masses. In another homily this past December, Father Dollen related the slaughter of the Holy Innocents during Herod's reign in Bethlehem — some 200 babies — to the millions of abortions performed in the United States since the Supreme Court's 1973 decision. He has since offered to present that homily at any parish, anytime, according to Reifsnnyder.

The pastor's influence is also credited with sustaining a tremendous response to the march at St. Margaret Mary Parish. When Father David Simon came to the Apalachin parish in 1984, six parishioners attended the March for Life. The following year, the parish sponsored two buses, and nearly 100 people made the trip. This year, the parish sent three buses carrying about 150 demonstrators to the march.

Father Simon believes a balanced and comprehensive approach is responsible for the parish's pro-life atmosphere.

"I preach on the topic — you have to begin somewhere," he said. "We can let our voices be raised but still keep a balanced approach ... for example, we have to show compassion for women who have had abortions."

Emphasizing the seamless garment approach described by Cardinal Joseph Bernardin of Chicago, Father Simon also encourages parishioners to become as concerned over issues like euthanasia and capital punishment as they are over abortion. He also ensures that the parish translates belief into action.

"The parish has a known policy that if anyone has a problem pregnancy, we will offer to help in any way we can," he said.



The beginning of the Morristown, N.J., delegation, one of the largest groups represented, was headed by a gruesome effigy.

That includes housing as well as financial and emotional support.

Even those parishioners who weren't able to travel to Washington participated in a spiritual sense. Each person on the buses left a "prayer partner" back in Apalachin.

Participants believe the annual March for Life continues to play an important role in pro-life efforts in the diocese and all across the country.

"People come from all over the country at great sacrifice," Father Simon said. "The commitment of going in the winter is impressive. It keeps the focus on life."

The group that pro-lifers hope to impress most is legislators. Jed DeYoung, a parishioner from St. John's, visited both Republican Congressman Frank Horton, who represents the 29th Congressional District, and Republican Senator Alphonse M. D'Amato. Of the two, DeYoung felt that

D'Amato responded more favorably to the group. "Horton rushed out of his chambers and said 'I only have a few minutes. I've already seen four groups today. What do you have to say?'" DeYoung explained. "Senator D'Amato seemed very happy to see us and came across as very positive and personal."

Father Simon was less impressed by his senator, Daniel P. Moynihan, who was represented by an aide, and Congressman Matthew McHugh, although McHugh spent an hour with the group from Apalachin. "The politicians like to be pro-choice. That's the popular thing," Father Simon said.

Another group he hopes will be affected is priests and bishops across the country. "Their influence could bring a lot of other people in," he said, noting that diocesan pro-lifers have been encouraging Bishop Matthew H. Clark to participate in the march.

Salvadoran refugee

Continued from Page 1

Alejandro and Leticia were arrested by immigration officials last January in connection with the arrest of sanctuary workers in Arizona. Unless they can demonstrate that they left El Salvador because of a "well-founded fear of persecution," their application for asylum will be denied and they will face deportation. Their case is being considered by U.S. Immigration Judge Gordon Sacks in Buffalo.

Although Gomez does not know if he will be recalled as a witness to the Tucson trial, he characterized it as "a very long struggle," which has only begun.

"No one Salvadoran is going to allow that an injustice goes against those workers without making an effort. All of us have ... to make an effort to show the truth," he

said, adding that he met with the defendants and found a "solid spirit" among them.

Determined that the trial and the issues will not go unrecognized by the American people, Gomez urged all churches to continue informing and updating their congregations. "Is there anyone among us who could not help?" he asked.

Despite some reports to the contrary, Gomez said, the situation in El Salvador has not improved. New taxes recently announced by Salvadoran President Jose Napoleon Duarte have prompted further rumblings of discontent.

Meanwhile, Gomez alleged that new methods of torture are being used by death squads. People are being tortured and mutilated, then thrown from helicopters to their deaths. Others are thrown into wells filled with poisonous snakes, he said.

"That is going to force more people to get out of the country. With more refugees coming into this country, more people are going to get in trouble. Will it be necessary, then, to have a trial every year?" he asked.

Bishops decry abortion

Continued from facing page

cause?" wrote Archbishop John L. May of St. Louis.

Archbishop Thomas Kelly of Louisville, Ky., called abortion "a crime which has been defended and upheld by the U.S. Supreme Court since Jan. 22, 1973." He urged his people to "give urgent attention and priority to this issue of injustice."

Bishop James Hogan of Altoona-Johnstown, Pa., referred to the millions of abortions since 1973 as "a holocaust without precedent."

Calling for "a completely realistic look at

abortion," Bishop Eusebius Beltran of Tulsa, Okla., declared, "In plain speech, each abortion is the deliberate and direct killing of a completely innocent and defenseless human child while it is still within its mother's womb."

Bishop Beltran urged his people not only to engage in education, prayer, public witness and political action against abortion, but also to "support generously our diocesan efforts to reach out and help troubled expectant mothers with compassionate alternatives."

AQUINAS INSTITUTE THEN AND NOW



A series of articles to appear semi-monthly commemorating the sixtieth anniversary of the school.

When Aquinas Institute opened its doors on Dewey Avenue in September, 1925, the returning seniors became the first class to graduate from its new location. Nineteen of the 55 graduates are alive today; all but one or two still live in the Rochester area, including class president Thomas F. Riley and vice-president Leo W. Waldert.

After Aquinas, Riley graduated from St. Bonaventure in Olean, and returned to Rochester. He served in the New York State Assembly for 14 years, then took an appointment as superintendent of the county penitentiary for another 14 years.

Riley remembers from his days at the new Aquinas that he was "one of a very few who drove a car to school in those days." The principal permitted this because he escorted a student with polio, Harvey Hoch. As a result, he "never missed a day of school." He also became an expert in coaxing his Chandler to a cold start after it was parked during a winter day behind the school. His presidency of the senior class, he claims, was a "stunt of his fellow students who ganged up on him."

The gym, he recalled, was too small, but "adequate for the time." Games with large crowds were played in the armory on East Main St. The Aquinas pool? "I remember walking in it before they boarded it up." Outstanding teachers were Mr. Bill McCarthy, Florence "Flossie" O'Connell and Fr. Joseph Wurzer. Each of the Aquinas teachers had "a special impact" on all the students and all were noted for their competency and thoroughness.

Four Riley sons attended Aquinas: Gregory, a local physician; Thomas, an associate vice-president at the U of R; David, counsellor at Hillside; and Michael, Delta Airlines pilot.

Vice-president of the class, Leo Waldert, matriculated at Holy Cross College. On his return to Rochester he worked for his father at Waldert Optical, where his son today is president. Waldert is Chairman of the Board and still "goes in for a few hours each day." Outstanding teachers he remembers were Sr. Brendan, Sr. Miriam, Fr. Joseph Wurzer and in geometry Fr. Edward Ball.

Other graduates prominent in Rochester are Donald E. Woerner of Woerner Industries; William A. Lang, RTC president and Dr. William Quinlan, all deceased. John H. Dorschel is president of the Board of Dorschel Buick.

A senior class will add 146 new graduates on June 29th, 1986.

Those were "good, constructive, happy and productive days" at Aquinas, Riley reminisced.

NEXT ISSUE — SPORTS AT AQUINAS
Paid for by Aquinas Institute

Lodge
Down the
Green

Long noted for its tradition in elegant dining and
Coring's finest motor lodge is now offering

A ROMANTIC COUNTRY WEEKEND

- Stay with us for two nights and receive a complimentary bottle of champagne
- Includes one evening of candlelit dining and the area's most elegant Sunday brunch
- Entertainment and dancing in our circular lounge
- Bring your cross country skis and ice skates for more recreation on our property

Only **\$98.95** per couple (tax included)
Reservations Required
At intersection of Rts. 15 & 41
2 miles from the Corning Glass Center
(607) 962-2456