### COURIER-JOURNAL

# Judge withdraws from trial of fellow pro-life marchers

**Washington (NC)** — A District of Columbia judge, hearing the case of a group of pro-lifers who were arrested at the Supreme Court after the Jan. 22 March for Life, withdrew from the case after announcing in his courtroom Feb. 13 that he too had participated in the march.

D.C. Superior Court Judge Joseph Michael Hannon, after announcing his participation in the march, initially rejected a motion to withdraw from the trial. But he

#### St. Mary's Needs Volunteers

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#### **Respect Life Funds**

Grants are available through the Division of Social Ministry to organizations working to provide. services and care to pregnant woman, pastoral care to persons who have had or have taken part in an abortion and educational programs to prevent abortion or promote alternatives to abortion. Call (716)546-4894, (315)789-2686 or (607)734-9784. announced Feb. 14 that he would withdraw, saying he felt his presence would raise questions about the "appearance of justice."

"In my heart of hearts as a judge of the Superior Court I know I could be 'air and impartial in this case..." Hannon said. But, "so long as I sit, there are those who are going to say I favor the defendants."

Prosecutors said that a new trial before another judge has been set for April 24.

The nine people on trial were charged with violating the misdemeanor statute that prohibits demonstrations on the grounds of the Supreme Court.

The protesters knelt on the Supreme Court steps following the annual march, which drew 37,000 anti-abortion demonstrators. The march is held to protest the 1973 Supreme Court decision Roe vs. Wade, which struck down most state abortion laws.

Nancy Elliott, one of eight defendants present Feb. 13, said Hannon told the court that he and his law clerk, John Ingram, took part in the march but stopped before the demonstration reached the Supreme Court. The judge said he was exercising his First Amendment rights in marching and that he was opposed to the Supreme Court's abortion decision.

Hannon, who was trying the case without a jury, made his disclosure just as the first prosecution witness started testifying in the case, according to Mrs. Elliott.

After Hannon said he had taken part in the march, Assistant U.S. Attorney Lizabeth McKibben asked him to remove himself from the case, arguing that his participation in the march impaired his ability to rule impartially.

"But once one witness has testifed the case is considered in process and it becomes a question of double jeopardy," Mrs. Elliott said Feb. 14.

Double jeopardy is the constitutional

# **Diocesan Rites of Election Planned**

Affirmed catechumens and candidates will participate in Rites of Election around the diocese this month as part of the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) process.

For many months, adults who are seeking, full initiation into the Roman Catholic Church through the RCIA, have been studying scripture, doctrine, prayer and parish rites in preparation.

At the beginning of Lent each year, the candidates and catechumens, having been affirmed by their local parish communities, gather with the bishops of the diocese for the Rite of Election, a celebration of their intent to be fully initiated at the Easter Vigil services.

principle that one cannot be tried twice for -

A U.S. attorney's office spokesman said

that because Hannon had found that it was

"manifestly necessary" to stop the trial, the

government should have no problem retrying

The Jan. 22 Supreme Court protest was

organized by the Pro-Life Non-Violent Ac-

tion Protect, a group based in Maryland, but

Mrs. Elliott, of Falls Church, Va., said she

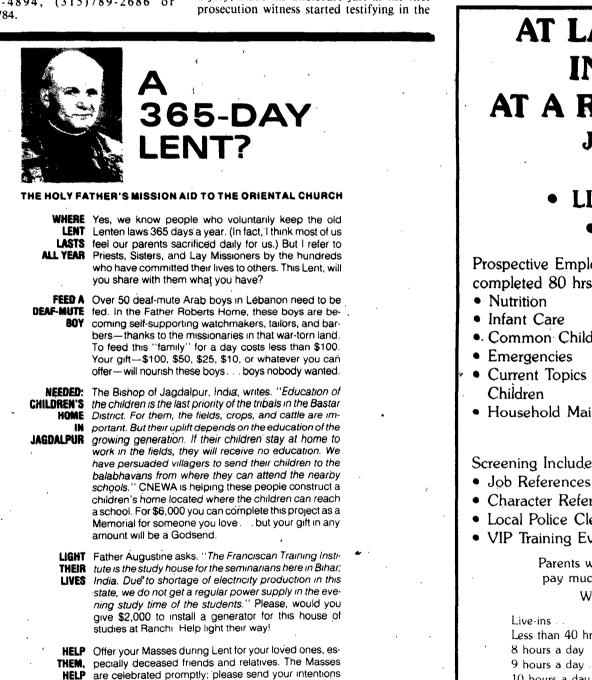
was not part of the organization.

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the case.

The first Rite of Election was Sunday, Feb. 16, at St. Mary Our Mother Church in Horseheads. The rite was also celebrated at Sacred Heart Cathedral in Rochester on Wednesday, Feb. 19.

On Friday, Feb. 21, a second rite will be celebrated at 7:30 p.m. in the cathedral. Earlier on the same day at noon, parishioners at St. Patrick's Church in Seneca Falls will host a Rite of Election. All are welcome to attend.





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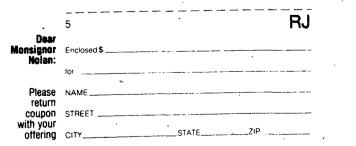
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