

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

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 fair 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 Elizabeth 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 testified the case is considered in process and it becomes a question of double jeopardy," Mrs. Elliott said Feb. 14.

Double jeopardy is the constitutional

principle that one cannot be tried twice for the same crime.

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 case.

The Jan. 22 Supreme Court protest was organized by the Pro-Life Non-Violent Action Protect, a group based in Maryland, but Mrs. Elliott, of Falls Church, Va., said she was not part of the organization.

St. Mary's Needs Volunteers

St. Mary's Hospital, 89 Genesee Street, needs volunteers for a variety of services. Those interested should be willing to work temporarily or permanently with patients or in inpatient services. For more information, contact the hospital's volunteer office AT (716)464-3255.

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.

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.

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.



A 365-DAY LENT?

THE HOLY FATHER'S MISSION AID TO THE ORIENTAL CHURCH

WHERE LENT LASTS ALL YEAR Yes, we know people who voluntarily keep the old Lenten laws 365 days a year. (In fact, I think most of us feel our parents sacrificed daily for us.) But I refer to Priests, Sisters, and Lay Missioners by the hundreds who have committed their lives to others. This Lent, will you share with them what you have?

FEED A DEAF-MUTE BOY Over 50 deaf-mute Arab boys in Lebanon need to be fed. In the Father Roberts Home, these boys are becoming self-supporting watchmakers, tailors, and barbers—thanks to the missionaries in that war-torn land. To feed this "family" for a day costs less than \$100. Your gift—\$100, \$50, \$25, \$10, or whatever you can offer—will nourish these boys... boys nobody wanted.

NEEDED: CHILDREN'S HOME IN JAGDALPUR The Bishop of Jagdalpur, India, writes: "Education of the children is the last priority of the tribals in the Bastar District. For them, the fields, crops, and cattle are important. But their uplift depends on the education of the growing generation. If their children stay at home to work in the fields, they will receive no education. We have persuaded villagers to send their children to the balabhavans from where they can attend the nearby schools." CNEWA is helping these people construct a children's home located where the children can reach a school. For \$6,000 you can complete this project as a Memorial for someone you love... but your gift in any amount will be a Godsend.

LIGHT THEIR LIVES Father Augustine asks: "The Franciscan Training Institute is the study house for the seminarians here in Bihar, India. Due to shortage of electricity production in this state, we do not get a regular power supply in the evening study time of the students." Please, would you give \$2,000 to install a generator for this house of studies at Ranchi. Help light their way!

HELP THEM, HELP YOURSELF Offer your Masses during Lent for your loved ones, especially deceased friends and relatives. The Masses are celebrated promptly; please send your intentions today... In addition, why not enroll your family and friends in our Association? (Family membership: \$100 for life, \$10 a year. Single enrollment is \$25 for life, \$5 a year.) The persons you enroll share in the Masses, prayers, and works of all our missionaries. Your offering serves Christ's poor.

5 RJ
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