

March

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who have responded to the violence of abortion through peaceful means. "Together, with God's help, we will finish the task and heal our wounded nation," he said.

Before the rally, demonstrators typically visit the offices of congressional representatives to urge their support for anti-abortion legislation.

Angry constituents pledged to unseat Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan, because he sent aides to meet with them for what they claimed was the 10th straight year.

"I just can't see why, with all the forewarning they have, they can't set aside the time," said Vince Durkin of Fairport. "We're only asking for 15 minutes."

After keeping a crowd waiting for nearly an hour, Senator Alfonse D'Amato won a more favorable response, predicting that President Reagan will appoint at least one more Supreme Court justice in the two remaining years of his term, and that the court will then push the abortion issue back to the individual states for reversal.

No one from the Diocese of Rochester was among those protesters who were arrested, but Earl Knab had a less serious run-in with U.S. Capitol Police. The Fairport resident complied when asked to leave his banner with guards at the entrance to a legislative office building while he paid a visit to Congresswoman Louise Slaughter's office upstairs.

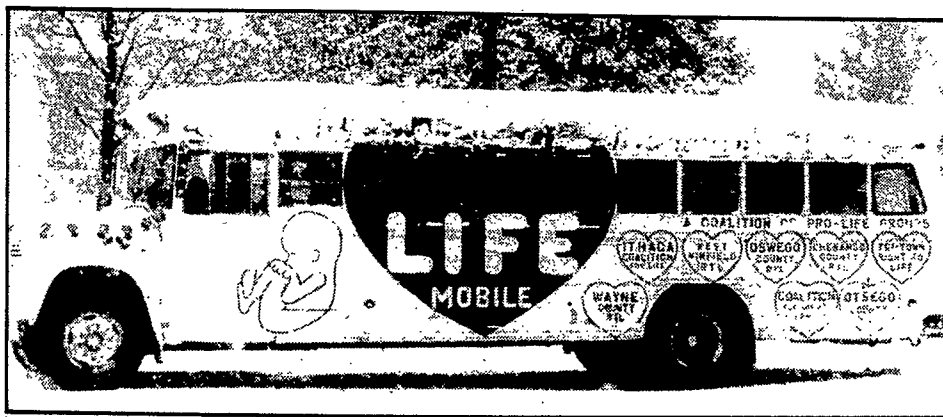
Corpus

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reconstructing part of the building's stone foundation. Sister Eileen plans to direct any leftover money toward patching the roof and upgrading the century-old plumbing.

A \$2,500 grant will underwrite memberships at the YMCA for students in grades five through eight. Without a school gymnasium or after-school sports program, the students have been restricted to workouts in the school hallways during bad weather.

The only proposal the foundation rejected was a request for funds to purchase computer software, and not even that was a flat no. "They said that once I purchased the hardware, I could reapply next year," Sister Eileen said.



Bob Strawn/NC photo

Pro-lifers from the Southern Tier were among the few who stayed warm and dry during last week's March for Life. They elected to travel the parade route by bus.

When he returned to claim the sign, however, police informed him that they had turned it over to the Capitol Police bomb squad. Knab recovered the banner in time to carry it in the march.

Many marchers agreed that the weather robbed the event of its customary impact. "It's a great feeling when you march 20 abreast or when you look back from the top of Capitol Hill and see all the people. Your heart almost stops for a minute," recalled Fairport resident

Jo Anne Taylor of her first march two years ago. "You missed the oneness of it all this year."

Despite their reduced numbers, other marchers pointed to encouraging trends among those who did attend.

Ray Mueller of Fairport said he noticed more priests this year than ever before. "I think it's very important that the hierarchy get out in front and support this, and not just pay it lip service," he said. "They are our natural leaders."

Other marchers, including Bob Hutchins of Fairport, were impressed by the number of teenagers and young adults who attended. More than a dozen students from DeSales High School in Geneva and 37 members of a youth group from St. John of Rochester made the trip.

"If teens can make a commitment like this so early in life, it kind of gives you the feeling that their values are straightened out," Hutchins said.

It was the fact that the march took place more than a day away from school of the novelty of the bus trip that attracted most of his friends to the march, according to 14-year-old A.J. Valenti of St. John's. "Most of us went because it's what we believe in," he said. "If you believe in it, then you should be willing to stand up and say so."

Marching despite the weather was a measure of the same determination that keeps the annual demonstration alive, according to Fairport organizer John D'Souza.

"Each year, more and more people are being drawn to this cause," he said. "It's a very slow process, and most people are disappointed with the outcome. But I think they realize that it's a just and righteous cause, and that eventually, we will come through and make a difference."

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