



Costly conversions

As St. Peter and Paul Parish awaits a \$600,000 grant for conversion of its school, St. Peter's Kitchen must find ways to finance its own renovations. See page 3.



Together at last

Roger Williams and Roberta Peters will renew old ties to the Rochester area when they perform this weekend for the Sisters of Mercy Founders Club. See page 7.

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Eight local people arrested at Nevada Test Site

By Teresa A. Parsons

Members of nearly 50 Catholic Worker communities from across the United States gathered in the Nevada desert Sunday, Nov. 8, for an anti-nuclear-testing demonstration to mark the 90th birthday of their organization's late foundress, Dorothy Day.

In keeping with Day's uncompromising tradition, nearly half of the 500 demonstrators who turned out at the Nevada Test Site last Sunday were arrested after trespassing on the site in acts of civil disobedience. "A lot of people felt called to do (civil disobedience) on Dorothy's birthday as a memorial to her," said Harry Murray, a sociology professor from Nazareth College, and one of eight Rochesterians arrested.

"As Christians, we have a responsibility to heed the law of God rather than the law of human beings," Murray said. "You can't love your enemies while you're targeting them with warheads."

Other Rochesterians arrested during the protest were: Michael Affleck, director of St. Joseph's House of Hospitality and an organizer of the anti-testing movement known as the Nevada Desert Experience; Father James Callan, pastor of Corpus Christi Church; Sister Marjorie Heminger, Corpus Christi Parish associate; Joan Smith, a member of the Catholic Worker community at Bethany House; and Corpus Christi parishioners Elizabeth Inglis, Linda Hagerty and Margaret Wittman.

The 10-member Rochester delegation, which included two participants who were not arrested, was the largest local group to visit the Nevada Test Site to date.

Affleck observed that the demonstration was a natural way to honor Day, one of the first Americans who raised her voice in opposition to nuclear weapons. "Dorothy Day protested (the dropping of an atomic bomb on) Hiroshima the day after Hiroshima," he pointed out. Followers of the Catholic Worker movement, which she helped found in the 1930s, have continued to be among the most consistent opponents of the nuclear-arms race.

Also participating in the weekend activities were farmworker-activist Cesar Chavez, actor Martin Sheen, and Dom Helder Camara, the archbishop of Recife, Brazil, and a renowned leader in the struggle for human rights in Latin America.



Bonnie Trafelet/Courier-Journal

Father Enrique Cadena (right) offered an exuberant welcome to Father James Callan, pastor of Corpus Christi Church in Rochester — one of eight Rochesterians arrested during a November 8 protest against nuclear-weapons testing in the Nevada desert. Along with Father Cadena, nearly 50 of the protestors' fellow parishioners and supporters turned out Monday evening, Nov. 9, to greet the Rochester delegation when they arrived at the Greater Rochester International Airport.

Archbishop Camara's presence in particular signified for Affleck the link between the arms race and poverty — two longstanding targets of the Catholic Worker movement. "(Archbishop Camara) understands that from the perspective of the poor, the nuclear arms race must end," Affleck explained. "He knows that it is the poor in the slums of Sao Paulo ... who suffer

the most from the arms race." Although the demonstration's primary purpose was to confront nuclear-weapons testing — what Harry Murray termed "a basic evil contrary to the teaching of Jesus Christ" — Murray observed that a spirit of celebration prevailed among protestors. Not even security guards could stifle their laughter when one group crossed the test-site

boundary dancing the "Hokey-Pokey." Later, as buses transported those who were arrested to processing centers, the desert echoed their rousing chorus of "Happy Birthday" to Dorothy Day. "I've been involved in civil disobedience before," Murray said, "but this was by far the most lighthearted experience I've had. It was very much a celebration."

Pro-life group urges county to stop funding Planned Parenthood

By Richard A. Kiley

If one pro-life group in Rochester has its way, Planned Parenthood of Rochester and Monroe County Inc. will lose substantial county funding after a budget meeting later this month.

Christians for Life, a small group of people who have been mobilizing to "get Planned Parenthood out of Rochester," will appear before Monroe County legislators on Thursday, Nov. 19, trying to administer a serious financial and public-relations blow to the Rochester agency.

"What we're saying is that Planned Parenthood is not for the community's best interests," said Laurie Davcev, a spokeswoman for the group. "(Planned Parenthood) gives abortion referrals, and we're also against their value-free sex education."

Davcev said that appearing at the budget meeting will be the first step she and other members of Christians for Life plan to take to try and convince Monroe County legislators to cut off certain funding — specifically monies from the Monroe County Youth Bureau and the Department of Social Services.

According to Davcev, Planned Parenthood in 1987 received \$42,000 from the

youth bureau, and another \$35,000 from social services. Christians for Life members have been approaching county legislators in recent months to see if they would end this funding.

The group has also contacted 20 to 25 Rochester-area churches and various pro-life groups to join the attempt to get Planned Parenthood defunded.

"We're trying to gather people together as a group and write to legislators," said Davcev, who added that similar endeavors have been successful in such towns as Oneonta and Mechanicsville.

Some legislators have commented that they will vote in favor of defunding Planned Parenthood, Davcev said. But how successful the canvassing effort was remains to be seen.

Although Planned Parenthood in Rochester does not perform abortions, the clinic does make abortion referrals for women.

Christians for Life members also disapprove of what they term offensive literature and sex education available from Planned Parenthood. Davcev specifically cited a book of cartoons concerning puberty, which she believes is causing a division among parents and children.

"It is obscene; it's dividing parents and kids up," she said. Another book in the facility's library, Davcev asserted, deals with certain sexual encounters, such as sadomasochism and bestiality, that she believes should not be presented to children.

Dawn Marvin, communications director of Planned Parenthood, refuted Davcev's claims that literature at the clinic is causing a rift between parents and their children.

"All books are screened by educators; we have maybe two books that talk about sexual deviance, but nothing that isn't taught in local colleges," Marvin said.

Marvin said the book of cartoons, which is entitled *Problems with Puberty*, is simply direct and has received high acclaim and feedback from parents.

"If people are going to be uptight (about sex) in general, then they're going to be offended by the book," Marvin said. "The main thing that keeps kids from having sex prematurely is open communication with the parents."

Although she said she did not have specific figures on county funding allocations, Marvin said funds from the youth bureau went toward educational forums designed to sway children from having sex and causing unwanted pregnancies.

Marvin said she believes that if Planned Parenthood were to lose the community-education funds, children would be denied a vital sex-education resource. Through the

Continued on Page 13

Index

Around the Diocese.....	Page 2
Calendar.....	Page 6
Classifieds.....	Page 13
Columnists.....	Pages 10,11
Echo.....	Page 12
Editorial & Opinion.....	Page 14
Features.....	Pages 7,16
Local News.....	Page 3
Obituaries.....	Page 12
Sports.....	Pages 8,9
World & Nation.....	Pages 4,5

