World & Nation

High-court nominee described as 'moderate conservative'

By Julie Asher
Washington (NC) — U.S. Supreme Court nominee Judge Anthony M. Kennedy received a mixed reaction from pro-lifers ranging from apprehensive to hopeful.

President Reagan announced November 11 the nomination of the federal appeals court judge to succeed retired Justice Lewis F. Powell Jr.

It was Reagan's third nomination after failing in his first two attempts to fill the

Reagan's second nominee, Judge Douglas H. Ginsburg, withdrew his name November 7 after it was revealed that he had used marijuana a decade ago. The president's first choice, Judge Robert H. Bork, was rejected by the Senate in late October.

Reagan called Kennedy a "true conservative" who "represents the best tradition of the American judiciary."

Kennedy, 51, of Sacramento, Calif., has served on the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals since President Gerald R. Ford appointed him in 1976.

If confirmed he would become the third Catholic to sit on the current court. The others are Antonin Scalia and William J. Brennan.

Sen. Joseph Biden, D-Del., chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, indicated confirmation hearings on Kennedy might not be possible until January.

One pro-life organization expressed "tremendous apprehension" about Kennedy, but other abortion opponents were generally supportive of the choice.

Abortion proponents said they were waiting until confirmation hearings to give a 'definitive'' response.

"We have tremendous apprehension" about Kennedy, said Judie Brown, president of the American Life League, in a telephone interview. "Our sense is not good, and we cannot at this time support him.

She cited a 1980 case in which Kennedy upheld the Navy's policy of discharging sailors discovered to be homosexuals. At the time he said he was only ruling on the

Misc. Repairs



THIRD TRY -- At the White House, President Reagan introduces Judge Anthony M. Kennedy as his latest nominee for the Supreme Court. Kennedy's parish priest, Father Charles Brady, pastor of Holy Spirit Parish in Sacramento, Calif., calls the nominee a man of "strong, dep faith." Pro-lifers gave him a mixed reaction ranging from apprehensive to

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vs. Wade, the 1973 Supreme Court decision legalizing abortion, but in Mrs. Brown's view the reference was "not qualified and leads us to be suspicious about his feeling on Roe vs.

In the ruling Kennedy refused to extend the right to privacy to protect those sailors discharged from the Navy, but in general observers say he seems to accept the right to privacy. The privacy doctrine is the basis for abortion rights.

Douglas Johnson, legislative director for the National Right to Life Committee, said the 1980 ruling "reveals little one way or the other" about Kennedy's abortion views.

"We are pleased that Judge Kennedy has a general commitment to judicial restraint, even though he has never taken a specific position on Roe vs. Wade," Johnson said.

Edward R. Grant, executive director and

general counsel for the Chicago-based Americans United for Life, said Kennedy fit into Reagan's platform of choosing nominees who "take a view of judicial restraint and show reverence or respect for the sanctity of human life.'

The "tenor of his (Kennedy's) opinions seems to indicate he would be open to the arguments we'd present in opposition of Roe vs. Wade," he added. "In some respects he is the best we can hope for."

Richard Mintz, spokesman for the National Abortion Rights Action League, which took a major role in opposition to Bork, said his organization would not take a position "until we know more."

Kennedy is a man of "strong, deep faith," said Father Charles Brady, pastor of Holy Spirit Parish in Sacramento, where Kennedy has been an active member for years.

The priest also said in a telephone interview November 12 that Kennedy and his wife, Mary, and their three children are a "very loving, caring and beautiful family"

and are "very close."

Father Brady said the judge's "strong, deep faith" saw him through the sudden death of his father in 1963 and the deaths of his only brother, his only sister and his mother soon after each other in 1980 and

Sacramento Bishop Francis A. Quinn said Kennedy was "very interested in things in the Church" and "an example in the Catholic community of fidelity to his religious obliga-

Supporters of Kennedy have described him as a moderate conservative not unlike Powell.

In more than 400 rulings, his opinions have been characterized as thoughtful, not flashy, but sometimes have taken a tough law-and-order stand.

In a 1983 case involving use of the exclusionary rule, which bars the use at trial of any evidence improperly obtained by the police, Kennedy urged that judges allow such evidence to be used if police acted "in good

He disappointed feminists when in 1985 he wrote the first major appellate decision rejecting equal pay for women in historically low paid jobs that are of "comparable worth" to higher paid jobs held by men.

Born in Sacramento on July 23, 1936, Kennedy graduated from Stanford University in 1958 and then attended the London School of Economics. He received his law degree from Harvard Law School in 1961.

He was in private law practice in San Francisco, then in Sacramento, from 1962 to

He has been a professor of constitutional law since 1965 at the McGeorge School of Law at the University of the Pacific.

Support group to host meeting

The Regional Council on Aging has organized a support group for older people who have been victimized by crime, neglected or abused by family members or friends.

Meetings take place on the first and third Fridays of the month from 10 a.m. until noon at Church of the Incarnate Word, 597 East Ave. Röchester.

For information or if you need assistance in order to attend, call (716)454-3224, ext. 112.



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