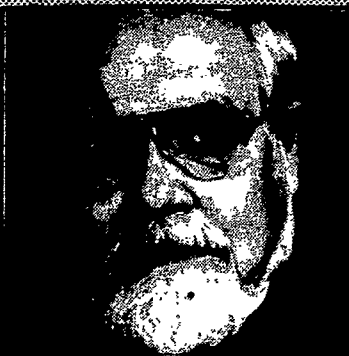




### 'I am not Job'

In a Rochester speech, Father Lawrence Jenko recalls solitary desperation and communal joy he experienced as a hostage of Moslem extremists. See page 3.



### Taking chances

Challenged by the moral implications of raising funds through bingo and other games of chance, some parishes and dioceses are risking new approaches. See pages 10 and 11.

# COURIER-JOURNAL

Catholic Diocese of Rochester

50 Cents

Thursday, November 26, 1987

20 Pages

## Pro-life group claims moral victory in legislature vote

By Richard A. Kiley

Although the Monroe County Legislature has approved a 1988 county budget that includes funding for Planned Parenthood of Rochester and Monroe County Inc., the Rochester pro-life group that spearheaded the effort to deny the agency's funding is claiming a moral victory.

By a slim margin last Thursday, Nov. 14, the full legislature voted 15-12 in support of a \$31,500 Planned Parenthood sex-education program directed at inner-city teens.

That tally reversed a recommendation by the legislature's Ways and Means Committee, whose members voted 5-4 to eliminate the funding. Included in the request was an amendment that the county administration invite proposals from other Rochester-area groups that could provide sex education promoting abstinence and discouraging abortion.

"We figure this was a victory," said Laurie Davcev, who organized the effort on behalf of Christians for Life. "We were counting on maybe six or seven legislators to vote in our favor. We were really pleased with the vote and the turnout."

The Ways and Means Committee's vote was completely unexpected, Davcev said.

"We were not even planning on going through the Ways and Means Committee," she explained. "We were pleased to see people would have the conviction in making a stand like this."

Thursday's highly emotional, two-and-a-half-hour debate regarding the morality of the agency's birth-control services drew more than 100 Rochester-area residents, who squeezed into the legislative chambers in the Monroe County Office Building to voice their protest against Planned Parenthood.

Armed with placards and signs, speakers repeatedly attacked almost every facet of the national organization. Opponents of Planned Parenthood often applauded, hissed and waved their signs during the heated session.

"Where are all the successes (Planned Parenthood) talks about?" asked Davcev, who was one of about 25 people to speak in opposition to the agency during a public forum. "It's time for a change. We are offended by the group's philosophies. We don't like them teaching value-free sex education or making referrals for abortions."

Several speakers alluded to what they called offensive literature and sex education disseminated by Planned Parenthood — including the program aimed at inner-city kids.

"I believe that the literature pretty much speaks for itself," said Patricia Wagner, referring to one periodical that she claims condones casual sex. "Planned Parenthood is a threat to the morals and values that we instill in our teens."

Project Life Director David Long called Planned Parenthood of America "the largest baby-killing conglomerate in the United States."

Dawn Marvin, communications director for Planned Parenthood, was one of several agency representatives on hand to defend its policies.

Marvin argued that the organization does not promote abortion, but merely makes its clients aware of all the options. "We all abhor abortion. You should hear what counselors say to these girls," she said. "They said, 'Let's hear what you're feeling; I'll tell you about all the options.'"

Referring specifically to the inner-city program in jeopardy of losing funding, Marvin said that "without the trust our



Bonnie Trafelet/Courier-Journal

In spite of an emotional two-hour debate last Thursday evening, Nov. 19, members of Christians for Life failed in their bid to convince Monroe County legislators to deny funding to Planned Parenthood of Rochester and Monroe County, Inc. Spokesmen for the pro-life group nevertheless claimed a moral victory and said they plan to continue their efforts.

educators have built up with kids who have nowhere else to turn to, those kids will get pregnant."

One of those educators was also present at the forum. Charles Reeves, a Planned Parenthood community educator who often deals with high-risk teens, pleaded with legislators to reinstate funding for the program.

"Our kids need us...there's a real need out there, and for us to sit here and assume they know all the things we know is wrong," Reeves said.

Raymond Buonemani, who since February has written three letters to Planned Parenthood questioning the agency's use of the common birth-control pill, wasn't swayed by Reeves' argument.

"I'm not convinced about the type of education they are promoting," said Buonemani, who also spoke during the forum. Buonemani said that he has yet to receive a reply from anyone at Planned Parenthood to his claims that medical studies show the birth-control pill may, at times, work as an abortifacient rather than as a contraceptive.

"I have spoken with Dawn Marvin and still haven't received a reply. I really have a problem with the fact that they are promoting the pill. Planned Parenthood does not point out that the pill can be an abortifacient," Buonemani said. "Why hasn't Planned Parenthood replied to my letters? As a taxpayer, I'm entitled to a response."

Father Anthony Mugavero also questioned

the agency's philosophy, following the lead established by the Ways and Means Committee.

"Planned Parenthood definitely has a philosophy (in terms of the Catholic Church) that is completely amoral to anything we believe in," Father Mugavero said. "Who knows how badly using contraceptives hurts a woman's biology?"

In his two-minute speech before the legislators, Father Mugavero offered alternatives to Planned Parenthood — specifically an organization known as Sex Respect.

"(Sex Respect's clients) learned why to say no and how to say no," Father Mugavero said.

Father Mugavero was pleased by the recommendation of the Ways and Means Committee; Marvin, however, was dismayed.

"I'm very disappointed that it broke down to party lines," she said, referring to the 5-4 vote in which Republicans supported the measure and Democrats unanimously opposed it. "This is not a party issue."

Davcev said the Ways and Means Committee's action and the close vote in the full legislature will provide Christians for Life with momentum as the group continues its efforts to defund Planned Parenthood.

"We're going to see more and more people displeased and making a stand against Planned Parenthood," Davcev said. "As more people find out about them...we hope to see Planned Parenthood out of the

community."

"We have to educate the public more with what's going on at Planned Parenthood," Buonemani said. "We can't let their community-minded and service-oriented messages cover up what's really going on there."

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