



### Spotlight on schools

As Catholic Schools Week nears, the spotlight falls on innovative language programs that help students at Rochester-area Catholic schools. See page 16.



### Fire on ice

The icemen of Aquinas Institute continued their fiery pace last week with a win over McQuaid, enabling the Little Irish and their new coach to remain unbeaten. See page 9.

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## Marchers seek legislative action to end abortion



Laurie Sillick of Greece sits amid signs and baggage during a pro-life prayer vigil at St. Theodore's Church on Thursday, Jan. 21. Later that evening, about 340 Rochester-area protestors left for Washington, D.C. to join more than 50,000 pro-lifers from across the country in the 15th annual March for Life on Friday, Jan. 22.

Bonnie Trafelet/Courier-Journal

From news service and local reports  
Abortion opponents marking the 15th anniversary of the January 22, 1973, Supreme Court decision legalizing abortion appealed for both science and law to recognize the rights of the unborn.

Calling it time the "law caught up with science" President Reagan outlined efforts to curtail abortion. He made the comments in an address by telephone hookup from the White House to March for Life president Nellie J. Gray and an estimated 50,000 marchers assembled nearby at the Ellipse. The president met later that day with 13 pro-life volunteers.

Earlier Reagan had designated January 17 as National Sanctity of Human Life Day. In his statement, he proclaimed the "unalienable personhood" of the unborn and promised to "take care that the Constitution and laws of the United States are faithfully executed for the protection of America's unborn children."

Temperatures were in the high 30s as marchers — including approximately 340 Rochester-area participants — began their annual trek in Washington. In the opening prayer, Archbishop Anthony J. Bevilacqua, who becomes head of the Philadelphia Archdiocese February 11, asked God "to touch the hearts and minds of all who are tempted by abortion." He asked God to "walk with us and may we always walk with you."

Reagan told the marchers that science has made so many discoveries in areas such as fetal pain that "isn't there enough evidence for even skeptics to admit that those who assert the personhood of the fetus may be right — and if we are to err, shouldn't it be on the side of life?"

He said he had sent Congress the "superbill" introduced by Rep. Henry J. Hyde, R-Ill., at the behest of the White House. "It states that abortion is the taking of a human life and stops all federal funding of abortion by making the Hyde amendment permanent," the president said, adding, "we will soon publish regulations that will cut off federal family planning funds from abortion-related activities."

As she had done the previous year, Gray chastised Reagan for not doing more to prevent funding for abortions in the District of Columbia budget. The budget must be approved by Congress and signed into law by the president, but is administered by the district's mayor and City Council.

Kathleen DiFioro, a participant in the meeting with Reagan, said the president reiterated concerns he had expressed earlier to the March for Life rally. Miss DiFioro, founder of Several Sources Foundation, a Ramsey, N.J., pro-life organization, said

Continued on Page 5

## Reactivated MRC resumes budget reviews

By Lee Strong

After suspending operations for several months, the diocesan Ministerial Review Committee is once again evaluating the budgets of diocesan divisions and programs. The committee's future — and the exact role it will play in the diocesan budgetary process — remains to be determined, however.

The MRC — a subcommittee of the Diocesan Pastoral Council — has been evaluating diocesan divisions' budgets for the last 15 years. Consisting of lay people, priests and religious, the MRC conducts objective evaluations at six-month intervals, with the committee presenting reports at Pastoral Council meetings. In these reports, the MRC has assessed the actual budgets of the preceding six months, highlighted each division's accomplishments, and made recommendations for improving financial stewardship.

According to committee chairman Scott Arrington, the MRC members decided to suspend operations last fall while awaiting the Five-Year Financial Planning Process Task Force's recommendations concerning review of the diocesan budget. Impetus for the MRC hiatus came in part from an April, 1987, task force report suggesting that the Pastoral Center "consider restructuring the ministerial review process to enable it to function more effectively." A task force subcommittee is currently studying the review process, and will present its conclusions in the task force's integrated report, which will be submitted to Bishop Matthew H. Clark in June, 1988.

MRC members have given up the wait, however, deciding to resume operations because committee members believed "the diocese

needed (the MRC) as a third-party view," Arrington explained. "The division directors had missed our involvement and input," the MRC chairman observed, stating that the review process is important "to assure the people of the diocese that the right stewardship is being exercised."

MRC members felt comfortable with resuming operation because reassessment of the MRC was made necessary not by major weaknesses in the current structure or by methods of the committee, but by the task force's overall evaluation of diocesan structures and operations. Consequently, MRC members chose to resume operations according to review procedures used in the past. Between now and June, the MRC will be reviewing division operations from July 1 to December 31, 1987.

"Essentially we're doing the same as we did before," Arrington said. The one exception to this rule is that in questioning divisional personnel, MRC representatives will ask a set series of questions for each program, rather than tailoring questions to the individual programs.

The main reason for this change is that the committee is understaffed, explained committee member Karl Denninger. For the time being, membership is down because MRC leaders decided not to recruit new members while waiting for the MRC's future status to be determined.

Denninger added that although the decision to use a standard set of questions was a "matter of expediency," it will have positive consequences as well. "Using these questions will produce consistency in the reviews," and help members to catch "some points (that) may have been overlooked in the individual reports,"

he said. Denninger suggested that consistent questions for all divisions will help to produce a "good, uniform review."

He also mentioned that this year, for the first time, the committee will be sitting in on budget preparations for fiscal year 1988/89. In previous years, the MRC reviewed budgets only after they had been approved. Observing the preparations this year will provide "another set of eyes and another set of voices" in the budget process, an addition he thinks division directors will welcome.

Although MRC members are not certain what form the committee will take following the task force's report, Arrington noted that they have already designated one area in committee operations for future improvement. "In the past we haven't reviewed the recipients of services provided by the diocese," he said. Reviewing services — education and social services, to name only two — will help the committee to assess more accurately the effectiveness of the divisions' operations and their impact on the people they serve.

Already it seems certain that the MRC will continue in some form. Father Kevin McKenna, diocesan liaison to the review body, pointed out that it is difficult for an organization as large and complex as the Diocese of Rochester to adequately review its own operations. He noted that Bishop Clark and the division directors are supportive of a review structure such as the MRC and "welcome the opportunity that the process of review will continue."

Father McKenna also remarked that, "there's been a fear that if the MRC is extinguished we might lose something valuable that

Continued on Page 13

### Index

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



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