

World & Nation

Marchers

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Reagan emphasized "the need for people in this nation to come together to reaffirm what is in the Constitution" and support "the right of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness."

During the march, a host of signs reflected the variety of the participants. The slogans were varied too — "Motherhood, not murderhood," "The cost of abortion: one dead, one wounded."

Marching in the protest was Bishop James C. Timlin of Scranton, Pa., and Bishop Mark J. Hurley, former bishop of Santa Rosa, Calif., who resigned to work at the Vatican as a consultant on religion and science matters for the Congregation for Catholic Education.

The march ended with a number of arrests. About 35 people were taken in custody by District of Columbia police and later released on their own recognizance for breaking through a police line on the steps of the Supreme Court.

Earlier in the day another 16 people — including two Rochester women — were arrested for blocking the entrances of two District clinics. According to Carol Crossed, one of the two Rochester protestors arrested, the abortion clinic protests, organized by the Prolife Non-Violent Action Project, were peaceful in nature, involving picketing and sit-ins.

"There was no anger, no shouting, no judgments made of the women in the clinic or the arresting officers," Crossed noted. The protestors distributed literature about abortion alternatives and listing numbers of adoption agencies and birth-right centers, Crossed said.

Crossed will return to Washington on February 12 to face Unlawful Entry charges. The other Rochester woman arrested remained unidentified as of press time.

Rochester March for Life organizers were quick to point out that they endorsed neither the arrests at the Supreme Court Building nor at the clinics. "Our feeling is that we don't really like to see a lot of civil disobedience," observed Carol Leary of the Rochester group.

She said she understood what motivated others to commit civil disobedience — and even admired their commitment and courage — but noted that the Rochester March for Life group did not believe such actions are the best solution to the abortion problem.

"We believe in persuading our legislators," Leary explained. "(Civil Dis-

obedience and clinic protests) may save one life, but there's millions more to save."

Leary was part of a five-person Rochester delegation that met with an aid of Congresswoman Louise Slaughter, requesting that Slaughter meet with them when she returns to Rochester next week.

"We believe she needs to hear more of the facts," Leary noted. "She's been listening to the pro-abortion pressure groups."

Meanwhile, in cities around the nation bells chimed and candles were lit as pro-lifers prayed and marched. The bells of San Francisco's St. Mary's Cathedral were rung 22 times January 22 in memory of the estimated 22 million babies aborted since 1973. About 800 people attended an interchurch service in the cathedral that evening, and a number of women who have had abortions spoke about why they regretted their decision.

In Cincinnati, a 300-foot rosary made from parts of wooden bowling pins was unveiled January 16 by Cincinnati Knights of Columbus. The same day, 1,200 participated in an annual rosary procession through Cincinnati. And in Lincoln, Neb., more than 2,500 pro-lifers participated January 23 in an annual walk for life sponsored by the Nebraska Coalition for Life.

The night before the Washington march, Cardinal Bernard F. Law of Boston urged respect for life that includes "every human person" and that moves the nation to regain its lost sense of the dignity of all.

Preaching at the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, the cardinal

stressed that respect for each person must encompass the unborn, the terminally ill, the homeless, AIDS patients, the mentally ill, drug and alcohol abusers and anyone whose life has been diminished by illness, poverty or a broken family.

Cardinal Joseph L. Bernardin of Chicago, chairman of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee for Pro-Life Activities, was the principal celebrant at the Mass.

During the Rose Dinner following the Washington march, Alphonse J. Matt Jr., editor and publisher of the conservative Catholic weekly newspaper The Wanderer, used Pope John Paul II's words to urge pro-lifers to "challenge publicly the conscience of society on moral issues" and to work to persuade others to join the battle. Public policy must be made "to reflect and recognize that there is a higher law to which our laws must conform," Matt said.

Despite "quantum leaps in knowledge and understanding" since the Supreme Court decision, "we cannot affirm that victory for the protection of the unborn is even in sight," Matt said.

A spokeswoman for the National Abortion Rights Action League, which held a January 20 news conference in connection with the anniversary, said a majority of U.S. voters surveyed have "a clear commitment" to keeping abortion-on-demand legal.

Kate Michelman, executive director of the league, said that according to responses from 1,202 voters, 56 percent said they supported

keeping abortion legal and allowing a woman to have an abortion on demand; 37 percent disagreed.

The NARAL survey found that only 10 percent of those asked said they believed abortion should not be allowed "under any circumstance," compared to 88 percent who believed it should be an available option.

Those results differed dramatically from a CBS News-New York Times poll cited by Cardinal Bernardin. The CBS-NYT poll indicated a majority of registered voters in both major parties favored a legal ban on abortion except in "rare special circumstances."

In a statement marking the court decision Cardinal Bernardin said the United States, despite suggestions to the contrary, is not a "nation resigning itself to abortion." He said attempts to provide a principled defense of the court decision are "more unconvincing than ever."

Registration set in Owego

Registration for pre-kindergarten through grade give at St. Patrick's School in Owego is scheduled for Monday-Friday, Feb. 1-5. An open house is also scheduled for Tuesday, Feb. 2, from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. and 7-8 p.m. The book fair will run Tuesday through Friday. For information, call Sister Mary Wintish, principal, at (607) 687-1770.

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