



Leaving 'the life'

A woman who spent many years on Rochester's streets in "the life" of prostitution walked into Assisi House on Lyell Avenue one day and found the courage to change. Page 6.



Respect for life

A range of contemporary issues — abortion, health care, AIDS — are challenging the sanctity of life. See the Courier-Journal's annual Respect Life supplement, beginning after page 8.

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Justice ordered pro-life activists held on bail

By Richard A. Kiley

A town justice in suburban Rochester has ordered 22 of 36 protesters arrested at a physician's office last Saturday, Sept. 24, held on at least \$500 bail after the demonstrators gave their names as "Baby Jane Doe" or "Baby John Doe" to police officials.

Father Anthony P. Mugavero, parochial vicar of St. Theodore's Church in Rochester, was among those arrested.

Brighton Town Justice John J. Ark berated the activists in Brighton Town Court on Monday night, Sept. 26, describing their behavior as "contemptuous" after they failed to properly identify themselves. Even after the activists produced driver's licenses for identification, Ark refused to release them pending a check for criminal records or unless they paid \$250 in bail. Checking records may take a few days, Ark said.

"I'm not surprised, but I am disappointed with his decision," said of Project Life of Rochester Director David E. Long, who organized the rescue mission — in which activists entered an abortion clinic and refused to leave — at the office of Dr. Morris Wortman, 200 White Spruce Blvd., Brighton. "He's overstepping his bounds."

Long said in an interview before the arraignment that he believed the protesters would be released after identifying themselves.

Scott C. Smith, president of the St. Thomas More Lawyer's Guild and a lawyer for some of the protesters, told Justice Ark that the pro-life activists were solid community citizens who would definitely return for court appearances. Smith said they used the aliases to make a statement about unborn children, who have no names.

In an interview Tuesday morning, Long said that Ark made his decision "to try and break the people."

"Quite frankly, he's making heroes out of all those people," Long said. "He's making martyrs out of them."

Long said that — as of Monday night — four men and one woman had been released from jail after posting bail. One of the men released was the Rev. David Young, pastor of the Cornerstone Christian Fellowship, who left because he became ill with the flu. The others left because of job commitments, Long said.

Ark released three other women after Smith vouched for their good records and continued appearances in court. Long said Ark also released another woman Sunday because she is pregnant.

Activists began the rescue mission just before 8:30 a.m. last Saturday.

According to Long, seven women were prevented from entering the doctor's office, and the clinic closed about 10 a.m.

"This rescue was the most successful of the three we've done to date," said Long, who

also coordinated May sit-ins at Highland Hospital in Rochester and a Greece doctor's office. "The clinic was closed for the day. We got the police to assure us they would not open up the rest of the day."

After Brighton police arrived on the scene, those arrested were taken to police headquarters in a Monroe County sheriff's bus.

The activists were arraigned Saturday in Brighton Town Court on various charges of criminal trespass, resisting arrest and obstructing governmental administration, all of which are misdemeanors.

To Long's surprise, he was not one of the activists arrested, even though he — like 23 other activists — refused to give police his name.

"They alienated me from the rest of the pro-lifers; the judge simply would not send me to jail," said Long, who speculated that the police might have been trying to intimidate activists by keeping him apart from them.

Long added that at this rescue mission, unlike the other two protests in May, police officials were not very cooperative with demonstrators.

"(Brighton Police Chief Eugene) Shaw was not at all cooperative," said Long, who notified Brighton police Friday that a rescue mission would take place somewhere within the town. "Officers were already there trying to prevent entry when we got there," Long said. "He (Shaw) would not negotiate with me on site."

Long added that the group regularly informs police of the rescues "so they don't have to pull cars off the street." He said, however, that if Project Life members staged another rescue in Brighton they would "certainly not notify them again."

In addition to stopping scheduled abortions, Long said that the rescue was successful in "exposing a new abortionist to the town."

Long hoped that the demonstration would also serve to help the organization increase its numbers. The Project Life director said he would like to see more Catholic priests become involved in rescue missions, and is trying to get New York Auxiliary Bishop Austin B. Vaughan to come to Rochester.

Bishop Vaughan has been arrested at several rescue missions around the country.



A contemplative Father Anthony P. Mugavero, parochial vicar of St. Theodore's Church in Rochester, sitting in front of an elevator door.



Brighton police officers place Project Life Director David E. Long into a wheelchair, after Long and 35 other pro-life activists entered the office of Dr. Morris Wortman in Brighton and refused to leave.

Diocesan schools promise no more 'failures'

By Teresa A. Parsons

No Catholic school student in the Diocese of Rochester will go home a failure this November.

With the adoption of a new diocesan report-card format, the word "failure" has been dropped from the vocabulary of elementary and junior-high-school grading.

The change is largely philosophical, since the new report card, which debuts in November, continues to designate "F" as a failing grade. Principals and teachers nevertheless hope that the change will affect parents as well as their children.

"It's such a judgmental word, and it does such damage to kids. They take it so personally," said Sister Eileen Daly, SSJ, principal of Corpus Christi School in Rochester. "Then their parents see that — that you're a failure.

Some of the attitude towards learning gets blocked."

Not all of the changes in the updated diocesan report card are philosophical in nature. The revised version lowers the numerical equivalent of a passing grade from 75 to 70 percent for students in grades 1-6. Seventh and eighth grades will maintain 65 percent as the standard for passing, which is also observed by New York state Board of Regents.

The change, adopted after two years of research and testing by a committee of principals, provides a more gradual transition from the elementary- and intermediate-grade standard to the 65-percent passing mark in junior high school.

Changing the numerical equivalent is also an effort to take into account the extra responsibilities and pressures students currently face,

according to Evelyn Kirst, diocesan assistant superintendent for curriculum. "There are latch-key children whose academic motivation has to come from themselves and the school," she noted. "There are (also) higher expectations from families where the 'almighty A' is very, very critical ... A lot of people don't want to accept a C as average."

The revised report card conforms more closely to standards and formats used by some public school districts throughout the diocese — offering, for instance, a more detailed breakdown of curriculum.

The new report card should also represent a new level of uniformity among diocesan schools. "We did have schools that had adopted independent report cards, and since we are a system, we felt everybody should be using

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