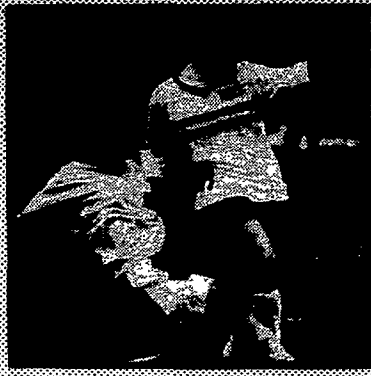




Program passes

Despite low enrollment, diocesan vocation officials say Becket Hall meets criteria a recent Vatican letter spelled out for good priestly formation programs. Page 7.



Semifinal surge

Both Cardinal Mooney and Aquinas Institute advanced to the semifinals of the Section 5 Class BB girls' soccer tournament with wins in the quarterfinal round. Page 14.

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Pro-life activists escalate siege on abortion clinics



Doug Meszler

Pro-life demonstrators, armed with signs and voices, gathered on Saturday, Oct. 29, at the office of a Brighton gynecologist who performs abortions. Rochester activists joined protesters in 32 U.S. cities for a "day of rescues," in which more than 2,000 people were arrested nationwide.

By Richard A. Kiley
The battle between pro-life and pro-choice activists came to a head last weekend as police in at least 32 cities across the United States — including Rochester, Binghamton and Buffalo — arrested more than 2,000 anti-abortion demonstrators attempting to close clinics and stop employees and pregnant women from entering doctors' offices.

Sixty-six members of Project Life of Rochester were arrested outside the gynecological clinic of Dr. Morris Wortman, 200 White Spruce Blvd., Brighton.

Father Anthony P. Mugavero, parochial vicar at St. Theodore's Church in Rochester, was among 17 people jailed Saturday, Oct. 29, for either failing to properly identify themselves to arresting officers or because they had been arrested at a similar demonstration in Brighton on September 24.

According to police officials, those arrested were charged with third-degree criminal trespassing, resisting arrest or related charges and taken to Monroe County Jail.

Brighton Town Justice John J. Ark set bail for each of the 17 at \$500 cash or \$1,000 bond. They are to appear in court November 14.

Father Mugavero, who took part in a sit-in at the Brighton doctor's office in late September, posted bail late Saturday night. The diocesan priest had requested a hardship release, but turned it down when he was told the release would be granted on the condition that he stay out of Brighton.

In a phone interview Monday afternoon, Oct. 31, Father Mugavero said he was determined as ever to continue his fight for "a human being's right to live."

"Innocent lives are being taken; it seems crazy to do nothing," said the priest, who is scheduled to appear in court on November 9 to face charges from the first Brighton demonstration. "It (abortion) is a direct attack on a person who is being unjustly treated. I've got to be there."

About 300 pro-choice demonstrators marched on the sidewalks in front of Genesee Hospital between 9 and 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, which was billed as "National Day of Rescue" by pro-life activists. A coalition of family planning and community organizations sponsored the pro-choice demonstration in support of the 1973 Supreme Court decision legalizing

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A woman pleads for alternatives to anti-abortion activists' tactics

EDITOR'S NOTE: We received the following anonymous essay last week from a diocesan pastor who has assured us of its truthfulness. In an unsigned note accompanying the essay, its author explained that she had been struggling to write it for the past 10 years.

The following story is true. If I used my name, I think my fellow parishioners would be in shock. Regardless, it is my story and one I choose to share for various reasons.

I am writing this article to the dedicated people who work in the pro-life organizations. It is my hope that some of these groups will see that their tactics are not always the best method.

I am writing this for teenagers, although there are few who will read this paper other than to catch a classmate's article on the Youth Page.

I am writing this to some of my confessors, one to be specific, who had about as much compassion as Hitler.

And I am writing this article in the hopes that maybe somewhere some teenager will learn that my choices were wrong — DEAD wrong. Maybe they won't be repeated if this story is passed on to those most at risk.

I grew up in the suburbs — a well-to-do, large, Catholic family, parochial schools, station wagon, pajama parties — the whole nine yards. My parents were very well-educated. They were not alcoholics; they had had privileged childhoods themselves. They are still together. They were well-respected and gave the impression of the American Dream fulfilled. I enjoyed luxuries many of my friends did not have.

But things were not what they seemed. Was it the beatings that initially opened the crack? I don't mean spankings on the behind, I'm talking about fractures and stitches, pushes down the stairs and clothes ripped in

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Rochester police arrest one of the many anti-abortion demonstrators who crossed police lines.

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