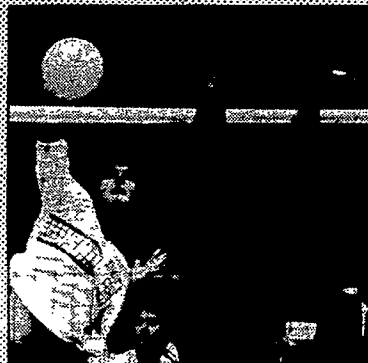




Developing dialogue

A panel discussion of controversies surrounding the beatified Jewish convert, Edith Stein, could foster greater understanding between Christians and Jews. Page 8.



Comeback crushed

After falling behind two games to none in the Section 5 Class A girls volleyball final, Cardinal Mooney takes Wayne the distance before losing the decisive fifth game. Page 12.

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Activist says verdicts won't stop rescues

By Richard A. Kiley

Pro-life activists plan to continue their siege on abortion clinics in Rochester, despite last week's guilty verdicts in the jury trial of two local leaders in the movement.

"We don't have any plans to change what we've been doing; rescues will continue while I'm in jail," said David E. Long, who is executive director of Project Life of Rochester and the organizer of the siege on abortion clinics locally. "I'll be locked up during the next one ... but someone else will lead the next rescue."

Long and another Project Life member, Gerald Crawford, were found guilty of three misdemeanor charges in connection with a September 24 protest at a Brighton physician's office.

Long, who lives in Webster, was found guilty of third-degree criminal trespass, resisting arrest and second-degree obstructing governmental administration. Crawford, a resident of Spencerport, was found guilty of third-degree criminal trespass, resisting arrest and fourth-degree criminal mischief.

The two pro-life activists could serve a maximum of one year in jail when they are sentenced on November 23 at 4 p.m. by Brighton Town Court Justice John J. Ark.

The five-woman, one-man jury deliberated nearly two hours before returning the guilty verdict against Long and Crawford at 12:15 a.m. on Friday, Nov. 11. The decision came after the jury reviewed videotapes of the demonstration at the office of Dr. Morris Wortman, 200 White Spruce Blvd., where 36 people were arrested. Long and Crawford are the first demonstrators to come to trial.

Long called the videotapes police used during the trial "inconclusive," and criticized the testimony of Brighton police officials.

"They (police officers) were tripping up themselves and each other with contradictory statements," said Long, who represented himself. "I feel there was lots of room for reasonable doubt."

Long was also critical of Ark and the jury in general for what he termed "a serious miscarriage of justice."

"Unless the legal system has something to be afraid of ... what harm is there to use the 'necessity' defense," said Long, referring to Ark's ruling that he would not allow Long



Michael N. Aydogan

David E. Long, executive director of Project Life of Rochester, was found guilty of three misdemeanor charges stemming from his participation in the September 24 rescue mission at a Brighton doctor's office.

and Crawford the argument that they blocked the doctor's office to save the lives of fetuses. "The attorney (Crawford's attorney Scott C. Smith) and I didn't have any rapport with the jury at all."

Ark did, however, deny Wortman's request that the justice issue an order barring pro-life activists from demonstrating outside his office.

Monroe County Assistant District Attorney Marjorie Byrnes said both activists were "looking to get arrested" in her closing arguments.

One videotape filmed at the demonstration showed Crawford breaking a window of a Monroe County Sheriff's transport bus. Byrnes claimed that Crawford had broken the window intentionally, although Crawford claimed during his testimony that it was unintentional.

Also during the trial, police described attempts by Long and Crawford to link their arms and legs with other protesters in Wortman's office. Authorities contended throughout the trial that they got little cooperation removing the demonstrators from the doctor's office.

Forty-two activists arrested during a earlier rescue mission at Rochester's Highland Hospital May 21 will be able to use the "necessity" defense when they appear before City Court Judge John Manning Regan later this week.

Long said the bench trial could be a turning point in how the judicial system deals with future pro-life advocates.

"He (Regan) is a judicial maverick. If anything's going to happen, it's with him," Long said. "There are pockets of favor around here. Obviously, in Brighton there's

no favor."

Long added that if judges like Ark continue to resist granting pro-life activists the "necessity" defense in upcoming court cases, "we have the numbers to overrun the system."

Authorities in Rochester would have difficulty dealing with large numbers of activists, he said, citing the overcrowding problem at the Monroe County Jail.

Long is still trying to involve more Rochester-area religious leaders in pro-life demonstrations. He plans to meet with 80 pastors later this week.

"There is a great stirring among Protestant and some Catholic clergy," Long said. "But I think some priests still want to support it (the pro-life movement) more aggressively."

Sisters Council dissolved in favor of new council for religious

By Lee Strong

Since its formation in 1970, the Diocesan Sisters Council has voted on resolutions ranging from protesting the Vietnam War to approving the constitution of the Diocesan Pastoral Council.

On September 17, council members cast their final vote — to dissolve the Sisters Council itself.

In a letter to Bishop Matthew H. Clark, the council announced that because of questions about its "purpose, meaning and continuance" of the body, the sisters had decided "that the Diocesan Sisters Council had run its course and should dissolve itself." At the same time, the members called for the diocesan vicar for religious, Sister Dolores Banick, IHM, to form a Vicar's Council for Religious, encompassing both women and men religious of the diocese.

Bishop Clark, in a letter dated October 19, acknowledged and accepted the sisters' request to dissolve the DSC. He also expressed gratitude for the work the Sisters Council has done and supported its proposal for a new council. Sister Banick, meanwhile, has asked the members of the Sisters Council to work with her in forming the new body.

According to Sister Anne Marvin, SSJ, who drafted the council's letter to Bishop Clark, the

decision to dissolve was not a surprise.

"When I went to the meeting that day (September 17), I had the feeling that this would happen this year," Sister Marvin said. "It didn't occur to me that it would happen that day."

"This didn't come out of thin air," observed outgoing council president Sister Theresa Rutty, RSM. "Sisters had been discerning about the purpose of the Diocesan Sisters Council for several years. People felt that the DSC had served its purpose."

The council was originally formed to provide a voice for women religious in the diocese and to lobby for a woman to serve as a vicar for religious, noted Sister Banick. The council fulfilled the latter purpose by recommending the appointment of Sister Muriel Curran, SSND, as the vicar in 1981.

Meanwhile, as the vicar's office assumed more responsibility for dealing with the concerns of women religious, the DSC was gradually supplanted in its role as their primary forum. In addition, in 1975 the Sisters of St. Joseph, Sisters of Mercy and School Sisters of Notre Dame formed the Intercongregational Council, from which the School Sisters later withdrew in 1983. The ICC, which currently consists of the superior generals and the councils of the two Rochester-based orders, began

to look at issues — such as transportation and housing — that directly affect women religious in the diocese. A decade ago, the DSC would have addressed those issues.

"I think the biggest factor (for dissolving the council) was our having a vicar for religious," said Sisters Council member Sister Gertrude Skelly, RSM. "Little by little, Sister Muriel took over things the council would have tried to deal with. We used to try to do things that would be beneficial to the whole diocese, and Sister Muriel was doing the same things."

According to Sister Skelly, the former vicar was able to accomplish more than the council could because she was full-time, whereas the council only met periodically. Because Sister Muriel's office was at the pastoral center, she was also in closer contact with the diocesan administration.

"With the communities meeting and with the vicar in place, there were opportunities for sisters to speak out on issues, so there was nothing to for us to grab on to," remarked council member Sister Joan Cawley, SSJ. The council gradually lost its status as a consultative body equal to the Priests' Council and the Diocesan Pastoral Council, she said, noting that increasingly the DSC was told rather than consulted about work going on in the diocese.

Instead of looking at the dissolution of the council as a loss, however, members have chosen to view it as progress, Sister Marvin noted. "It isn't that the DSC has died," she said. "It's that it's going to evolve into this new form."

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