



### Seeking sectionals

With girls' basketball just underway, all seven diocesan teams may have the personnel to vie for sectional berths, with the Lady Cardinals of Mooney leading the way. Page 16.



### Bilingual blend

Old and young, English and Spanish coexist at Holy Redeemer/St. Francis Xavier Parish, which doubled in size following the merger of the two parishes in 1985. Page 6.

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## Bishop's office upholds rights of pro-life activists

By Richard A. Kiley

The Office of Bishop Matthew H. Clark earlier this week released a statement supporting the right of diocesan members to engage in non-violent civil disobedience, but noted that those who do so "must also be willing to accept the legal consequences of such action."

The statement is the first official diocesan response since pro-life activists — many of whom are Catholics — began conducting "rescue missions" at abortion clinics throughout the diocese. Pro-life activists use the term "rescue mission" to refer to their efforts to prevent abortion procedures by occupying and refusing to leave doctors' offices.

"Those who feel called to the path of non-violent civil disobedience — laity, religious, priests — must be certain that any civil disobedience is carried out in a non-violent, caring and loving way," the diocesan statement said. "They must also be willing to accept the legal consequences of such action."

Referring specifically to tactics used by the pro-life organization called Operation Rescue, the document cautions that it must remain clear that protesters are challenging "the unjust law that permits abortions ... not the just laws of our nation."

"Operation Rescue is one of many approaches being employed to focus on the tragic problems of abortion and the unjust law that denies the unborn the protection they deserve," the diocesan statement said. "It should be noted that the nature of civil disobedience, in which participants in Operation Rescue are engaged, involves the breaking of just laws — such as laws that are necessary to maintain public order — to protest an unjust law, the taking of the life of the unborn."

The statement also asserts several times that "whether or not an individual lay person, religious or priest engages in non-violent civil disobedience is a personal con-

science decision that should be made only after serious prayer and reflection.

"In making a conscience decision to engage in non-violent, civil disobedience it should be clearly understood that the primary goal of civil disobedience is to educate people so they might see the injustice that exists and that that injustice represents an unwanted evil element in their lives," the document continues. "The Diocese of Rochester restates its commitment to protect the unborn and to speak against the abortion laws so destructive of human life and the fabric of our society."

Father Anthony P. Mugavero, who has participated in several rescue missions throughout the diocese and nation, said he was pleased by the tone and content of the statement.

"It's realistic and truthful ... I'm really happy with it," said Father Mugavero, who is parochial vicar at St. Theodore's Church in Rochester. "I think the statement is very positive. It's as positive as I hoped it would be."

Father Mugavero, who had not yet been able to read the entire statement, said he hoped that the position paper would serve as a "guide" for people in the diocese who are still torn over whether or not to participate in pro-life demonstrations.

"I think the statement is saying that, 'Yes it is (acceptable to join the demonstrations). I hope that statement is read by everybody,'" Father Mugavero said. "It could be an impetus for the priests and the laity who are holding back (from demonstrating) because something like this hadn't been made public yet. Personally, I wish everybody would be involved."

The priest added that he agreed with the paper's observation that rescues are one of many ways to "demonstrate against the evil of abortion."

"The statement leaves open the possibility of someone to participate or not to

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AP/Wide World Photos

**IN MOURNING** — Armenian Bishop Tiran Gureghyan weeps during a memorial Mass offered at Moscow's Armenian cemetery Sunday for victims of last week's devastating earthquake in Armenia. Locally, donations to assist earthquake victims may be directed to: Armenia Earthquake Relief Fund, care of Father Robert C. Bradler, Office for the Propagation of the Faith, 1150 Buffalo Rd., Rochester, N.Y., 14624.

## Coalition supports union efforts of Kleen Brite workers

By Rob Cullivan

The Community Coalition for Workers' Rights — which encompasses several diocesan parishes — has issued a statement supporting the workers of Kleen Brite Laboratories, Inc., in their effort to join the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union. Coalition members were scheduled to distribute the statement to workers as they entered the company's 600 Oak St. plant on Wednesday morning, Dec. 14.

The statement accused D. James Manno, company chairman, of "foot dragging" in negotiations with workers at the Rochester plant and the company's two plants in Brockport. In balloting last July, Kleen Brite workers voted 143 to 83 to join the ACTWU. Since then, the company has filed legal objections to the vote with the National Labor Review Board. The coalition's statement noted that formal certification of the union could now take several months, "given the NLRB's backlog (of cases)."

Kleen Brite manufactures household chemicals and cleaning products for a 15-state region.

The coalition, which consists of community and religious leaders, issued the statement after failing in efforts to quietly intercede on behalf of the company's union-supporters, according to Father David Reid, parochial vicar at Ss. Peter and Paul Parish in Rochester, and a spokesman for the group.

Father Reid said the statement was made

public to put pressure on Kleen Brite's chairman Manno to negotiate with the workers. Coalition members sent Manno several letters in October and November, asking for a meeting. Their statement said Manno has "been unwilling to commit the management to a specific date."

Father Reid said the coalition was also responding to a letter Manno sent to the coalition last October. The statement said the chairman's memo "distorted the facts," by asserting the NLRB was investigating possible

misconduct by the ACTWU, when in reality, "the NLRB is not investigating the union."

The statement goes on to say that "the NLRB has issued a complaint against Kleen Brite for allegedly spying on, harassing and firing union supporters." The statement asserts that "(n)othing in the law prevents (Manno) from meeting and negotiating with the workers now ... (Manno) is undermining the intent of our labor laws by refusing to meet with them."

Father Reid said that Manno is confusing

## Action Center regains county funds

By Teresa A. Parsons

County legislators trimmed more than \$5 million from Monroe County Executive Thomas R. Frey's proposed 1989 budget, but nevertheless restored \$20,000 in funding for the Action Center for the Disabled.

Frey's budget proposal had eliminated the Action Center's two-year-old, \$20,000 contract with the county Department of Health because the contract did not fit within the scope of the department's activities.

The contract represented almost a quarter of the Action Center's total budget for providing recreational opportunities for disabled adults, and proponents mounted an intensive lobbying campaign to restore county funding.

"When it was brought to the attention of the legislators, I think they realized that a quality program that was doing good work and cost-

ing the county very little money shouldn't be dropped," explained Lucy Dechaine, the Genesee Valley Office of Social Ministry's coordinator of programs for the disabled. "Because it was in the wrong (department's budget) was not a valid reason to drop it."

Dechaine enlisted members of the Monroe County Federation of Republican Women and clients of the Action Center to petition legislators by letter. Along with Action Center Director Adele Carlson, Dechaine met with Clayton Osborne, director of operations for Monroe County, to request restoration of the funding.

On Nov. 19, Dechaine presented a similar message to the legislature's Ways and Means Committee during a budget hearing. Prior to the Nov. 29 legislature vote, Dechaine also ar-

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the public by claiming he cannot lawfully meet with the union. "It's neither lawful nor unlawful to meet the union," he said.

In a telephone interview Monday, Dec. 12, Kleen Brite spokeswoman Susan Exford said she was aware of the coalition's existence and of their correspondence with the company, but she declined further comment.

According to Kleen Brite employee Rocky Haines, the coalition has helped the union's cause. Haines, who works at the Fare Street

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