



Before the march to Park Ridge, Father David Bonin, C.P.P.S., participates in the prayer service at Sacred Heart Cathedral.

## Prayerful protest links abortion to crucifixion

ROCHESTER — Beneath leaden skies, through air filled with the damp, chilling promise of rain, more than 200 people marched to the Park Ridge Doctor's Office building on Good Friday.

As they marched, the group — led by more than 20 priests and deacons wearing albs and red stoles — chanted prayerfully: "For the sake of your sorrowful passion, have mercy on us and on our whole world."

At the front of the procession, priests and deacons alternated carrying a large wooden cross. The group stopped repeatedly along the way to the office building to recite the Stations of the Cross and to pass their cross on to a new volunteer. In the middle of the procession, a man carried a large banner depicting a fetus in a red heart surrounded by a crown of thorns.

The march was part of a Good Friday prayer service that began at Sacred Heart Cathedral. The goal of the service, according to Ann Marie Bradley, was "to offer to unite ourselves to the passion of Christ in atonement for the modern day crucifixion of abortion."

Unlike other anti-abortion protests staged across the country on Good Friday,

this march involved no arrests, no confrontations with police or hospital security. "It (was) not meant in any way to stir up controversy, even though we wanted to make a statement about something we see as a great evil in the world," Bradley said.

Carol Crossed, who along with Bradley and Dr. Barbara Fredericks served as spokeswoman for the group, said the service was specifically Catholic in focus because "we see as Catholics that we have a special kind of witness. Our witness is a consistent ethic-of-life witness."

To help emphasize that focus, the group recited the Way of the Cross Toward Justice and Peace, which was developed by the Campaign for Human Development. Included among the prayers are remembrances of people who fought against injustice, including Archbishop Oscar Romero, Dorothy Day, Jean Donovan and Martin Luther King Jr.

Crossed was pleased by the number of people participating in the service and march, and the large contingent of priests and deacons involved. "What we really want to emphasize is it's not one or two people or one or two priests opposing abortion," she said. "It's a groundswell within the church that's spreading."

In preparation for the service, organizers sent a letter to priests of the diocese urging them to be involved. The letter was signed by 19 priests. One of those signing the letter and participating in the service was Father John Reif, pastor of St. Rita's Parish, Webster.

Father Reif said the march was staged not to make headlines, but "to arouse people to pay attention to the issue" of abortion. The fact that so many priests and deacons took part is sending out "to our people the idea that the official church is very interested in what looks like a grass-roots movement," he concluded.

— Lee Strong



Linda Dow Hayes/Catholic Courier

More than 20 priests and deacons were among the 200 Catholics who recited the Stations of the Cross as they marched to the Park Ridge Professional Building.



A woman holds a rosary during the Good Friday service in front of the Park Ridge Professional Building.

### 'Seed of Life' seminar slated for Saturday

St. Mary's Parish, Canandaigua, will be the host of a one-day conference entitled "Hope — the Seed of Life," which will focus on issues faced by teens and by separated, divorced, widowed and remarried people. The conference is slated for Saturday, April 1, from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 a.m. in the parish school.

The conference, sponsored by the Diocese of Rochester, will include a healing service; an address by Kathleen Kircher, executive director of the North American Conference of Separated and Divorced Catholics; a variety of workshops on such topics as bereavement, remarriage, blended families, alcoholism; and three work-

shops just for teens. The day will conclude with a liturgy celebrated by Bishop Matthew H. Clark, followed by a dinner and dance.

Cost for the entire conference, including the dinner and dance, is \$40. Those attending only the workshops will be charged \$30. The charge for the dinner and dance alone will be \$10. The fee for teens for the entire day will be \$15. Financial assistance is available for those who cannot pay the full fee.

For information or to register, call Carl Ritz at 315/789-2686 or Angela Gallo at 716/454-7650.

## CELEBRATIONS

twenty-fifth anniversary of the  
CONSTITUTION ON THE SACRED LITURGY

### CELEBRATING MINISTRY

April 2 at 2-5 p.m.  
St. Christopher's  
North Chili

April 9 at 2-5 p.m.  
St. Patrick's  
Seneca Falls

April 16 at 2-5 p.m.  
St. Mary Our Mother  
Horseheads

### CHRISTOPHER WALKER: LITURGY OF THE WORD FOR CHILDREN A NEW PROGRAM & NEW MUSIC

May 7 at 7-9:30 p.m.  
Our Lady of Lourdes  
Elmira

May 8 at 7-9:30 p.m.  
Sacred Heart Cathedral  
Rochester

### ELAINE RENDLER: WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE? A LOOK AT THE PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE OF LITURGICAL REFORM

May 22 at 7-9:30 p.m.  
Sacred Heart Cathedral  
Rochester

May 23 at 7-9:30 p.m.  
Our Lady of Lourdes  
Elmira

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PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED - CALL 716/328-3210