

# Path to peace

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"some of the strongest pacifists are people who fought in wars. I don't think any of the veterans would say that war is a way to accomplish peace."

Father Daniel O'Shea, a diocesan priest living and working at the Abbey of the Genesee and one of the organizers of the Faith and Resistance retreat which led to the recent protest at the Seneca Army Depot, noted that the protesters at the depot made friends with the soldiers. "The issue gets clouded if the focus is on the sol-

diers," he said. "The focus is on the nuclear weapons that are stored there."

As for the pain peace groups may cause among veterans, O'Shea suggested that the two groups should meet to talk. "I think the healing of pain could be enhanced by together sitting down and really being open to one another and getting in touch with that pain because we, too, feel deep pain about those losses," he said.

The priest went a step further by offering an opportunity for such dialogue. "I extend the invitation of the (Abbey of the Genesee) to both groups for a retreat or a day of recollection," Father O'Shea said. "I'm confident that in prayer together that we'll find God above is our source of peace, and therein lies our common ground."

Stratton, however, is not certain that such a meeting would be effective, believing that the peace groups are too "brick-wallish," adding, "I'm too brick-wallish." Still, he said, "It would be nice if we could sit down. I think the ground

rules would have to be laid out."

The basic issue, Stratton believes, is that the peace groups advocate methods that haven't been shown to be effective, while, he asserts, military might — and the willingness to use it — has prevented a major war for more than 40 years.

"The only way we're able to stay free ... is because we're not afraid to stand up for what we believe in," he stated. "The fact that we haven't been sucked into a major war in Europe is because of the nuclear weapons. It's the fear of what would happen if ... That's the crux of the issue."

For Carol Crossed nuclear weapons have completely changed the nature of war, making possible a scale of destruction unimagined in previous years. "We're talking about a different type of war than World War II, Korea, Vietnam," observed Crossed, a participant in the Faith and Resistance protests. "We're talking about holocaust."

Crossed pointed out that even if nuclear weapons are used only for deterrence, they

are destructive. "I think what people don't realize is that the deterrence factor is allowing for our spiritual death," she said. "It's almost like saying that I believe in peace, but it's all right to kill you." Such thinking about nuclear weapons, she explained, makes their use a possibility.

In the end, the question remains: can the two groups find a common ground for discussion within the church? Or, as Father Heindl suggested, perhaps the differences themselves are helpful.

Expressing admiration for the protesters, Father Heindl said that although he doesn't agree with their methods and targets, they are accomplishing something. "It's doing some good, because it's drawing attention to (the issues)," he said. "They're doing what they think is right."

Peace activists are "extremists," Father Heindl said, but allowed that extremists also serve a purpose. "I've always said we need to recognize and hear the extremists, because then we can find the middle ground," he concluded.

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## Teen bands

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Airborn's first show was, fittingly, at the Rochester Airport Marriot. The group has also landed at the Good Shepherd Teen Center in Henrietta, and played a high school dance in Avon. The Avon show combined the band's best and worst live experience, Ona said, noting that the high school crowd was not used to hearing live bands.

"The first set we played was kind of a flop," Ona recalled, "(but) the second half, overall, was one of our most rockin' times."

EDITOR'S NOTE: Hours for the festival are 6-11 p.m. Friday, June 9, and 12-11 p.m. Saturday, June 10, at Transfiguration Church, 50 W. Bloomfield Road. Airborn takes the Transfiguration stage at 8 p.m. on Friday. Green will follow at 2:15 p.m. Saturday.

## Notre Dame president to speak at graduation

Father Edward "Monk" Malloy, C.S.C., president of Notre Dame University in South Bend, Ind., will deliver the graduation address at Cardinal Mooney High School's commencement on Sunday, June 18, at 3 p.m. in Rochester's Eastman Theater.

Both the university and Cardinal Mooney are operated by the Holy Cross Brothers.

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