

Ruling spurs

Continued from page 1

reconsidered the tragic 1973 decision in *Roe v. Wade*."

No statement on the case was issued by a local group of Episcopal clergy who supported abortion rights by joining the Rochester chapter of the Religious Coalition for Abortion Rights last January. The group — which includes Episcopal Bishop William G. Burrill — declined to comment on the case because Bishop Burrill and the Rev. Wendy Williams Spaly, assistant to the rector of St. Paul's Episcopal Church and one of the group's organizers, are away on vacation until later this month.

In addition to the demonstration during Project Life's July 3 press conference, a small group of local pro-choice advocates burned an American flag in front of the Federal Building in downtown Rochester on Monday, July 3 to protest the Supreme Court's decision on abortion.

Three weeks ago, the high court upheld the right of Americans to burn the flag as

Jailed pro-life activist begins hunger strike

Gerald Crawford, assistant director of Project Life of Rochester, started a hunger strike Monday, June 26, as he began serving a 20-day sentence in the Monroe County Jail.

Crawford was re-sentenced to the jail term in Brighton Town Court June 26. He and David E. Long, Project Life's executive director, were among 36 pro-life activists arrested Sept. 24 after conducting a rescue mission at the office of Dr. Morris Wortman, 200 White Spruce Blvd., Rochester.

Crawford and Long were found guilty of resisting arrest and third-degree criminal trespass after a jury trial in November. Long was also convicted of second-degree obstructing governmental administration, while Crawford was convicted of fourth-degree criminal mischief.

Both men were originally fined \$1,000, sentenced to 15 days in jail under a work-release program and placed on three years probation by Brighton Town Justice John J. Ark.

The two activists refused to comply with the sentences, claiming that by doing so would constitute an admission of guilt. On April 26, Long was re-sentenced to 20 days in jail. He has since completed that sentence.

— Kiley

School plans yard sale

DeSales High School has scheduled a yard and bake sale Saturday, July 29, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m., on the corner of High and Pulteney streets, Geneva.

Among the items for sale will be toys, furniture, games, tools, paperback books, dishes, glassware, appliances, drapes, bedspreads, jewelry, pots and pans, and baked goods.

For information, call 315/789-3415.

an expression of free speech. Protesters used that decision to show their disfavor over the court's decision in the Missouri case.

Diocesan officials, meanwhile, are "awaiting further analysis of the (Webster) decision" by various organizations, including the National Conference of Catholic Bishops' general counsel and the NCCB's Office for Pro-Life Activities, according to Melissa Marquez, social action coordinator for the diocesan Office of Social Ministry.

Marquez said pro-life activity will continue to be "reflected in our program plans for next year," including those like the Puzzle Project that deal with post-abortion counseling.

Because few other states have enacted abortion statutes as liberal as New York's, Marquez said it is possible that New York would become an abortion mecca, as was in the years between the state legislature's 1970 legalization of abortion during the first six months of pregnancy and the 1973 *Roe vs. Wade* decision.

"That is why it is critical for Roman Catholics in our parishes and at large to be politically responsible citizens," Marquez said. "We need to provide them with information and encourage them to act on public-policy issues."

Marquez noted that, now that the fight over abortion has moved into statehouses, pro-life activity will be even more important "in terms of electing public officials."

In an effort to further such activity by finding "a Catholic common ground against abortion," the Justice and Peace Committee of the Catholic Family Center (CFC) has scheduled a July 18 meeting for all Catholics who are already a part of, or who wish to join, the pro-life movement.

The meeting is scheduled to take place from 7 to 9:30 p.m. in Room #1 of Guardian Angels Church, 2061 E. Henrietta Rd., Rochester.

According to Ken Maher, justice and peace director for the Catholic Family Center, the committee has been asked in the past to provide a venue for various Catholic groups to get together. The up-

coming meeting is an attempt to meet that need, Maher said.

Although Catholics initially took the leadership role in the fight against abortion, he said, "the leadership more recently has come from those like Jerry Falwell ... and locally David Long."

Maier, who noted that the Justice and Peace Committee is not necessarily going to lead the movement, said the effort to establish a local Catholic movement is not intended to "take away from what any other group is doing."

"The focus would be on the Catholic church's response to abortion," Maier said. "Major (pro-life) groups tend to be Protestant and some Catholics just feel uncomfortable with their prayer style."

Maier said it was coincidental that the meeting was announced just prior to the Supreme Court's decision, which he applauded.

"The decision is interesting because it's obviously creating a lot of political activity that has been missing for the last 15 years," Maier said.

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