

Bishop

Continued from page 4

cisions."

"Every woman ought to have the right to make individual choices about family planning," Assemblywoman Killea says in her TV ad.

"State government should be concerned about environmental policies and education," the ad continues, "not intruding itself into our private decisions."

Killea also has said that she believes public officials cannot impose religious beliefs on other citizens.

In his letter to her, Bishop Maher said, "The 'pro-choice' stand is a choice for abortion."

He said he prayed "that you will receive the light to form a right conscience on the fundamental teaching of God."

"The right to life is a fundamental right, and without it, there are no rights," he wrote.

Bishop Maher told Killea that "pro-choice" was an incomplete phrase without an object. "One must ask the natural follow-up: the choice to do what?"

In this case, he said, "it is the choice to take a child's life."

The National Conference of Catholic Bishops has no specific policy on sanctions for Catholic public officials or other Catholics who publicly favor abortion, a spokesman said Nov. 16.

Father Kenneth Doyle, spokesman for the U.S. bishops, said in a statement that a decision such as that made by Bishop Maher "properly belongs to a bishop in his own diocese."

"There is no specific conference policy

on the matter of sanctions for those Catholics who disagree publicly with the church's pro-life position," Father Doyle said.

He said a statement on abortion approved by the U.S. bishops at their Nov. 6-9 general meeting in Baltimore "makes

Lawsuit

Continued from page 1

be better advised not to begin some ministries, Father Murphy pointed out. "The church doesn't always have the responsibility to be on the front line in every ministry," he said. "It can lobby, draw attention to the issue, encourage the people who are better able to address the issue."

In other cases, he added, the church must be willing to take the risk. "There are times when we have to do that — when we find an issue that we feel only we can do the ministry," Father Murphy said. However, he continued, individual parishes should not act as independent entities when making decisions about ministry. "We're not separate entities," he said, "we're part of a diocesan church."

Trickey acknowledged that parishes entering new ministries sometimes do not consult with the diocese first, and this leads to potential problems.

"We will find out about the ministry by chance, or in a worst-case basis, when the parish is presented with a claim for personal injury which might not be covered," Trickey said.

Because parishes are beginning to look at ministries in medical areas, Trickey reported, the diocese has convened a task force under the leadership of Rebecca Gifford,

no mention of sanctions."

The issue of some type of hierarchical response to Catholics who back abortion was raised in floor debate and later at a press conference during the meeting. Cardinal Joseph L. Bernardin of Chicago at the press conference said the bishops should consider a "response" to Catholics who

back abortion, including possible penalties.

In 1975, Bishop Maher said that persons who publicly espouse support for abortions or who belonged to organizations promoting abortions were barred from receiving the sacraments in his diocese.

director of the diocesan Division of Urban Ministry. That panel, which has only met twice, is currently gathering data about providing medical services for the poor, and the consequent potential liability the diocese might face.

"One of the things we are trying to avoid as a diocese is to interfere with parish ministries by insisting on unreasonable de-

mands for costly insurance coverage," Trickey said. "At the same time, we have a responsibility to protect parishes' assets."

Trickey said the diocese can do little more than it is already doing to prepare for potential suits. In some cases, he concluded, the only solution is "to keep our fingers crossed and do a lot of praying."

Churches

Continued from page 6

because these are not clinics," said the spokesman.

In the Emmanuel Baptist Church in the southern part of the capital, journalists reported complaints of harassment by government troops from the start of the fighting.

Also, according to reports, Lutheran

Bishop Medardo Gomez and Baptist pastor the Rev. Edgar Palacios went into hiding after receiving a death threat. Lutheran Church members told journalists that Bishop Gomez is in "a safe place" but that they did not know where he could be located.

The Lutheran Church in San Salvador has been the object of several bomb attempts in recent months, and Bishop Gomez has received numerous death threats.

Service to conclude liturgical anniversary

A special diocesan ceremony has been scheduled to conclude the yearlong celebration marking the 25th anniversary of Vatican II's Constitution on Sacred Liturgy. The celebration has been scheduled for Sunday, Dec. 3, at Sacred Heart Cathedral.

Beginning at 2 p.m., Father Benedict A. Ehmann will offer his reflections and insights on the liturgical renewal over the

past quarter century. After a reception, Bishop Matthew H. Clark will celebrate evening prayer at the cathedral, 296 Flower City Park, Rochester, beginning at 3:30 p.m.

The Sacred Heart Cathedral Choir will provide music. All are welcome.

Call the diocesan Office of Liturgy, 716/328-3210, for information.

CLASSIFIEDS

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General

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THANK YOU: Sacred Heart and St. Jude for favors received. J.

Personals 4

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Announcements 7

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