

Abortion

Continued from page 6

tions, not supporting organizations whose abortion policies decrease the number of potential customers available to them in the future," the priest said.

Planned Parenthood asked its supporters to turn over their AT&T stock to its control, giving it "a greater influence" over the telecommunications company. An AT&T spokesman said his firm's decision was motivated by the fact AT&T "does not take a position on abortion."

The Pennsylvania Catholic Conference April 6 issued "The Church, Public Policy and Abortion: A Reflection by the Roman Catholic Bishops of Pennsylvania."

"As spiritual leaders, bishops have a responsibility to offer guidance when our people attempt to make decisions on issues of human life, dignity and rights," the 18 prelates wrote. "Bishops are authoritative teachers of faith and morals."

They said that "Catholics who are recognized as public figures and enjoy a place of prominence within the community and even within the church, have a special duty to be faithful in both word and action to the faith they profess."

"Membership in the Catholic Church requires accepting the teachings and creed of the church," they added. "Repudiating publicly the teaching of the church and encouraging others to do so forces the bishops to take issue. One cannot claim to be a Catholic in good standing in the church while publicly rejecting and advocating the abandonment of its teaching."

In an editorial in its April 6 issue, *Commonweal* magazine called an apparent failure by Gov. Mario Cuomo, D-N.Y., to

connect personal views on abortion to public powers of persuasion a "chief disappointment" of his treatment of the issue.

An independent Catholic biweekly magazine, *Commonweal* responded to a 3,000-word letter from the Catholic governor, who previously has drawn criticism for saying he is personally opposed to abortion but declining to work to outlaw it.

"Out of the ambiguity shared by a majority of Americans" on abortion, the magazine said, "some consensus needs to be formed — a consensus that will be shaped in part by the intelligence and persuasive skills that political leaders bring to the public debate."

"And now our question, our principal question," *Commonweal* added. "Why hasn't Gov. Mario Cuomo stepped forth as a molder of consensus?"

Kentucky's bishops, borrowing directly from a December, 1989, statement by their colleagues in Ohio, declared that "it is clear to us that, objectively speaking, the tolerance of abortion in our society and the refusal to allow religious and moral principles to influence public life are positions which are both morally and socially wrong."

Kentucky's five bishops cited Ohio's bishops for developing a "clear and concise expression of our own views."

A report commissioned by the American Psychological Association said that abortions during the first three months of pregnancy pose no psychological hazards in most cases. The report, published in *Science* magazine, said mental distress was greatest before an abortion and that incidents of "severe negative responses" were low. "However," it said, "weaknesses and gaps found among studies provide challenges for future research."

Richard Doerflinger, associate director for policy development at the bishops' pro-life secretariat, said that after reading the report, "we know exactly what we knew before ... Abortion is invariably deadly for the child and has not been shown to have any great benefit for the mother."

For the panel that wrote the report "to

use old information to invalidate our pain shows carelessness and thoughtlessness regarding our private pain," said Olivia Gans, director of American Victims of Abortion, a group associated with the National Right to Life Committee. She noted that she is among the women who once had an abortion. "We know what our pain is," she said.

Fr. Thomas Kenny, McQuaid counselor, 54

Father Thomas J. Kenny, SJ, who had taught and counseled students at McQuaid Jesuit High School for more than 12 years, died Wednesday, April 4, 1990, at Murray-Weigel Hall Infirmary at Fordham University in the Bronx. He had been under nursing care since February.

Father Kenny was 54 years old.

A native of Bayonne, N.J., Father Kenny graduated from New York City's Xavier High School before entering the Jesuits at St. Andrew-on-Hudson, Poughkeepsie, in 1953. After studying in humanities and philosophy at Bellarmine College in Plattsburgh and at Loyola Seminary, Shrub Oak, N.Y., he taught Latin and English at McQuaid from 1960-63.

Father Kenny later studied theology at Woodstock College, Md., before Cardinal Francis Spellman ordained him to the priesthood in 1966. After studying spirituality at the Jesuit Retreat House in Auriesville, N.Y., Father Kenny was assigned to Xavier High School, where he taught Latin and theology for 13 years, and also served as an administrator for the Jesuit community.

From 1981 until February, 1990, he was on the McQuaid staff as a student counselor. In addition, he served as director of student counseling services from

1985-87.

Father Kenny is survived by his sister, Mrs. Richard (Arlene) Bartsch of Bayville, N.J.; a stepbrother, Robert Vesper of Summit, N.J.; an aunt, Mrs. John Hladick of Bayonne, N.J.; and several nieces and nephews.

A wake was held on April 8 and 9, in the school chapel at McQuaid. After a Mass of Christian Burial April 9 at Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Rochester, Father Kenny was buried in the Jesuit Cemetery in Auriesville.

Sisters to host supper, spring sale on April 21

ROCHESTER — The Sisters of Mercy will present their annual roast beef supper and spring sale on Saturday, April 21, from 4-8 p.m. at the order's motherhouse, 1437 Blossom Road.

The sale will feature homemade bread, baked goods, gourmet foods, crafts and more. Proceeds will be used for improvements to the motherhouse.

A Mass will take place at 5 p.m. in the motherhouse chapel. Supper tickets — \$5 for adults and \$3 for children under 10 — can be purchased at the door or in advance by calling 716/288-4817.

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GENERAL

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