

Faith and Resistance group plans annual retreat, demonstrations

The Faith and Resistance Community will conduct its third annual retreat, "Pilgrimage: Breaking with Death/Rising to Life," on May 10-11.

Two churches will host the retreat: Corpus Christi Church, 80 Prince St., Rochester, on May 10; and St. Stephen's Church, 48 Pulteney St., Geneva. The event begins with a soup supper at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, May 10.

Speakers for the two-day program — which is being sponsored by Corpus Christi and United Church Ministry, Inc. — will be John Dear, SJ, Joe Gump, Lana Jacobs, and the Rev. John A. Walker.

The second day of the retreat will include two acts of civil disobedience. One action will take place at 5:30 a.m. at the

Seneca Army Depot, Romulus, and the other is scheduled for 3 p.m. at an undisclosed facility where abortions are performed.

Dear is the author of more than 100 articles and several books, including *Disarming the Heart: Toward a Vow of Non-violence* and *Our God is Nonviolent*. He has run a church shelter for the homeless in Washington, D.C., and has lived and worked in El Salvador. A member of the National Council of Pax Christi USA, Dear recently finished a 21-day fast for an end to U.S. military aid to El Salvador. He is currently studying Scripture and theology, and will be ordained in two years.

Gump is a chemical engineer and busi-

nessman turned resister. He was a member of Transfiguration Plowshares-West, a group that disarmed a Minuteman II nuclear missile silo in August, 1987. His wife of 40 years, Jean, is currently in prison for the Silo Plowshares Disarmament Action on Good Friday, 1986.

Jacobs is currently director of St. Francis Catholic Worker in Columbia, Mo. She founded the Peace Studies Department of the University of Missouri, and received the Missouri NAACP Martin Luther King Award.

Rev. Walker is director of family counseling for the Rochester Chapter of Big Brothers/Big Sisters of America. He is also a member of United Church Ministry, Inc.

Rev. Walker was ordained a minister of the National Baptist Convention of America, and is a former executive director of the diocesan Office of Black Ministries.

The Faith and Resistance Community comprises priests, religious, and lay people witnessing to life and peace through prayer, learning, discernment and non-violent direct action.

A \$10 registration fee is requested for the retreat. Scholarships are available based on need. For information, write to: Faith and Resistance Community, c/o St. Bridget's Church, 175 St. Bridget's Dr., Rochester, N.Y., 14605, or call Jan Bezila, 716/244-7439; Father Bob Werth, 454-4236; or Father Tony Mugavero, 647-1446.

Priest

Continued from page 4

Civil disobedience or not, Father Mugavero's actions were supported by the diocese, which issued a written statement last week, saying in part: "(Father Mugavero's) good standing as a priest is not altered in any way by this court action ... The Diocese of Rochester continues to support the right of any person to make a conscience decision, after serious prayer and reflection, to engage in responsible acts of civil disobedience."

The statement continued: "Civil disobedience involves the breaking of just laws, necessary to maintain public order, to protest an unjust law. In the case of abortion the law denies the unborn the protection they deserve."

The statement concluded by saying that those who engage in civil disobedience must be "willing to accept the legal consequences of such action."

For Father Mugavero, the legal consequences of his actions may end with an early release for good behavior on Friday of this week. Until then, the priest is listening to confessions from his fellow inmates, giving them tips on prayer, and reading a book written by a Lithuanian Catholic activist imprisoned for her beliefs in the 1970s.

"I've been able to function as a priest within the system," he said, noting that a friend who is a eucharistic minister has been bringing him daily Holy Communion. "Somehow, because I'm one of (the inmates) there's a greater rapport and trust," he said, noting that, "the inmates have treated me with great respect."



Babette G. Augustin/Staff photographer
Deputy Robert Burney lifts Father Mugavero — who fasted in jail — to show that the priest is too thin.

Diocesan offices sponsor institute on Catholic rites

Parish staff members and ministers are invited to an institute entitled "This is My Body: Parish as Eucharistic Community" Friday and Saturday, August 17 and 18, at Keuka College.

Keynote speaker for the institute will be John Brooks-Leonard, associate director of the Notre Dame Center for Pastoral Liturgy. Among the topics on which workshops will focus are: the rites of initiation; Sunday Eucharist; music and rites; and the deacon as sacramental minister. For information, contact the Office of Religious Education or the Office of Liturgy, which are co-sponsoring the institute, at 716/328-3210.

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