

High court won't lift bar on Operation Rescue

WASHINGTON (CNS) — For the second time in a week, the U.S. Supreme Court refused May 21 to thwart an injunction hindering the activity of Operation Rescue.

Without comment, the high court declined to accept an Operation Rescue appeal, thereby upholding a federal-court injunction that permanently forbids the group from blocking access to abortion clinics in the New York City area.

But spokesmen for the organization suggested that its efforts will continue.

"No court can prohibit us from rescuing babies," Operation Rescue founder Randall Terry said in an interview from his headquarters in Binghamton. "These judges have joined the heritage of Nazi judges who sanctioned the murder of the innocent. The day of judgment will hold terrifying consequences for them."

Molly Yard, president of the National Organization for Women, which had successfully sought the injunction, expressed satisfaction at the Supreme Court's refusal. "It's a humdinger ... couldn't be better," she said.

In a split 5-4 decision May 14, the Supreme Court refused to lift an injunction preventing Operation Rescue from conducting abortion protests at Atlanta clinics.

However, the May 14 ruling dealt with an emergency request from the pro-life group and thus did not affect an underlying

case in Georgia state court concerning a ban on Operation Rescue's aggressive activity. Therefore, the possibility of further court action in Georgia on behalf of the pro-lifers remained.

The high court's refusal to lift the New York injunction came after a federal district court and federal appeals court in New York had ruled against Operation Rescue.

A federal district court issued the injunction in early 1989 and fined Operation Rescue for violating the injunction.

In September 1989, the 2nd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, based in New York, upheld the injunction. "There is no constitutional privilege to assault or harass an individual or to invade another's personal space," the appeals court determined. "Blocking access to public and private buildings has never been upheld as a proper method of communication in an orderly society."

The appeals court found that the pro-life group's actions violated an 1871 law, known as the Ku Klux Klan Act, that

outlaws conspiracies to deprive a class of people of their civil rights.

"As conspiracies directed against women are inherently invidious and repugnant to the notion of equality for all citizens, they are therefore encompassed under the act," the appeals court said.

"Our sole purpose is to stop these women from taking their children in" to the clinic, said Bob Jewitt, a spokesman for Operation Rescue. "If we can save a child we will do that. We will continue to do that. Injunctions won't stop us."

Knights pledge \$3 million for pro-life campaign

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The Knights of Columbus have promised the U.S. bishops \$3 million to help pay for the services of public-relations and polling firms in a pro-life campaign.

In an announcement issued May 13 from their Washington office, the Knights said they committed another \$1 million to expand their own pro-life efforts, including distribution of materials to members of the Catholic fraternal organization.

The 1.2 million Knights in the United States were to be asked for contributions to pay for those two efforts.

When Cardinal John J. O'Connor of New York announced the National Con-

ference of Catholic Bishops' campaign April 5 he said the \$3 million-\$5 million cost of the three- to five-year campaign would be raised entirely from sources outside the NCCB.

Father Dennis M. Schnurr, NCCB associate general secretary, said May 14 that "we have received some personal contributions" for the pro-life information campaign. He said names of donors would not be released.

He said he had no exact tally but that "I know it amounts to thousands" of dollars.

Father Kenneth Doyle, the bishops' spokesman, said that "other donations are continuing to arrive from people who want

to support pregnant women and children in their wombs."

The campaign is to be run by the New York firm of Hill & Knowlton from its Washington office, with polling information from the Wirthlin Group of McLean, Va., a Washington suburb.

Contracts for the campaign have not yet been signed, but the firms have begun preliminary work on the effort.

Both Cardinal O'Connor and Archbishop Daniel E. Pilarczyk of Cincinnati, president of the NCCB and its public policy arm, the U.S. Catholic Conference, thanked the Knights for their generosity.

Drop pastoral on women, prelate urges

MILWAUKEE (CNS) — Citing credibility problems raised in part by the issue of women's ordination, Archbishop Rembert G. Weakland of Milwaukee has suggested dropping the U.S. bishops' pastoral letter on women's concerns.

"All things considered, I would prefer to let the whole question of a pastoral on women's concerns in church and society drop at this moment," he wrote in his regular "Herald of Hope" column scheduled for publication May 10 in the *Catholic Herald*, archdiocesan newspaper.

The archbishop's comments were directed at the second draft of the pastoral, "One in Christ Jesus: A Pastoral Response to the Concerns of Women for Church and Society," which was released April 3.

"There will be no credible treatment of the role of women in the church till this question of the connection or lack thereof between (holy) orders and jurisdiction is laid out clearly," he wrote.

"So, for example, the gifts of women cannot be fully recognized if leadership roles have to be tied into ordination. Leadership is not mentioned either in the document, not even as needing more study," he wrote.

Written by a committee of six bishops, including Rochester's Bishop Matthew H. Clark, the second draft calls sexism a sin and defends the church's stand against ordination of women and the ban on artificial birth control. It encourages women to participate in all liturgical ministries that do not require ordination and urges quick action on a study of the possibility of ordaining women as deacons.

Because the document emphasizes equality, "the section in the new draft on the ordination of women comes as an even more chilling cold shower," Archbishop Weakland said. "The argumentation seems less convincing because of this context of equality."

Archbishop Weakland said he understands "the bind the authors are in, but I am surprised that they do not say anything about the traditional relationship between ordained ministry and jurisdiction in the church."

Thy will be done...

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