

# Battle won for homeless, but war continues



The bishop's request seemed simple enough: to consider opening their parish buildings "to house, on an emergency basis, three or four people who seek refuge from the winter nights as the need arises."

Three of Rochester's inner-city parishes answered the bishop's plea. After all, it was only for the winter.

And the next winter, and the next and the next ...

After a couple of years of providing shelter — not to three or four people per parish, but to combined annual guest lists exceeding 200 — the volunteers reluctantly acknowledged that the existence of the three parish-based facilities was anything but temporary.

Still, as they opened their doors each winter, the volunteers hoped that the "Band-Aid" solution they offered to homelessness in Rochester would be replaced by a year-round, permanent facility.

April of 1991 will bring that hope to

realization with the long-awaited opening of the Francis Hospitality Center, a permanent facility that will provide long-term shelter for 24 chronically homeless men, in addition to six emergency beds for overnight guests.

Spring will also bring about what is expected to be the final closing of shelters at Blessed Sacrament and St. Bridget churches. Corpus Christi's Dimitri House will remain in operation, primarily providing long-term shelter to individuals in transition.

We commend the many volunteers for their dedication to the homeless people who visited the parish shelters these past eight years.

We likewise applaud the start of construction at the Francis Center. But in so doing, we remind ourselves that the facility will be merely a larger, more permanent Band-Aid on a growing cancer caused by such pervasive social ills as drug abuse and a dearth of low-income housing. Until some progress is made in treating these primary afflictions, retiring shelter volunteers dare not plan their winter evenings too far into the 1990s.

— The Editors



# Urges readers to stand up against pornography

To the editors:

People throughout America (have been working on) the White Ribbon Against Pornography Campaign ... during National Pornography Awareness Week, Oct. 28 through Nov. 4. Last year over five million Americans participated. In Cayuga County, Nov. 4 brought forth a sunny day, almost 130 cars decorated with white ribbons and close to 300 people at Willard Chapel to hear speakers from the Adam Walsh Resource Center, Covenant House, and our local district attorney. Over 40 businesses and 30 churches participated. There were two objectives. First, to educate and raise awareness on how exposure to pornographic materials influence

attitudes. Secondly, to encourage and show visible support for the enforcement of obscenity laws. Both objectives were met. This year we felt it was inappropriate to spend resources on a White Ribbon Campaign. However, we (encouraged) everyone to wear and display white ribbons. ... There is a well organized, financially backed effort to move pornography from the gutter into the mainstream. Don't our children deserve better than this? Someone must defend decency and the lives of our children. ...

On that note, we would like to share 10 compelling reasons Morality in Media presents for you to join millions of Americans in this long overdue "stand up

and be counted for decent community standards" movement:

- Because the sanctity of the home has been invaded by dial-a-porn, cableporn, video porn, rock music porn, mail porn and satellite-to-dish porn.
- Because in a climate of escalating violence, pornography is feasting sadomasochism as an alternative lifestyle to tenderness, to respect, to humane behavior.
- Because the sexuality of immature teenage boys and weak men is being manipulated by the porn industry, resulting not uncommonly in a destructive addiction.
- Because high-tech advances are creating awesome new vehicles for por-

nography to reach wider audiences at dazzling speed. Watch what happens with the emerging "picture phone."

- Because the innocence of too many children has been cruelly robbed and too many children have been traumatized by viewing material unfit even for adults. Enough of this psychological rape.
- Because too many children are being physically raped by those whose sick impulses are nurtured by pornography. Some dial-a-porn numbers deal specifically with incest.
- Because pornography has deteriorated even further from promoting "recreational sex" to promoting "recreational rape." Witness the comment by one teenager in the Central Park jogger case, "It was fun."
- Because women are debased, degraded, dehumanized in pornography, and portrayed as enjoying rape. The works in 2 Live Crew's controversial album.
- Because more and more Americans are unwittingly becoming desensitized to decadent and inhuman fare.
- Because, finally, silence is devastating. In fact, every person who is passive in the face of these onslaughts is, however inadvertently, a friend to the local and national pornographer. ...

Sharon Dickhaus, President  
CAN DO

EDITORS' NOTE: This letter has been edited to comply with space limitations.

# Disputes generalization about Moslems

To the editors:

Can we ever realize that generalizations and blanket statements do not always work? All Catholics, all Americans are not identical.

In the Oct. 11 issue, Father Cuddy was discussing why some children had not been baptized in Saudi Arabia. I quote from his column, "The reason they weren't baptized was because of the Muslim hatred of Christianity. Not only do Muslims forbid the practice of Christian religion but they also prohibit the use of any religious objects such as Bibles, rosaries and holy cards. In addition, no priest was available for Mass or baptism."

This may be true in Saudi Arabia for I have never been there. It wasn't true in Jerusalem, Jordan, when I was there in 1965.

Then, my future husband, a Moslem, walked the Way of the Cross with me one Friday. This, even though his family have been gate-keepers (an honor) at the mosques of Jerusalem for hundreds of years.

I was a guest in his family home and his sister learned to embroider at a convent.

We could not marry in Damascus, Syria, but were married on a Friday — Moslems' day of worship — in Beirut by a Franciscan priest.

When he lived in the U.S., he was at the funeral home when the rosary was being recited for my uncle. He sat with head bowed showing respect for both uncle and his religion.

With the recent mass killings in Jerusalem, I will repeat my prayer, "For reason and restraint by the residents of

Jerusalem — Moslems, Christians and Jews."

Countless crimes and wrongs have been committed through the ages, all in the name of a particular religion. Politicians often take advantage of this rather than religious leaders.

I respect Father Cuddy's devotion, dedication, and accomplishments through his years of service. He is still actively doing so — even though retired. But this column with that observation had to have a comment from me.

Janet R. Straub  
Browncroft Boulevard  
Rochester

# Commends coverage of Respect Life month; seeks contacts for seamless garment groups

To the editors:

I very much appreciated both the Respect Life Supplement and Robert Cullivan's article, "Seamless garment poses vote question" (Catholic Courier, Oct. 4). Is it possible to obtain addresses by which to contact the groups I mention? Specifically, Catholic Family Center's Justice and Peace Department; JustLife; Seamless Garment Network; and Common Ground of Upstate New York.

Thank you for your help, and for your coverage of such an important issue.

Mary Carol Wall  
Prattsburg

EDITORS' NOTE: The Catholic Family Center is located at 50 Chestnut St., Rochester, NY 14604-2359. The phone number is 716/546-7220.

The address for JustLife is 713 Monroe St., NE, Washington, D.C. 20017. The phone number is 202/526-6640.

Local contacts for both Common Ground and the Seamless Garment Network can be reached by writing to Common Ground at P.O. Box 10055, Rochester, NY 14610.

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