

Efforts

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people of other faiths and denominations — have responded in a number of ways to the bishops' words.

Released on Dec. 7, the bishops' letter stated that an unprovoked offensive action against Iraq would constitute an unjust war because "the horrors that war in the Persian Gulf would produce are too terrible even to contemplate." In particular, the modern weaponry used in such a war would kill and injure a high number of civilians and military personnel, the letter noted.

Social ministry administrators throughout the diocese have noted a positive response to the letter and pointed out that several parishes have reprinted it for distribution to parishioners. St. Mary's in Scottsville, for example, published the letter in its bulletin along with the unanimous signed endorsement of its parish council.

Many Catholics are referring to the bishops' letter for help in forming their own opinions on the issue, said Kathleen Dubel, director of Justice and Peace for the Southern Tier Office of Social Ministry.

"We haven't heard any criticism of (the letter)," she said. "I think people are struggling with the complexity of the ques-

tion. ... I think (the letter) kind of helps them sort out their own position."

Dubel also noted that her office has been helping some parishes establish study and discussion groups centered on the Persian Gulf crisis. The groups use as a starting point the U.S. Catholic bishops' 1983 pastoral letter "The Challenge of Peace: God's Promise and Our Response."

Parishes in the Finger Lakes region have also expressed interest in working on such issues as conscientious objection counseling and other anti-war activity, according to Kevin Hennessy, justice and peace director for the Finger Lakes Office of Social Ministry.

"I've been struck by the fact that just about everybody who's contacted me has been looking to promote peace," Hennessy said. He commented that St. Mary's in Canandaigua will be the site of an ecumenical prayer vigil on Saturday, Jan. 12, at 1 p.m. Participants will meet at the church to pray and then march to the Ontario County Courthouse where they will conclude the vigil, he said.

Several other groups and parishes plan to hold or participate in the following activities in the next several weeks:

- St. John of Rochester Parish in Fairport will host a rosary for peace every Thursday from 6:30-7:30 p.m. Call Steve Della Pietra at 716/381-2033.
- The Peace Network of Greater Roch-

ester has planned several activities, including a "Don't Drive Day" for Jan. 15. The group is asking the public not to drive their cars that day, in part, to renounce dependency on oil and to "reclaim Martin Luther King Day as a day of peace."

- Veterans for Peace is sponsoring a wreath-laying ceremony on Jan. 15 from 12-1 p.m. at the Rochester Community War Memorial to honor those who have already died in Operation Desert Shield.

- The Military Families Support Network is encouraging correspondence with the troops in the Middle East and on lobbying U.S. leaders for a peaceful solution to the crisis. Call Susan Stehling at 716/924-7260 or 924-3409.

- St. Patrick's Parish in Elmira is hosting an inter-religious prayer service

for peace on Jan. 13 at 7 p.m.

- St. Catherine's of Siena in Ithaca and Sacred Heart of Jesus Church in Perkinsville have started discussion groups on the Persian Gulf crisis. For information on setting up such a group in your parish, call Dubel at 607/734-5893.

- Buses will be leaving at 11:30 p.m. Friday, Jan. 25, from Corpus Christi Parish in Rochester for a national peace demonstration in Washington, D.C., on Saturday, Jan. 26. Buses will also be leaving from Main Street in Geneseo at 12:30 a.m. on Jan. 26. The cost is \$35, with a rate of \$25 for students and low-income persons. For details, call the Genesee Valley Citizens for Peace at 716/243-4002 or write to the group at Box 363, Geneseo, N.Y. 14454.

Dr. Boris D. Rakover, 59; taught mathematics at St. John Fisher

Dr. Boris D. Rakover, a St. John Fisher College mathematics professor, died of cancer on Sunday, Dec. 9, 1990. He was 59-years-old.

A native of the Soviet Union, Dr. Rakover taught in his native land for 28 years before emigrating to the United States in 1980. After his arrival, he worked briefly as a scientific programmer for Xerox Corp., and as an adjunct professor

of mathematics at Monroe Community College. He joined the Fisher faculty as an associate professor in 1981.

Published widely during his career, Dr. Rakover wrote several books including *Elementary Functions*, *Algorithmic Teaching of Solutions of Mathematical Problems* and *Problems of Mathematics*.

His teaching ability was recognized by his students in 1986 when he was chosen to receive Fisher's Teaching Excellence Award. Receiving the award "was the happiest moment of my life," Dr. Rakover told the *Pioneer*, Fisher's student newspaper in 1986. "It makes a big difference, that your kids know and appreciate what you're doing," he said.

Dr. Rakover is survived by his wife, Rimma; two children, David and Anna; a brother, Elezar; a sister, Milka; and four grandchildren.

A memorial service for Dr. Rakover took place at Temple B'Rith Kodesh in Brighton. Interment was at Mt. Hope Cemetery in Rochester.

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Winter Schedule Changes

On Monday, January 7th, RTS winter schedule changes went into effect. Schedules are available at hundreds of locations around town, including our Midtown Information Center.

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FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL 288-1700



Clarification

An article in the Dec. 13 edition of the *Catholic Courier* ("St. Pius school supporters sound off on reorganization,") incorrectly stated that Sean Connellan criticized Father Gerald T. Connor for not publicly opposing school reorganization. Connellan had criticized the St. Pius pastor for not representing the parish's position on school reorganization to Bishop Matthew H. Clark.

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