

## War responses

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istry — the Catholic Family Center as well as the Finger Lakes and Southern Tier offices — are serving as resources to local parishes. Staff members at each office are compiling lists of activities and support groups in their areas, and are attempting to collaborate with the local peace groups and support networks.

Kevin Hennessy, justice and peace director for the Finger Lakes Office of Social Ministry, noted that his office is also in the process of organizing a regional meeting of parish social ministry committees to assess needs and to plan activities.

Thus far in the diocese, protests have avoided the violence seen at peace activities in other parts of the country. Local organizers of the efforts credit this in part to the fact that the peace protesters are careful to avoid criticizing the U.S. troops involved in the war.

"I know that whenever people in the peace movement are interviewed, they stress at the beginning that they support the troops, they just don't support the government's policy," noted Stehling, a parishioner at St. Patrick's, Victor.

"What we are urging is that (the U.S.) Congress give support to the troops, and that when they return, they will be treated with dignity," observed Stehling, whose son-in-law is currently serving in the gulf region.

Dubel pointed out that in the Southern Tier, many of the people taking part in the protests and vigils have loved ones in the gulf.

"They are feeling a great deal of pain and sadness that they have been portrayed as unpatriotic," Dubel said. "We've been telling the people who are concerned about the peace vigils that they should come out and talk to the people."

Vietnam veterans have also been actively

involved in the vigils and protests in the Southern Tier, Dubel reported. "They're telling it like it is, what war is really," she said.

When contacted for Rochester-area veterans' activities and reactions to the protests, John Sdoia, head of the Monroe County Catholic War Veterans declined to be interviewed.

Despite efforts on the part of peace protesters to show support for the troops, some confusion exists about the protests, noted Jane Kirchner, a campus minister at St. John Fisher College. Many students on campus equate peace activities with

criticizing the troops, she noted. "Basically," she observed, "the sentiment is ... if we are saying anything about the war, then we are doing a disservice to the soldiers."

Kirchner said that the college was organizing a Feb. 12 forum to discuss the relationship between the situation in the Persian Gulf and the Palestinian issue. That forum is scheduled to begin at 7:30 p.m. in Basil Hall auditorium.

"My sense is that many people are confused about their position on the war," Dubel acknowledged. "What we're trying to do is to help people clarify their thoughts."

Hennessy predicted that peace activities will increase if the war lasts for a long time or if American casualties begin to mount.

"My sense is that we're in a period where people are sort of shocked and overwhelmed by the television coverage and the saturation of news," Hennessy said.

"I certainly think there's a strong sentiment that we should be working for a peaceful solution," Hennessy continued. "I have the feeling that with the passage of time and when the numbing of the initial events goes away, that sentiment will surface."

## Efforts

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How do I feel about the future?

Both anxious and confident. I am confident that a school system is the right way to go, and that the consolidation is proceeding thoughtfully and with full input from those who are being affected.

I am anxious because a lot of the real work has just begun. We now need to get control of the finances; make sure our educational programs are sound and that they grow; and effectively market the wonderful gift of Catholic education being provided by talented and dedicated teachers and administrators.

In the short run, the Christian Formation and Education Council is looking to review quadrant budgets and make sure finances are under control.

In the mid-term, we are looking to continued success at Northeastern Catholic, a comparable program at St. Theodore's in the Southwest, and the development of a single site for a junior high program in the Southeast.

In the long run, our Catholic schools must be under the umbrella of a well-integrated catechetical plan, which coor-



Kathy Bacon gives kindergartner Delphina Liles a hand.

ordinates schools, religious-education programs, adult education, youth programs and other aspects of Christian formation.

Let's roll up our sleeves and get the work done.

## Channel One

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Senior cameraman Tony Floreano designed the set.

Floreano said the best part about the new system is that teachers are right there in the classroom to explain the news to the students and answer any questions they may have.

"It's bringing the issues on TV right into the classroom, and it helps the kids to understand the news," stated Floreano.

Tony's brother, Jason, said the newscast is helpful because many students are busy with jobs, sports and school. "We don't always have the chance to watch the news at night, so it's good to see it in school."

Senior Cheri Hill agreed that the network helps students fit news into their schedules.

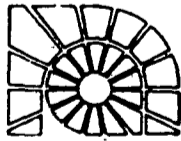
Brother Hannon and Jablonski expect other area schools to become interested in Channel One in light of Kearney's experience.

"Not all schools know about it," said Brother Hannon. "Other schools will take a look at us and make their own decisions."

"I think we just tipped the iceberg," Jablonski added.

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