



Babette G. Augustin/Staff photographer
 Pat O'Hara (left), Janet Bezila (center) and Kathy Burke were among the demonstrators who joined a picket in front of the Catholic Family Center May 20, protesting the recent firing of Kenneth K. Maher from the agency's Department of Justice and Peace.

Board member quits to protest CFC firing

By Rob Cullivan
 Staff writer

ROCHESTER — Carol Crossed, a peace and pro-life activist, resigned May 20 as a member of Catholic Family Center's board of directors to protest the May 6 firing of Kenneth K. Maher from the agency's Department of Justice and Peace.

Crossed also resigned from the department's Justice and Peace Committee, a group of lay persons and clergy serving as advisors to the department. Crossed was one of ten members of the committee who signed a letter of resignation, claiming that Maher — a program specialist with the CFC — was fired because his political activities outside of work displeased "funding sources."

The letter stated, "Ken was fired from his justice and peace job because he was doing justice and peace work. (Catholic Family Center's) narrow definition of social reform, demonstrated by the firing of Ken Maher, permits justice to exist in its agency as long as it is a 'support service' to charity and doesn't hurt funding sources."

The letter was also signed by Janet Bezila, Alison T. Clarke, Judy Curtin, Mario Escalante, Christine Garrison, Robert C. Insull, Geraldine Oftedahl, and Father Neil R. Miller, pastor of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish, and John Walker.

Maher's supporters, as well as Maher himself, claim that actions he took as a private citizen led to his dismissal from the Catholic Family Center because the center was worried about Maher offending funding sources.

Maher's dismissal letter, for example, outlined an "angry exchange" he had on the telephone with Walter DeRouen, Grand Knight of the Knights of Columbus of Rochester. According to Maher, DeRouen berated him for informing the *Catholic Courier* of a vote the Knights took to remain members of the 19th Ward Association.

Acting as a private citizen, Maher led association members in a protest opposed to the association's decision to lease office space in its 504 Thurston Road building to

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Black Catholic revival set for Rochester

By Rob Cullivan
 Staff writer

ROCHESTER — Eight urban parishes and the diocesan Office of Black Ministries are sponsoring two upcoming events designed to stir interest in the Catholic faith among area African-Americans and black immigrants.

Father Warren Savage, director of Cathedral High School in Springfield, Mass., will lead a "pre-revival" at Immaculate Conception Church, 445 Frederick Douglass St., on Saturday, June 15, at 12:45 p.m.

The pre-revival in June will acquaint parish volunteers and workers with the purpose behind a black Catholic revival scheduled for July 22-24 at Corpus Christi Church, 864 E. Main St. Organizers hope to draw about 1,000 people to the July revival.

The participating parishes are Immaculate Conception, Corpus Christi, St. Monica, Our Lady of Good Counsel, Ss. Peter and Paul, St. Augustine, St. Bridget

and St. Francis of Assisi, according to Jacquelyn Dobson, executive director of black ministries.

The July revival will feature Father John T. Judie, a parish administrator, associate pastor and high school chaplain from Louisville, Ky. An avid musician, the African-American priest has developed and directed choirs as well as musically oriented retreats and ministries at the parish level.

Organizers of the revival in July said it will feature preaching, healing and singing, encompassing the music of both blacks in the United States and in such regions as the Caribbean.

Describing Father Judie as "charismatic" and "full of energy," Dobson said his preaching should spur "liveliness" and "excitement" among those who attend the revival.

The June 15 revival will focus on the need for people to become personal witnesses to the Gospel, and will also examine a variety of issues concerning African-Americans, said Father Savage, who, in

addition to serving as vice president of the National Black Clergy Caucus, has worked as a liturgical planner.

"I think African-Americans have to face the reality of racism, of prejudice, the reality of unemployment and poverty, the reality of cultural diversity," Father Savage said in a phone interview from his office in Massachusetts. "I think we need to talk about family structure, the need to do something more to support family life," he

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Congress in Syracuse will focus on devotion to the Sacred Heart

By Lee Strong
 Staff writer

ROCHESTER — More than 1,300 people from around the world are expected to attend the third National Congress of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, which is scheduled for August 1-4 at the Sheraton Convention Center in Syracuse.

Father Albert J. Shamon, administrator of St. Isaac Jogues Chapel in Fleming and a columnist for the *Catholic Courier*, will be the keynote speaker at the congress, the first such gathering since 1978.

According to Father Shamon, the goal of the congress is to inspire participants "to want to make known and loved the Sacred Heart of Jesus."

Sponsored by the Congregation of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary, the congress will include a variety of workshops, daily Masses and Perpetual Adoration as well as a procession with the National Pilgrim Virgin Statue.

The gathering will also include a youth conference on Saturday, August 3. Diocesan youth groups are being encouraged to participate, Father Shamon said.

In addition to Father Shamon, congress speakers and workshop leaders will include: Bishop Austin Vaughn, auxiliary bishop of the Archdiocese of New York; Guido Del Rose, guardian of the National Pilgrim Virgin Statue; Father Foster P. Rogers, pastor of St. Alphonsus Church, Auburn; and Father-David P. Reid, SSCC, pastor of Ss. Peter and Paul Church, Rochester.

Father A. William Mitchell, SSCC, spiritual director of the congress and the

National Director of the Sacred Heart Enthronement Apostolate, said in a telephone interview with the *Catholic Courier* that the congress and his apostolate show that devotions are still important even in the post-Vatican II church.

Father Mitchell said devotion to the Sacred Heart creates a personal relationship with Christ. "It's mindful of the old covenant idea that there is a God and we are his people," the priest said.

Once this personal relationship is established, Father Mitchell explained, people must then extend the relationship into every aspect of their lives.

This devotion, Father Mitchell added, will allow participants to help others in ways that social service agencies, for example, cannot.

"People (in need) can become numbers, whereas if you are in tune with our Lord, those people are his images," Father Mitchell noted.

Tom DiVincenzo, who is coordinating preparation for the congress in the Rochester diocese, likewise pointed out that the congress has both personal and social goals.

"There are going to be some lay groups describing how they incorporate the Sacred Heart into their lives and ministries," DiVincenzo said. While the personal devotion to the Sacred Heart is important, he added, "The other side, which is just as important, is the service side."

Organizers of the congress met Thursday, May 16, at the Sisters of Mercy Motherhouse to provide information about

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