

# Father Berrigan, abortion foes learn trial date

By Lee Strong  
Staff writer

ROCHESTER — The case of Father Daniel Berrigan, SJ, and four Rochester residents arrested Oct. 26 for a pro-life protest at the University Avenue offices of Planned Parenthood, Inc., is scheduled to go to trial January 30, 1992, in Rochester City Court.

Father Berrigan, Carol Crossed, Janet Bezila, Donna Kearney and John "Pat" O'Hara all pled not guilty to charges of criminal trespassing stemming from the protest.

The five were part of a group of approximately 25 protesters who gathered at the Planned Parenthood office. They sat in front of the office's main doors, blocked the entrance, and refused to leave when asked to do so by police.

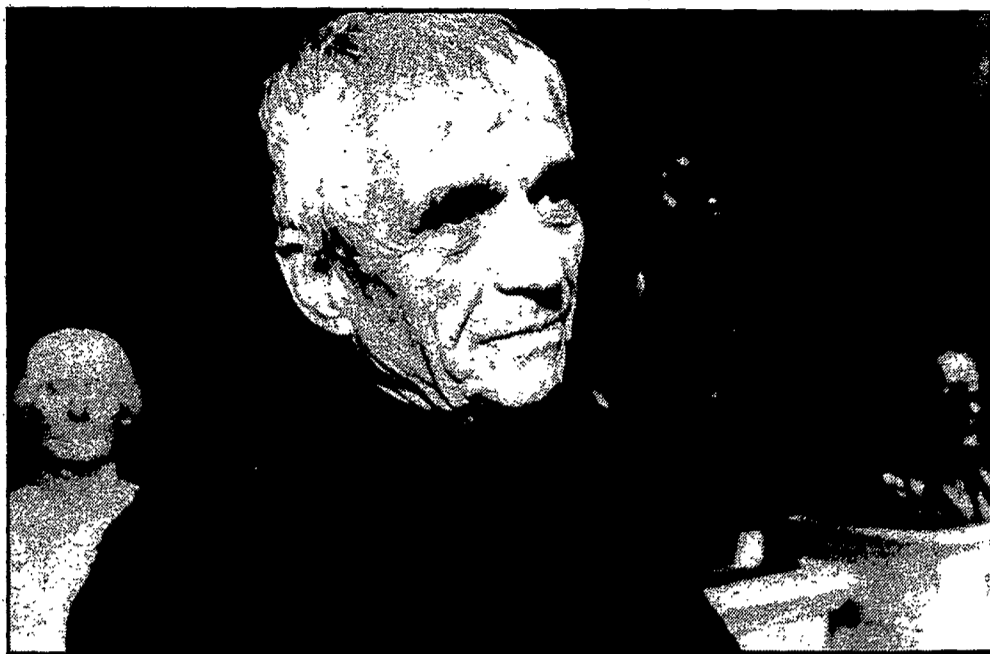
According to Crossed, the group selected Planned Parenthood for the protest because of the organization's recent announcement that it planned to open an abortion clinic.

The five arrested protesters were arraigned before Judge Teresa Johnson Oct. 30, and formally charged with criminal trespassing. They all entered not-guilty pleas at that time. The date of the trial was set during a pre-trial hearing held Nov. 13.

In a telephone interview with the *Catholic Courier*, Father Berrigan said that he chose to plead not guilty because, "You can't consider yourself guilty when you are trying to save unborn lives."

The Jesuit priest, who gained international attention in the 1960s and 1970s for his anti-Vietnam War and anti-nuclear protests, said he is considering whether to defend himself. The key, he noted, is whether "we would have time to say what brought us there and why."

The protest was part of the Faith and Resistance Community's fourth annual retreat, Oct. 25-26. The retreat linked together the issues of war and abortion. On Oct. 25, participants staged a demonstration at the Kenneth L. Keating Federal Building to protest U.S. in-



Babette G. Augustin/Staff photographer  
Father Daniel Berrigan, SJ, appeared at the Rochester City Court House Nov. 13 for a pre-trial hearing on criminal trespass charges, which stemmed from an Oct. 26 pro-life protest at the University Avenue offices of Planned Parenthood, Inc. The case of the priest and four Rochester residents is scheduled to go to trial January 30, 1992.

volvement in the war in Iraq.

As part of that demonstration, participants chained a 10-foot cross to the flag pole. The protesters later moved the cross to the building's front entrance.

Police made no arrests at that demonstration.

Father Berrigan noted that the group had been open to being arrested at the Federal Building. Even though they were not arrested there, he said, the trial will offer a chance to speak out on the issues of war and abortion.

"I think the main thing is to get a public forum for discussion on these very difficult issues, and to send to the church a message about the seamless garment," Father Berrigan said. "We would like to spark thoughtful debate on the whole issue."

The seamless garment is a philosophy, first enunciated by Cardinal Joseph Bernadin of Chicago, calling for a consistent ethic of life approach to such issues as abortion, war and capital punishment.

## Early Thanks Giving Appeal returns lag

By Lee Strong  
Staff writer

ROCHESTER — At the conclusion of the in-hall phase of the 1991-92 Thanks Giving Appeal, reported pledges were lagging behind returns from a comparable point in 1990.

According to Mark Seeberg, director of the diocesan development office, the TGA — the diocese's chief source of income — had received 33,176 pledges by Nov. 15.

He said the pledges came to a total of \$2,627,623 — just more than 60 percent of the appeal's overall goal of \$4,345,000.

The 1991-90 appeal goal represents 64 percent of the diocese's \$6.762 million budget.

Although he did not have specific 1990-91 figures on hand, Seeberg said this year's returns seem to be lagging

behind those for last year. Nevertheless, he said he was confident that the current goal would be met.

Seeberg said 22 parishes had not yet reported any of their returns as of Nov. 15, and 33 had made only partial reports. In addition, he said, parishes will continue follow-up efforts — through a combination of phone calls, letters or personal visits — during the coming weeks. Once that project has ended, personnel from the development office will begin contacting individuals who failed to contribute.

On the 1990-91 appeal, the development office's follow-up effort brought in between \$250,000 and \$270,000, Seeberg reported.


He acknowledged that this year's appeal might be suffering from the na-

tion's troubled economy. Yet he pointed out that the 1990-91 TGA reached its goal amid the start of the economic downturn — and despite an overall decline in U.S. charitable donations.

Another factor that could affect the 1991-92 appeal is the decision by Bishop Matthew H. Clark to eliminate compulsory parish quotas, Seeberg observed.

In previous years, parishes were assigned quotas they were required to reach. If TGA contributions in a parish fell short of the quota, the parish was responsible for making up the difference out of its other revenues.

Seeberg remarked, "We're not going to know until it's all over" whether the quota-less appeal will be successful.



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