

Few arrested at outset of Buffalo 'rescues'

By Lee Strong
Staff writer

BUFFALO — The "Spring of Life" demonstrations being staged in Buffalo by Operation Rescue began April 20 with confrontations between hundreds of pro-life and pro-choice activists.

But through noon on Tuesday, April 21, only three arrests had taken place and no attempts had been made to physically block entrances to Buffalo abortion clinics.

The first two days of the campaign witnessed the unveiling of a new Operation Rescue tactic — an effort to "expose" the doctors who perform abortions. Other highlights of the opening days were the announcement of a national adoption project to be coordinated by Operation Rescue National, and a kickoff rally at a Maronite Catholic Church in the Buffalo suburb of Williamsville. An estimated 2,000 pro-lifers attended the rally.

The protests began amid appeals from leaders on both sides for non-violence.

The long-awaited confrontation between opposing sides in the abortion debate consisted largely of hundreds of individuals from both camps facing off in front of Buffalo clinics the morning of April 21.

But except for verbal sparring, the two sides generally remained on their respective sides of the street — with hundreds of Buffalo police and Erie County sheriff's deputies positioned to keep them apart.

The Rev. David Anderson, pastor of the Faith Baptist Church in Sarasota Fla., and one of the media spokesmen for the rescue, said it may not be necessary for pro-life activists to block clinics during the campaign, as the demonstrations were already curtailing activities at the clinics.

In addition to protests at the clinic, a number of pro-life activists went to the homes of doctors who perform abortions in an effort to "expose" them to their neighbors and publicly shame them into changing their minds about



Babette G. Augustin/Photo editor

Betty Muldowney (left) of Cicero and Beatrice Voytko of Liverpool pray the rosary April 21 on Buffalo's Main Street, across the street from the Buffalo Gynecological Women's Services clinic during the second day of Operation Rescue's Spring of Life campaign.

abortion — or, at least, stop performing abortions.

The only activists arrested the morning of April 21 were the Reverends Robert and Paul Schenck of the New Covenant Baptist Church in the Buffalo suburb of Tonawanda. The Rev. Paul Schenck reportedly removed an aborted fetus from a bottle and held it during a confrontation outside the Erie Medical Center on High Street.

Buffalo police arrested them for a disorderly conduct.

The first arrest took place April 20 when a single pro-life activist, Robert Kaiser of Buffalo, was arrested for disorderly conduct and resisting arrest while attempting to enter a clinic on Main Street.

At the 7 p.m. kickoff rally at St. John Maron Church in Williamsville, approximately 2,000 pro-lifers listened as the Rev. Keith Tucci, Operation Rescue National's executive director, outlined plans for the effort.

The rescue campaign in Buffalo is to be three-pronged, the Rev. Tucci said.

In addition to the rescues — the physical blocking of clinics — the "Spring of Life" includes Operation John the Baptist and Operation First Amendment.

Organizers explained that Operation John the Baptist will focus on "exposing" and embarrassing physicians who perform abortions. Those efforts will include picketing at the doctors' homes, contacting their neighbors, and a publicly announcing the doctor's names.

As part of that effort, Operation Rescue members prepared a radio advertisement, which was played at the rally and is scheduled for broadcast on Buffalo radio stations. The ad begins with the sound of a baby crying and a voice declaring, "Some doctors deliver babies. Some doctors kill them." The announcer then lists the names of Buffalo-area doctors who perform abortions.

According to Karen Swallow Prior, spokeswoman for the Western New York Pro Life Rescue Movement, the goal of Operation John the Baptist "is to expose (abortionists) not only to the

community at large, but also to expose the abortionists to themselves. We hope to spur their consciences, because only then will they turn away from performing abortions."

Operation First Amendment, meanwhile, will consist of pro-lifers attempting to inform and educate the public about abortion through the media, public speaking, preaching and sidewalk counseling.

In addition, the Rev. Tucci announced the launching of the National Adoption Project. He said this Operation Rescue effort is intended to provide adoption services for what he described as "special need" children — children who are difficult to place in adoptive homes because of age, race or disabilities.

Through the adoption project, Rev. Tucci continued, Operation Rescue will serve as a national clearinghouse for parents willing to adopt these children. These parents' names will be supplied to agencies and organizations that have custodial care of such children. In addition, he said, the organization will attempt to change legislation to ease the adoption process.

Finally, the Rev. Tucci challenged rally attendants to look at their own family situations and to consider adoption.

The minister called the fight over abortion "a life-and-death struggle. We're representing people who have execution papers tomorrow.

"If we don't speak for them," he warned, "there will be nobody to speak for us when they start killing the old people."

Organizers in Buffalo have planned nightly rallies at St. John Maron Church over the two weeks. Bishop Austin B. Vaughn, auxiliary of the Archdiocese of New York and a veteran of rescue efforts, was scheduled to speak at the April 21 rally. As of *Catholic Courier* press time Tuesday, April 21, organizers were not certain if the bishop — who has been arrested at previous rescues — would join the protests.

Diocese slates 13-percent cut in ministries' budgets

By Rob Cullivan
Staff writer

ROCHESTER — A 13-percent reduction in the diocesan ministerial budget for fiscal year 1992-93 will mean the elimination of both the Finger Lakes Office of Religious Education and of 10 to 15 part- and full-time jobs at the Pastoral Center, 1150 Buffalo Road.

In addition to the job cutbacks, some services to parishes will be streamlined, and Pastoral Center employees will receive a 3-percent salary increase as opposed to the previously announced 5-percent increase.

Diocesan Vicar General Father John M. Mulligan announced the cutbacks in a press statement issued Monday, April 20. In an interview with the *Catholic Courier*, he noted that the diocese will announce specific position eliminations next week.

Position cutbacks will be applied across the board in all ministry offices, according to James Rinefierd, chief financial officer for the diocese. In an interview with the *Courier*, Rinefierd added that some of the positions to be eliminated may already be vacant due to retirement, resignation or other circumstances.

The diocesan statement also noted that Father Peter Clifford, director of parish services, explained that his of-

fice will provide services to clusters of parishes rather than to individual parishes.

As for the decrease in salary raises, the statement cited Mary Kessler, diocesan director of human resources, as saying:

"The original proposal would have included a 3 percent cost-of-living increase as well as another 2 percent to keep our salary ranges in line with others in the not-for-profit market. With the reductions, we can't provide the enhancement this year but we felt it is important to keep up with the cost of living."

Explaining the need for cutbacks, Rinefierd and other diocesan officials noted that revenues from various income sources has either leveled off or decreased. Meanwhile, the diocese's depreciation expenses will increase next year, Rinefierd said.

Father Mulligan estimated that the 1992-93 operating budget for Pastoral Center ministries will be approximately \$6.4 million, down from \$6.762 million in 1991-92.

The Pastoral Center budget includes the operating expenses of the diocese's support ministries, which will experience a cut of 13-percent — or \$570,000 — next year, according to Rinefierd. Meanwhile, the diocese anticipates an increase in its depreciation expenses,

he said, necessitating a larger allocation of funds for this next year.

The ministries' budget reduction can be traced to a number of factors, Father Mulligan and other diocesan officials noted.

One factor cited by Mark Seeberg, diocesan director of development, is a leveling off during the past few years in the amount of unrestricted financial gifts — that is, donations made without any restrictions on their use.

Unrestricted gifts provide 70 percent of the Pastoral Center's operating budget, and make up the bulk of money given through the diocese's annual Thanks Giving Appeal, he said. However, the current national recession has resulted in a decline or leveling off of unrestricted gifts everywhere, including the diocese's 12 counties, he observed.

Ironically, Seeberg pointed out that the leveling off of unrestricted gifts has occurred at the same time as a dramatic increase in donations of restricted gifts. He noted that restricted gifts are often substantial in size — sometimes amounting to thousands and millions of dollars — but have strings attached.

From 1988-1992, the diocese enjoyed a 50-percent increase in donations from the previous four-year period, yet the bulk of that increase came in re-

stricted gifts, Seeberg said. And such gifts often go not to the Pastoral Center but to such areas as Catholic schools and other agencies, Seeberg said.

"It's become a lot more difficult to make the case for unrestricted gifts," Seeberg commented. "When people give you a large sum, they really want to know that it's at work for a need that's heartfelt for them."

The diocese also cited the following factors as contributing to the need for budget cuts:

- A decline in operating revenue the diocese obtains from investment funds. The diocese needs to reduce the amount of money it withdraws from such funds in order to offset the effect of inflation, Father Mulligan noted.

- Plans by the diocese to begin saving for such future capital expenses as renovating the heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems at the Pastoral Center over the next decade.

- Plans to set aside one-half of 1 percent of next year's operating budget to establish a contingency fund that would cover unanticipated expenses. The diocese currently lacks such a fund, Rinefierd noted.

- A need to prune Pastoral Center services back to those essential to the diocesan mission, in preparation for new directions expected to result from the Diocesan Synod in 1993.