



## Cornell gets pro-life message from returning activist-alumna

IITHACA — It wasn't a typical college homecoming, but it certainly drew a crowd.

For the first time since earning her law degree from Cornell University in 1984, Helen Alvaré returned to the campus the weekend of April 10-11.

And she brought a strong message back with her.

Since her law-school days, the 31-year-old Alvaré has gone on to become a leading figure in the national

pro-life movement. In October, 1990, she became the director of planning and information in the Pro-Life Secretariat of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops in Washington, D.C.

Speaking on behalf of the U.S. bishops, Alvaré regularly gives interviews about abortion for television, radio and print media. She also lectures around the country at two or more college campuses each month.

The nature of her talks frequently gives rise to disruptions between pro-life and pro-choice factions in her audiences.

"I had six security guards at the University of Iowa," Alvaré said last week in a telephone interview with the *Catholic Courier*. "But my talks aren't of a 'let's-get-them' nature. I invite the protesters inside to talk to them, and try to keep things very low-key."

Alvaré arrived in Ithaca Friday, April 10, for a presentation that evening at St. Catherine of Siena Church. She lectured before a crowd of about 100 the next afternoon at Cornell's Uris Hall on the topic, "Abortion: A Failed Social Policy."

According to Cornell graduate student Mark Viz, an officer with the Cornell Coalition for Life, predictions of trouble at the event were unfounded.

"There were quite a bit of problems in the weeks before the event, with rumors that there was to be a fairly



Helen Alvaré

large protest from the other (pro-choice) side. But nothing like that happened; it was very good in that sense," Viz said. "We paid \$32 an hour for a police officer, and all he did was stand there."

Alvaré told the *Courier* that it's vital for her to visit colleges because "these are the people who are going to be influencing public opinion in future years."

She added that she was "thrilled to see the caliber of pro-life activity going on at Cornell."

— Mike Latona



Kellie Mc Cann/Photo Intern

**ANNUAL PRO-LIFE SERVICE** — Helen Kester was among about 150 people who attended the fourth-annual Good Friday prayer service in reparation for abortion April 17. Sponsored by the Pro-Life Planning Committee, the event consisted of a prayer service at St. Andrew's Church, Rochester, and a peaceful procession to Rochester General Hospital. At the hospital, participants prayed the Stations of the Cross and the Chapelet of Divine Mercy.

## 1992 convocation speaker to focus on aiding priests' spirituality

CORNING — The 1992 diocesan Priests Convocation — scheduled to take place in Corning April 27-29 — will focus on spirituality as it affects both priests' personal lives and their ministry.

The annual gathering — scheduled for the second consecutive year at the Corning Hilton — will feature a keynote address by Father William Cieslak, OFM. A professor of liturgical theology at the the Franciscan School of Theology in Berkeley, Calif., he will focus on presiding at liturgy as a key component of a priest's spiritual life.

Also slated for the convocation are a series of workshops on such topics as conflict resolution, management, planning for retirement, presiding at li-

turgy, and caring for elderly parents.

A workshop entitled "Living over the Store" will focus on issues — including frustration and burnout — that can arise from both living and working in the same environment.

This year's convocation will also include a celebration of the priest jubilarians marking their 25th and 50th anniversaries of ordination.

Father Ed Palumbos, pastor of Henrietta's Good Shepherd Church and chairman of the convocation planning committee, explained that the theme for the gathering — "For the Life of the People and the Glory of God: Priestly Life and Spirituality" — arose out of suggestions made at last year's convocation.

"Spirituality," Father Palumbos said, is intended to apply not just to prayer, "but in the broader sense of lifestyle."

Many priests, he noted, had learned about monastic-style spirituality while in seminary. Now they are discovering "how spirituality is unfolding in parishes and in their lives."

Father Cieslak was selected to give the keynote address — and to direct the workshop on presiding at liturgy with style — because of his work in the area of spirituality, his expertise in liturgical theology, and his reputation as an informative but also "enjoyable and entertaining speaker," Father Palumbos observed.

"The focus of his talk is on attention to integrating the thing that most of us do on a daily basis — preside at liturgy — into our spiritual lives," Father Palumbos added.

All active diocesan priests will attend the three-day convocation. Retired priests and priests from religious orders serving in the diocese will handle parish needs during the event, Father Palumbos explained.

— Lee Strong

## Polish author to speak

ROCHESTER — Novelist and translator W.S. Kuniczak will give a free lecture Thursday, April 23, on the topic of Polish epic literature. The talk will take place at 7:30 p.m. in Room 141 of the science building at St. John Fisher College, 3690 East Ave.

Kuniczak is best known for a series of novels he wrote about his homeland's struggles in World War II: 1966's *The Thousand Hour Day*, 1979's *The March*, and 1983's *Valedictory*.

Kuniczak, who became a U.S. citizen in 1958, is currently working on *Journeys*, a cycle of four novels about immigrants, and *State of Siege*, a book about contemporary Poland. He also plans to write a biography of Pope John Paul II.

For information, call 716/385-8104.

## Retreat slated for women

ROCHESTER — "Mid-life Journey for Women" will be the subject of a retreat taking place from 7:30 p.m., April 24, through 3 p.m., Sunday, April 26, at the Cenacle Center for Spiritual Renewal, 693 East Ave. Dr. Carolyn Jacobs, associate professor at Smith College for Social Work in Amherst, Mass., will articulate the challenges faced by women seeking to choose paths in life, and when to hold on and when to let go.

Jacobs has led workshops and retreats on women's psychological and spiritual development throughout the United States and in the Philippines.

Suggested offering for the weekend is \$75. For information, call the Cenacle Ministry Office at 716/271-8755.

## Religion conference set at University of Rochester

ROCHESTER — Scholars and students of religion from the United States and Canada will meet April 24-25 at the University of Rochester for the annual eastern-region conference of the American Academy of Religion.

The conference will feature dozens of presentations on topics ranging from the history of various Western and Eastern religious traditions, to the psychology of religion, to the teaching of religion.

Presentations will focus on the history and legacy of abolitionist Frederick Douglass and suffragist Susan B. Anthony; religious fanaticism; gospel music; women in religion; colonialism and religion; Second Temple Judaism; spirituality and mysticism, and other themes.

Sessions on Friday, April 24, will run from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., followed by a wine-and-cheese reception from 5:15-6:15 p.m.; dinner from 6:30-8 p.m.; and entertainment by The Swingtones from 8:30-9:30 p.m.

Sessions on Saturday, April 25, will run from 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., followed by lunch and a business meeting at the university's faculty club.

Open to the public, the conference costs \$20 per person or \$10 per students. Registration begins at 10 a.m., on Friday, April 24, in the Bridge Lounge of Wilson Commons, on the University's River Campus.

For information, call Jan Fitzpatrick at 716/274-4128, or Andrew Overman at 275-9368 or 275-5378.

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