

# Pro-life activists claim victory in Milwaukee

By Maryangela Layman-Roman  
Catholic News Service

MILWAUKEE — Pro-life forces were outnumbered June 16 during the first day of a scheduled six-week protest campaign at Milwaukee abortion clinics. Yet several demonstrators asserted that they had notched a victory.

"What's happening here has been proven — if one or two people are (demonstrating) in front of a clinic, the number of abortions performed there decreases," said Episcopalian Father James Pinto of Birmingham, Ala.

Those demonstrating in favor of abortion "are actually doing our job for us," he said. "When you get 150-200 people standing around the clinic, it's intimidating to the women, doctors and employees inside."

Father Pinto was among approximately 250 pro-lifers who participated in the June 16 protests at some of the six Milwaukee clinics where abortions are performed. In all, the number of demonstrators opposing and supporting abortion totaled about 700.

Ninety-nine people — including 32 youths ages 14 to 17 — were arrested on charges of trespassing and disorderly conduct during the first day of protests in Milwaukee. Another 15



AP/Wide World Photos  
Three young pro-life demonstrators pray before a line of pro-choice activists outside an abortion clinic in Milwaukee June 18. Police arrested at least 71 people, including 43 children and teens. About 500 clinic supporters locked arms around the clinic to keep the pro-life activists out.

children ages 9 to 13 were released without charges to their parents and guardians. Those ages 14 to 17 also were released, but were charged and ordered to appear in court in July.

Coordinating the Milwaukee protest were Missionaries to the Preborn and Youth for America. Other pro-life groups and individuals also were represented.

The day began for some demonstrators at 6:15 a.m. at St. Mary's Parish in Elm Grove, Wis. Following a short prayer at the church, the group traveled in a caravan of cars, vans and buses to the Imperial Health Center, where they were met by about 250 supporters of legal abortion and by police officers who formed a human wall around the clinic.

In contrast to the pro-lifers who prayed or sang softly, the abortion supporters shouted such messages as "Racist, sexist, anti-gay, born-again bigot, go away" or "Pro-life men have got to go, when you get pregnant, let us know."

Later at the Wisconsin Women's Health Center, several pro-lifers broke through the human and physical barriers to stage a sit-in at the clinic's parking lot. There they were apprehended by police, handcuffed with white plastic restraints and taken by

paddy wagon to the Richard Street Armory for processing in two make-shift courts.

Stephani Placek, 22, a member of St. Joan of Arc Parish in Chicago, and Jamie Teliar, 14, a member of St. Mark Parish in Dallas, knelt in front of the human barrier protecting the clinic and prayed the rosary.

"I do a lot of rescues back in Dallas and was arrested once in San Antonio, but I don't like to do this just for Dallas," said Teliar. "I think it's important to save babies around the world, too."

Even though the 19 hours she spent in a San Antonio jail cell terrified her, Teliar said she was willing to be arrested again to make her point.

Heidi Huffman of South Carolina carried a sign declaring, "I survived a suction abortion," and walked with her mother, Tina, who had attempted to abort Heidi in 1978.

Tina Huffman's suction abortion managed to remove only the placenta, leaving the fetus intact. On Nov. 9, 1978, seven months after the abortion attempt, she gave birth to a 3-pound, 3-ounce girl she named Heidi.

Tina Huffman later had two other abortions, but she and her husband, Richard, now have two other children, ages 3 and 4.

## Chicago board calls for lay-led review of abuse cases

By Jay Copp  
Catholic News Service

CHICAGO (CNS) — In what Cardinal Joseph L. Bernardin of Chicago called a "landmark" report, an archdiocesan commission has recommended a lay-led independent review board be created to investigate all allegations of clergy sexual abuse of minors.

Cardinal Bernardin also disclosed that eight more priests soon will be removed from their parishes because of alleged sexual abuse of minors.

The cardinal made public June 15 a 93-page report written by a commission to recommend policy on sexual-abuse charges. The prelate created the panel last October after accusations of sexual misconduct were made against diocesan priests and the archdiocese

admitted it had made mistakes in how it handled sexual abuse.

Under the plan, a priest would be removed from his parish within 48 hours after an allegation if the review board finds probable cause that the abuse occurred. Currently, sexual misconduct charges are handled by the vicar of priests.

The priest would be permanently barred from serving at a parish or otherwise dealing with children if a later, more thorough investigation by the board finds the charge to be true.

The cardinal said he is in "substantial accord" with the report and expects it to be implemented by October with only minor changes.

"In my judgment, this report is a landmark document," Cardinal Bernardin said. "To my knowledge, no other diocese has studied the issue in

such a comprehensive way.

"This report is not a whitewash or a witch hunt. What it is is a blueprint for the future," he added.

The review board recommended by the commission would consist of three lay professionals, three representatives of the church at-large and three priests.

A 24-hour hot line would be established to receive allegations of sexual abuse by priests.

The eight priests soon to be removed from parishes — the men were not named — were found by the commission to be a risk to minors. All are under close supervision, Cardinal Bernardin said.

The commission reviewed charges against 57 diocesan priests made since 1963. It found no charges made between 1951-1963.

It determined that 34 priests eng-

aged in sexual misconduct with minors.

All but the eight soon to be removed are no longer in parish ministry. Seventeen were removed from their parishes, some years ago and some in more recent times before the commission convened. Five were removed after the commission began meeting. Several abusing priests have died, retired or resigned.

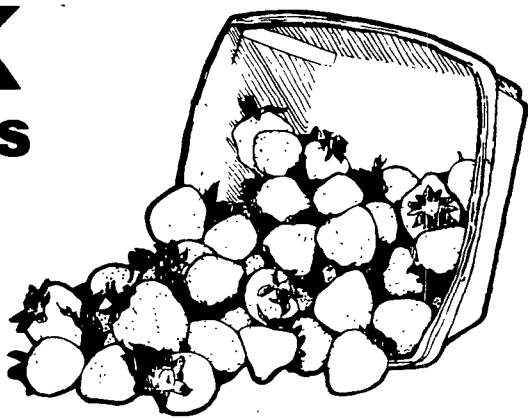
The report noted that the 57 charges occurred during years in which 2,252 diocesan priests served in the archdiocese. The problem of sexual abuse of minors is "not worse among priests than others," Cardinal Bernardin said.

But, he added, his voice rising with emotion, "If there was one case of sexual misconduct, that was one too many."

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