

1150 Buffalo Road
Rochester, NY 14624
716/328-4340

President

Bishop Matthew H. Clark

General Manager

Bishop Dennis W. Hickey

Editor/Asst. Gen. Mgr.

Karen M. Franz

Editorial Department

Managing Editor

Richard A. Kiley

Staff Writers

Lee Strong
Finger Lakes
Rob Cullivan
Monroe County
Mike Latona
Southern Tier

Photo Editor

Babette G. Augustin

Photo Interns

Kellie Mc Cann
Erik Kunkel
Aris Economopoulos

Business Department

Circulation Manager

Jeanne A. Morin

Advertising Manager

Bernie Puglisi

Advertising Account Exec.

Kathy Welsh

Receptionist

Amy D'Accursio

Production Department

Graphics Manager

Lorraine Hennessey

Graphic Artist

Michael Fleckenstein

Letters Policy

The *Catholic Courier* wishes to provide space for readers throughout the diocese to express opinions on all sides of the issues. We welcome all signed, original letters about current issues affecting church life.

Although we cannot publish every letter we receive, we seek, insofar as possible, to provide a balanced representation of expressed opinions and a variety of reflections on life in the church. We will choose letters for publication based on likely reader interest, timeliness and a sense of fair play. Our discerning readers may determine whether to agree or disagree with the opinions of the letter writers.

We reserve the right to edit all letters. Mail them to: *Catholic Courier*, 1150 Buffalo Road, Rochester, New York 14624. Please include your full name as well as telephone number and complete address for verification purposes.

Don't promote Planned Parenthood

To the editors:

We have been taught that any organization or publications attacking the principles of the Catholic faith, particularly those related to purity, contraception and abortion are extremely dangerous and are to be avoided for fear of the spiritual harm their influence might induce. It is also becoming more apparent that since so much anti-Catholic propaganda is openly disseminated by a very hostile media, such material ought not to appear in Catholic literature unless the Catholic position is fully explained and openly advocated. The free and unguided publication of potentially harmful ideas only serves to confuse the uninformed

who are not knowledgeable concerning Catholic articles of faith.

Your inclusion of Planned Parenthood in your article of May 28 ("Centers assist women amid charges of fraud"), as an organization helpful to women is extremely puzzling in light of what is known about its position on abortion and birth control. What is it about Planned Parenthood that might influence someone in coming to that conclusion?

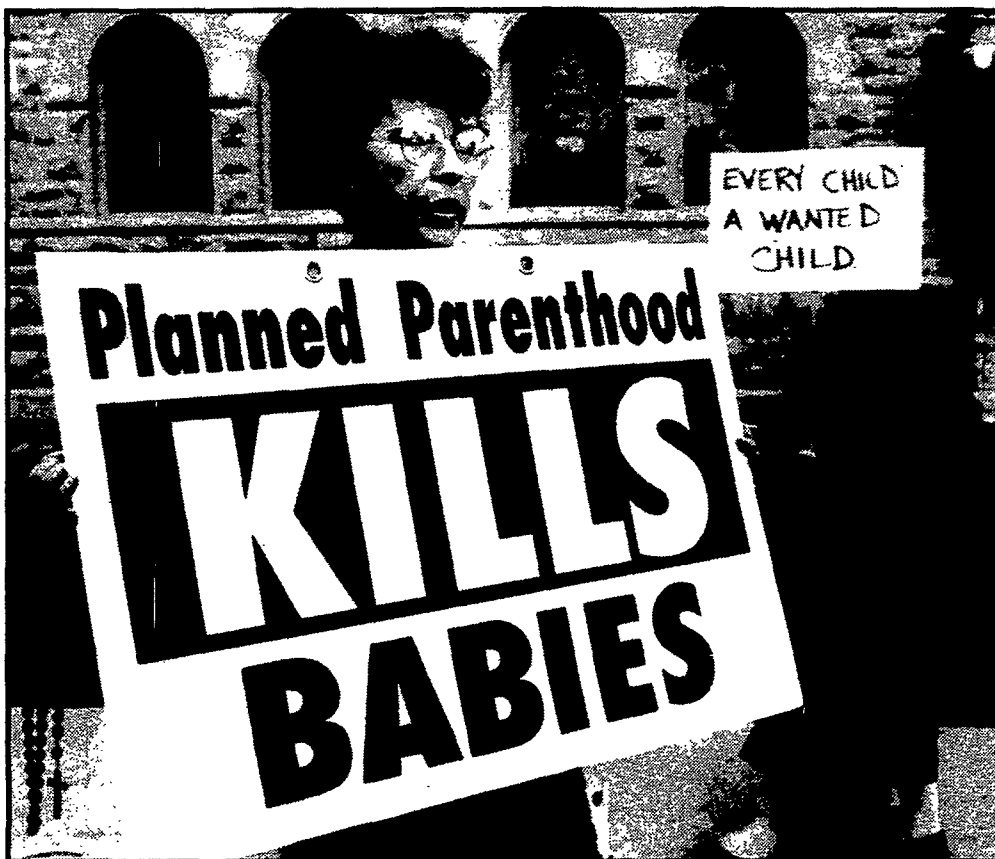
Is it the killing of over 4 million developing babies a year, something it advocates and performs? Is it their views on contraception and their advocating free and unlimited sexual promiscuity for unmarried individuals

a position which has contributed to a frightening increase in the incidence of venereal disease, sterilization and unwanted pregnancies resulting in even more abortion? Is it their advocacy of abortion without parental consent which undermines the God given responsibility of parental authority regarding childraising? Is it the black and anti-poor racism of many of its founders including Margaret Sanger who believed these people were of inferior nature and therefore ought not to have the right to procreate?

Your inclusion of Planned Parenthood implies a belief that the organization offers its clients counseling in agreement with Catholic principles, something most Catholics find untenable. Might there be an inherent spiritual harm in advocating such an organization to your readers, some of whom might be frightened pregnant women who might consider an abortion in a moment of weakness? Might there also be scandal in openly advocating a group most Catholics believe does more harm than good? It would be greatly desired that the official advocate of Catholicism in Rochester contribute to the formation of Catholic identity instead of promoting organizations which destroy it.

Michael R. Aiello, M.D., president
Catholic Physicians' Guild

EDITORS' NOTE: In no way did the article in question promote Planned Parenthood. Two points should be made clear. First, the article was not about Planned Parenthood, but about pro-life centers that help women cope with crisis pregnancies. In the text of the article, Planned Parenthood was mentioned only in terms of an effort by a public-relations person from the agency's New York City branch to discredit the pro-life centers. Second, the only other reference to Planned Parenthood was a brief, bulleted citation in a box that accompanied the article. That citation referred only to a specific Planned Parenthood program, not to the overall agency.



In this September, 1991, photo, Mary Burke joins other pro-life activists to picket outside Rochester's Third Presbyterian Church prior to a talk by Francis Kissling, president of Catholics for a Free Choice.

Some dioceses take stand on United Way

To the editors:

Like the United Way, Constantine in 315 A.D. knew how to get Christians to compromise on their values. To win over Christians who refused to serve in his military, he decided to give them tax-free land. And then naturally they felt obligated to defend the land for the State and for Constantine.

And so today, the United Way allocates over one million dollars to the Catholic Family Center. And the Bishop accepts a position on the Board of Directors of the United Way.

Buying endorsement or selling souls is how some may describe this imbalance of charity and justice that puts 4400 aborted children a day, a clear issue of justice, secondary to \$1.3 million annually (1990), that CFC receives from the United Way. These tensions exist because of the Church's prophetic role, that of denouncing through our actions the social acceptance of violence as solutions. Prophetic voices of Bishops decrying the violence of war, capital punishment, or abortion are threats to modern-day Constantines, even when they are disguised as charity procurers.

How has the Church handled these dilemmas? In the Diocese of Amarillo, Texas, for instance, Archbishop Mattheisen was willing to risk funding of their Catholic Family Services (in 1981) when he put justice before charity and insisted that workers at a nuclear weapons facility should be counseled

for alternative peaceful jobs.

• According to *The Wanderer*, Bishop Thomas Welsh of the diocese of Arlington, Va., in 1982 asked Catholics to withhold United Way contributions: "We are insisting that the group Planned Parenthood be dropped."

• Bishop Pena of the El Paso Archdiocese said in a (1981) statement released by his office: "The Board of



United Way has refused to work our a solution (to retaining Planned Parenthood as a member agency) whereby we could work together for the welfare of the community. They leave me no alternative ... We as a church will not compromise our principles.

• Planned Parenthood was pressured to drop out of the United Way in May of 1982 after priests in the Allentown, Pa., Diocese, with the support of Bishop Joseph McShea, urged Catholics to refuse to donate to the United

Way.

• In Philadelphia in 1980, the United Way refused entry to Women's Way, a fund-raising coalition which dealt with abortion counseling, because of an agreement United Way had with Cardinal John Krol (then archbishop of Philadelphia).

• Bishop Thomas Drury of Corpus Christi, Texas, (in 1979) called upon Catholics to withhold support of the local United Way because it admitted Planned Parenthood as a member agency. "For the sake of your own conscience, it would be a grave mistake to contribute either directly or indirectly."

... It's important to note that these Dioceses' non-compromises were enacted simply because of Planned Parenthood's counseling for abortions.

As a matter of fact, out of 508 community-based United Ways across the country, only 35 have kept Planned Parenthood as a member or designated-donor agency. And only one of those 35 has an abortion clinic. That is Nashville, Tenn. The Dioceses of Nashville, Tenn., and Rochester, N.Y., stand alone, out of 508, in not standing up to a United Way/Planned Parenthood/abortion relationship.

Carol Crossed
Ramsey Park
Rochester

EDITORS' NOTE: This letter has been edited to comply with space limitations and Courier policy.