

Law professor warns of growing euthanasia

By Lee Strong
Staff writer

ROCHESTER — Notre Dame law professor Charles Rice has a warning for the pro-life movement.

"Five, 10 years from now, you are going to have massive, legalized active killing of people who are inconvenient," Rice declared Wednesday, Oct. 7, at the Rochester Riverside Convention Center, 123 E. Main St. "Euthanasia is going to dwarf the horrors of abortion."

In linking what he described as the "contraceptive ethic" in the United States with abortion and euthanasia, Rice said, "If man is the arbiter of when life begins, why are we surprised when he makes himself the arbiter of when life ends?"

Then he added, "Abortion is prenatal euthanasia."

Rice was in Rochester to take part in the "Life in Peril" program at the convention center. The event was organized by the Rochester League for Life, which comprises a number of Catholic and Protestant churches and pro-life groups in the Rochester area. After speaking to about 120 people, Rice took part in a panel discussion focusing on pro-life issues.

As part of the program, Rice and other panel members discussed this year's upcoming elections; the proposed Freedom of Choice Act now before the U.S. Congress; and the U.S. Supreme Court's 1992 decision in *Planned Parenthood vs. Casey*, which upheld a Pennsylvania law permitting regulation of abortion. The *Casey* decision also upheld the court's 1973 *Roe vs. Wade* decision that legalized abortion in the United States.

"There is a war going on," Rice declared. "There is a cultural war. We're

dealing with a hostility to the basic Christian message."

The enemy in that war, he noted, is "something spiritual, demonic, diabolical."

As part of that war, Rice said, the courts now allow forms of passive euthanasia by denying patients nutrition under certain circumstances. The courts, he said, are beginning to increase the number of circumstances in which euthanasia is permitted.

"The line between passive and active measures is not going to last," Rice observed.

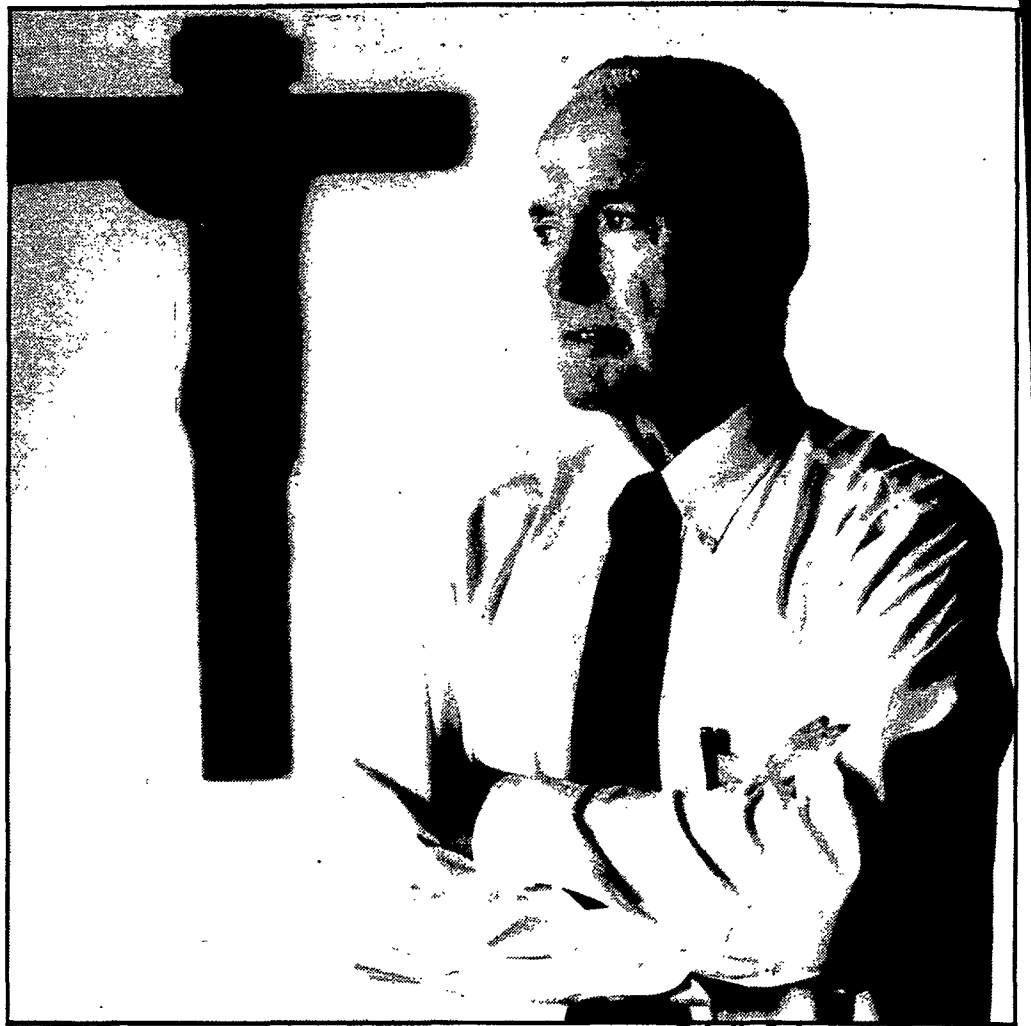
Speaking about abortion, Rice noted that the Freedom of Choice Act under consideration by Congress would undermine even limited restrictions allowed under the *Casey* decision.

"The states right now do not have authority to effectively forbid abortion at any stage," Rice said. "FOCA would preclude making restrictions on abortion."

In an interview with the *Catholic Courier* prior to his talk at the convention center, Rice noted that the right-to-life movement was making a mistake in focusing on the passage of abortion restrictions.

"The right-to-life movement for the last 10 years has been pushing court decisions restricting abortions," Rice declared. "The right-to-life movement gave up on the objective of fighting abortion. They gave up establishing the personhood of the unborn person."

By focusing on the restrictions the courts are permitting — such as parental notification, mandatory 24-hour waiting periods before a woman can obtain an abortion, and informed consent about fetal development — the right-to-life movement is hurting rather than helping its cause, Rice asserted.



Notre Dame law professor Charles Rice referred to abortion as 'prenatal euthanasia' during the 'Life in Peril' program, sponsored by the Rochester League for Life at the Rochester Riverside Convention Center Oct. 7.

"What they are saying more loudly in their words is that they are conceding that the unborn child is not a person," Rice said, adding, "I think the right-to-life movement people better start regrouping."

Taking a look at this year's presidential election, Rice criticized both President Bush and his Democratic opponent, Arkansas Gov. Bill Clinton.

Rice, however, added, "In my opinion, a pro-life voter could legitimately vote for Bush and Quayle. I don't see how they could vote for the Democratic ticket."

During his talk at the convention center, Rice acknowledged that the

pro-life movement "in human terms" was hopeless because of the world's current social and political climate.

But, he said, "We don't fight in human terms."

"Our job right here is to speak the truth," Rice continued, "to call it as we see it, and leave it up to God."

In addition to Rice, the panel featured Michael Di Prima, president of the St. Thomas More Lawyers Guild; Dorothy Hayes, of the Parish Pro-Life Network; David Long, of Christians in Action; and Dr. William Morehouse, a pro-life physician in Rochester. Judge John Manning Regan served as the panel's moderator.

Bishop Clark asks Gov. Cuomo to consider task force

ROCHESTER — Bishop Matthew H. Clark has written to New York Gov. Mario Cuomo, requesting the formation of the Finger Lakes Task Force to address issues and concerns due to the likely downsizing of the Seneca Army Depot in Romulus and the Willard Psychiatric Center.

In the letter dated Oct. 7, 1992, Bishop Clark asked for the creation of such a task force using as a model "the North Country Task Force which proved so helpful in the 1980's in addressing issues relating to the expansion of Fort Drum."

The Diocese of Rochester has been involved in ongoing discussions con-

cerning the downsizing at the depot and the psychiatric hospital because of the economic impact on Seneca County.

The U.S. Army had announced plans to lay off 503 civilian workers at the depot, effective Nov. 13, 1992. Secretary of the Army Michael Stone Oct. 9 announced that those layoffs would be delayed until Feb. 11, 1993.

Meanwhile, the state health department has been considering downsizing or even closing the state hospital in Willard.

Bishop Clark visited three Seneca County parishes — Holy Cross in Ovid, St. Patrick's in Seneca Falls, and

St. Mary's in Waterloo — the weekend of Sept. 26-27 to celebrate Mass and to show his support for the workers who might lose their jobs. At weekend Masses, he pledged the assistance of diocesan Social Ministry Offices to respond to workers' needs.

The Oct. 7 letter was accompanied by a two-page outline of the task force proposal. According to the outline, the 25-member group would include representatives of state agencies and various faith groups in the areas around the depot and the hospital; local government officials; and local business, civic, education and labor

leaders.

The task force would help to examine problems created by the downsizing of the depot and the psychiatric center; identify resources available for economic development alternatives; and provide a vehicle for coordinating communication and activities among federal, state and local government officials and private sector representatives.

According to Father George R. Norton, diocesan public information officer, Gov. Cuomo had not responded to Bishop Clark's letter as of Oct. 12.

— Lee Strong

Vant to look "Bootiful" this Halloween?!...
Come in for a "spell" and let our Boo Crew outfit you vit von of our costumes for rent or sale.

Check out our spooktacular Halloween costume and party accessories, masks, make-up, wigs, hats, trick or treat handouts, and many more ghoulish items.

Bring in this ad for FREE FANGS!

Don't wait 'til the last minute. Hurry in TODAY!

KING SALES/COURT JESTER
"The complete Halloween Store"

Open 10 am-9 pm Mon.-Fri.
Sat. 10 am-5pm, Sun. 12-5 pm during Oct.
46 Sager Drive 442-8922
off Culver between East & University
(behind Empire Electric)

Concert set to benefit neighborhood center

ROCHESTER — A Classics and Jazz Concert to benefit the new St. Joseph's Neighborhood Center is scheduled for 4 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 18, at St. Thomas More Church, 2617 East Ave.

St. Joseph's Neighborhood Center began operating after a year of planning and research, when the Sisters of St. Joseph purchased the house at 417 South Ave. thanks to a generous donation.

Using the results of a neighborhood-needs assessment conducted in collaboration with the University of Rochester School of Nursing's Community Nursing Center, four projects were

designed for the center. The agency's purpose is to provide accessible and comprehensive health care and other necessary services to South Wedge neighborhood residents, especially those who are uninsured or underinsured.

The concert is being organized by Sister Barbara Staropoli, SSJ, professor of music at Nazareth College of Rochester and a well-known singer in the Rochester area.

Free-will offerings will be accepted. For details, call Sister Christine Wagner, SSJ, at 716/586-1000, ext. 33.