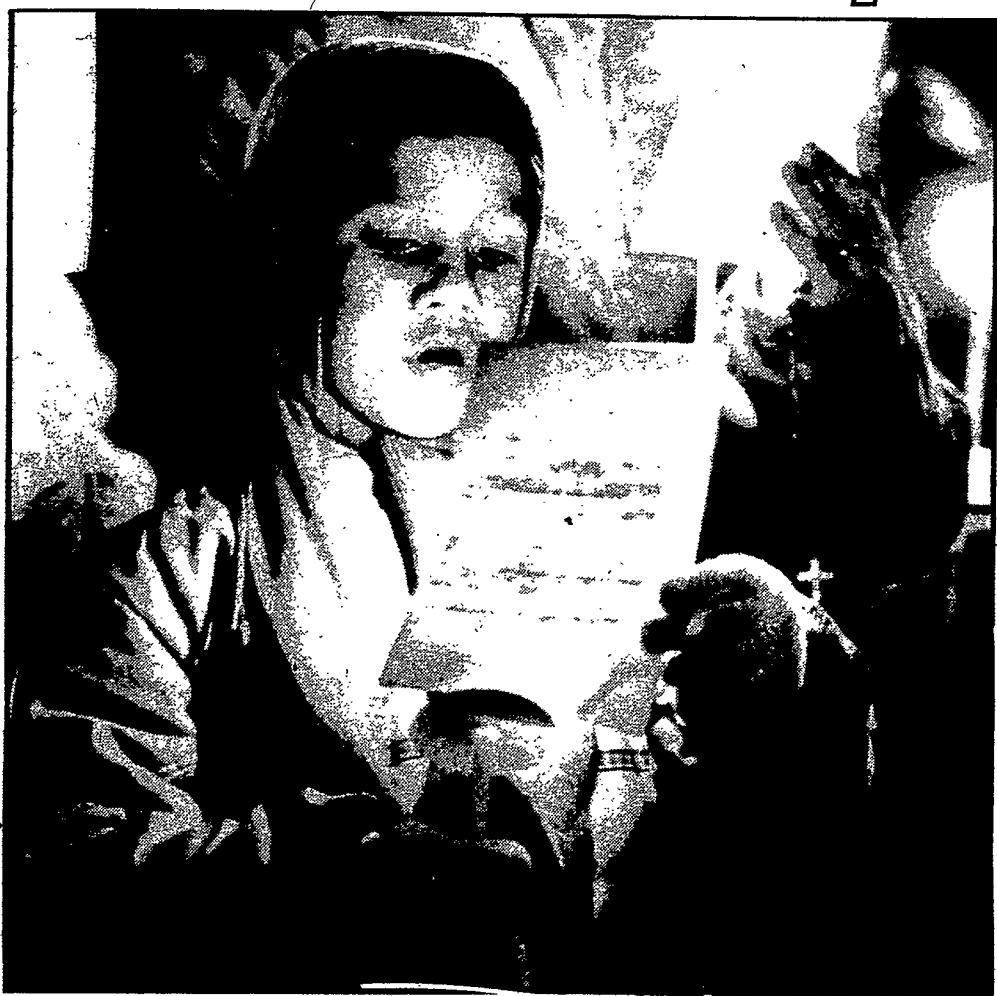


Election spurs interest in this year's life march



Julie Fredericks was among 50 pro-life demonstrators who participated in a candlelight vigil outside Rochester's Highland Hospital on Dec. 28, 1992. Sponsored by the Pro-Life Planning committee, the annual event links the feast of the Holy Innocents to abortion.

St. John Willdn/Photo Intern

Pro-life leaders say Bill Clinton's election as president of the United States has sparked an increase in the number of people planning to attend the 1993 March for Life, Jan. 22.

Thus far, several leaders organizing buses to Washington, D.C., for the march have reported a rise in numbers — and coordinators of two groups say they may have to charter additional buses.

The leaders attribute the increase to the election of Clinton, an avowedly pro-choice candidate who will take the oath of office Jan. 20, 1993.

The annual march commemorates the U.S. Supreme Court's 1973 decision in *Roe vs. Wade*, which effectively legalized abortion throughout the nation.

"I think that the Clinton election has gotten people to be more involved," noted Don Peters, who is coordinating the bus from Waterloo's St. Mary's Parish, 25 Center St.

Peters said 32 people have signed up for the bus thus far — as compared to 12 people who had registered by this point in 1992. He said he was ready to charter a second bus if the trend continues.

Likewise, Amy Dorscheid, who is coordinating buses from Rochester's St. Jude Parish, reported increased interest.

"We really have a surprising number of registrations already," Dorscheid noted. "People usually wait until the last minute."

Thus the group has already chartered three buses, and may have secured another, Dorscheid reported. She also noted that march participants and other individuals are invited to take part in an 8 p.m. prayer service Jan. 22 before buses depart from the parish, 4100 Lyell Ave.

Susan Mason, who is coordinating the bus from Horseheads, said that the number of Chemung County residents expressing interest is on the rise.

"I think people are geared up," Mason remarked. "People are interested in going this year to make a statement to Clinton so close to his inauguration."

Buses will also be departing from St. Thomas the Apostle Parish, Irondequoit; St. John of Rochester Parish,

Tier walk to observe court's Roe decision

ELMIRA — A prayer walk commemorating the 20th anniversary of the *Roe vs. Wade* Supreme Court decision will take place at St. Patrick's Church on Friday, Jan. 22.

After attending an 8 a.m. Mass at St. Patrick's, 604 Park Place, participants will walk to the Planned Parenthood building, 180 Clemens Center Parkway before returning to the Tier church.

For details, call Brendan J. Curtin at 607/734-2307.

Fairport; and St. Margaret Mary Parish, Apalachin, (in conjunction with a parish in Vestal of the Syracuse diocese.)

Buses will leave the evening of Jan. 21, arriving in Washington the following morning. Participants will go to Capital Hill to lobby their congressional representatives, then join the march, which begins at noon. After the march, they will board the buses to return home later the night of Jan. 22.

This year's march will also incorporate its first convention — although most Rochester area participants said they did not plan to participate in the meeting because it had been announced too late.

The daylong convention is scheduled for Jan. 23 at Washington's Hyatt Regency Capitol Hill Hotel. The annual Rose Dinner will take place that night.

The aim of the convention, as outlined in a March for Life brochure, is to "look at our pro-life soul, listen to wise words and generate workable ideas about basic issues of strategy, policy, legislation, politics, press, morality and strength."

— Lee Strong

EDITORS' NOTE: For information about the buses to the March for Life, call 716/586-3956 (St. Jude's); 716/342-3216 (St. Thomas the Apostle); 716/248-5993 (St. John of Rochester); 315/539-8860 (St. Mary's, Waterloo); 607/732-6816 (Horseheads-Elmira); or 607/625-3773 (St. Margaret Mary, Apalachin).

Synods go smoothly in four regions

By Mike Latona
Staff writer

Neither a four-week delay, nor the Buffalo Bills' playoff game, could prevent the success of four diocesan regional synods last weekend.

All four gatherings had originally been scheduled as part of 11 diocesan-wide regional synods back on Dec. 12, 1992. A massive snowstorm, however, forced a total of five postponements that day.

Rescheduled meetings were held this past Saturday, Jan. 9. Participating regions, and their meeting locations, were: Tompkins-Tioga — St. John's Church, 24 Rock St., Newark Valley; Cayuga-Seneca — Sacred Heart Church, 90 Melrose Road, Auburn; Yates-Ontario-Wayne — St. Mary's School, 16 Gibson St., Canandaigua; and Livingston — St. Mary's Church, 13 North St., Geneseo.

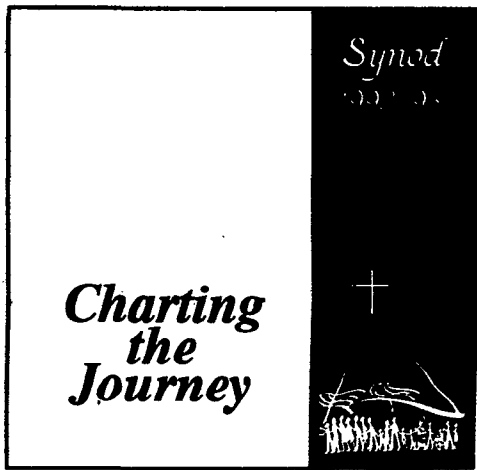
The lone regional synod still to be held — in the Steuben region — is set for this Saturday, Jan. 16. It will take place at St. Mary's Church, 32 E. Morris St., Bath.

One participant from Jan. 9 reported that — in an indirect way — the Bills' game seemed to improve productivity at her regional synod.

"We worked so efficiently that some of the people were able to get back home and see the end of the game. That was a kind of incentive, I guess," laughed Julianne Palma, who served as a small-group facilitator for the Yates-Ontario-Wayne synod.

Deacon Owen Bowers noted that the most significant factor in the Livingston synod was the common spirit that prevailed.

"There was a lot of similarity in the recommendations that were made. That sort of gave affirmation to how people felt about certain issues," said Deacon Bowers, who serves at St.



Agnes Church, 108 Prospect St., Avon.

"I think the people felt that the spirit was moving them, and something good was going to come out of it," added Deacon Bowers, who is also the Livingston synod's associate regional coordinator.

June Casey, who serves on the synod commission in the Tompkins-Tioga region, found discussion surrounding the synod's first theme — how to strengthen Christian marriage and family life — especially memorable.

"What came out was a need for the teaching of moral values in family issues. A lot of parents don't know how to teach their children because of the way the world is today," said Casey, who cited the immoral influence of "media and peers" on children.

Tompkins-Tioga participants, Casey added, agreed that "parishes need to be more hospitable" and that "people need to have good social ministry committees in their parishes."

These priorities, Casey said, evolved from the synod's remaining two themes: how to support our parishes in being faith-filled communities, and how to help those facing violence, addiction, burdensome pregnancy or terminal illness.

Palma was impressed by the number of people at the Yates-Ontario-Wayne synod who were anxious to take a more active role in the Catholic Church.

"What kept emerging was the desire of all the people in the group to receive further training in order to minister to the people in our community," said Palma.

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