

# DIOCESAN NEWS

## Pro-life feminist urges lobbying U.N.

By Kathleen Schwar  
Copy editor/Staff writer

Women should realize the United Nations' Fourth World Conference on Women, held in Beijing Sept. 4-15, will have an impact on them for years to come, according to Ellen Lukas, a lobbyist at the conference. And pro-life feminists could have more say in such conferences, she stressed.

Lukas spoke to the Feminists for Life of America national board meeting Nov. 10 at the Depot restaurant in Pittsford.

She went to Beijing on behalf of the Family Research Council, the World Organization for the Family, and the International Catholic Organizations Center. A former *Newsweek* correspondent to the United Nations, she also had worked in public relations and ran a human rights campaign for the United Nations.

"She was really helpful in teaching us," Suzanne Schnittman, president of Feminists for Life of Western New York, said later. Schnittman also is the diocesan consistent life ethic coordinator. "One of the most effective things we learned from her was the need to train (for upcoming conferences)."

In a telephone interview from her New York office prior to the conference, Lukas criticized the Beijing Declaration, which summarized the conference.

"It didn't support family as much as it should have," she said.

The declaration did speak firmly against violence against women and for equal rights to political and economic empowerment, she noted.

However, she added, "It imposes sort of a Western model more for women who want to be free of their families, and whose principal interests are in econom-



S. John Wilkin/Staff photographer

Ellen Lukas speaks to members of Feminists for Life of America at the Depot restaurant, 41 N. Main St., Pittsford, Nov. 10. Lukas lobbied at the U.N.'s Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing Sept. 4-15.

ic empowerment or in the political area."

Press accounts described the document as seeming to focus on liberating women from discrimination and poverty by freeing them from child-bearing and family-related responsibilities, rather than by increasing educational and economic opportunities.

The language of such documents, although not automatically legally binding, influences countries, Lukas said. One potential source of that influence is a newly created women's advisory council of delegates back from the Beijing conference. The council was established by President and Mrs. Clinton.

And, Lukas said, "Five, 20 years from now, parts of (the Beijing Declaration)

could be incorporated into a treaty. That's where a treaty starts, with a statement of principles."

The U.S. Congress might join such a U.N. treaty, or treaties, regarding women, she said.

Pro-life women should better attempt to influence the United Nations, Lukas urged, which hears more from large, well-organized pro-choice feminist groups. She suggested that groups such as Feminists for Life sign up as non-governmental organizations to attend the next conference, the U.N. Conference on Human Settlements, in June in Istanbul, or participate in more long-term ways.

"Politics is fun," she said. "It's satisfying putting through things you wanted."

## Obituary

### Helen Lynch, 52; principal

By Rob Cullivan  
Staff writer

Next spring, students and staff members at Good Shepherd School in Henrietta will plant a memorial tree in the school's playground, completed in December 1994. Then they will say a prayer for their late principal, Helen Lynch.

"I worked very closely with her in this endeavor," said Linda Bement, a member of the school's parent advisory committee, in a statement. "The planning, purchasing and installing of our modest playground would not have occurred without her support and enthusiasm."

An associate member of the Sisters of Mercy, Lynch, 52, died of cancer Oct. 31 at her Brighton home. She had overseen Good Shepherd School since 1984. More than 400 people attended her funeral Mass at the Sisters of Mercy Motherhouse in Brighton Nov. 3, according to her friends.

Helen Marie Cullen, who was named the school's principal following Lynch's death, remembered her predecessor as a benevolent spirit.

"She was a super administrator, very kind to the parents and students and very supportive of her staff," Cullen recalled.

Cullen added that the school will hold a memorial service for Lynch 7 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 29, in Good Shepherd's chapel.

A native of Syracuse, Lynch moved to Rochester when she was 21 and joined the Mercy Sisters as a vowed religious, a state she left in 1991. She attended Nazareth College where she earned both a bachelor's and master's degree in education. She was also certified in school administration and supervision by the University of Rochester.

Lynch spent 29 years in the Diocese of Rochester as a school teacher and administrator. She was survived by her sisters Irene (Robert) VanNess, Patricia (Joseph) Zalewski, and her brother, Andrew Lynch, and several nieces and nephews.

Interment took place Nov. 4 at St. Mary's Cemetery in Dewitt, a suburb of Syracuse.

Contributions may be sent to: Good Shepherd School Scholarship Fund, 3318 E. Henrietta Road, Henrietta, N.Y. 14467.

## JOIN POPE JOHN PAUL II AND THE WORLDWIDE CHURCH IN PRAYER

OVER 108 MINUTES - AVAILABLE IN ENGLISH LATIN & SPANISH LATIN



AN EXCLUSIVE  
VATICAN RADIO PRODUCTION

Vatican Radio, Vatican City

"Night & day all over the world in 37 languages".

TRINITY MUSIC & DISTRIBUTED BY AEC MUSIC DISTRIBUTION

NOW AVAILABLE DIRECT FROM LIGUORI PUBLICATIONS

ORDER BY PHONE (800) 325-9521 • ORDER BY FAX (800) 325-9526

OR COMPLETE THIS ORDER FORM & ORDER BY MAIL

LIGUORI PUBLICATIONS • #1 LIGUORI DRIVE DEPT. 987 • LIGUORI, MO 63057

"POPE JOHN PAUL II - THE POPE OF THE ROSARY"

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_  
 ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
 CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_  
 ENGLISH /2-COMPACT DISCS: (K6930) \_\_\_\_\_ UNIT (S) X \$19.98 EA. = \_\_\_\_\_  
 ENGLISH /2-CASSETTES: (T9285) \_\_\_\_\_ UNIT (S) X \$14.98 EA. = \_\_\_\_\_  
 SPANISH /2-COMPACT DISCS: (K6931) \_\_\_\_\_ UNIT (S) X \$19.98 EA. = \_\_\_\_\_  
 SPANISH /2-CASSETTES: (T9286) \_\_\_\_\_ UNIT (S) X \$14.98 EA. = \_\_\_\_\_

\* Please Add \$4.00 Per Unit for Shipping & Handling  
 \* Make Checks Payable to: LIGUORI PUBLICATIONS  
 \* Order by Credit Card:  VISA  MASTERCARD  DISCOVER

Card #: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

## Come to a gathering of Angels



Kirks Folly Jewelry  
 Sarah's Attic (multicultural)  
 Wedding Accessories  
 Framed or Matted Prints  
 Dreamscapes  
 Greeting Cards & Stationery  
 Hundreds of unique Angel Items

Stop in, say "Halo" & browse

Deborah's Heavenly Angels

157 Park Avenue • 271-4480

Hours: Monday-Saturday 10-6, Thursday 'til 8