

DIOCESAN NEWS

Postcards promote parental notification

Kathleen Schwar
Staff writer

A postcard campaign supporting parental notification legislation in New York state will highlight Project Life Month this month in diocesan churches. Parishes participating will make postcards available for signing Jan. 20-21 and 27-28.

The postcards are addressed to N.Y. Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver, asking that he allow the Assembly to hear the legislation proposal, and to representatives, asking them to support it.

The campaign promotes legislation passed last June by the state Senate, requiring that parents be notified when their daughter under the age of 16 seeks an abortion.

"The project is integral to our continuing protection of life and the family," Bishop Matthew H. Clark wrote in a let-

ter to pastoral leaders Nov. 29, 1995. The letter told them of the New York State Catholic Conference's decision to run the postcard campaign.

"We believe support for the parental notification bill will tell New York State that the Church consistently protects all life that is threatened by the death penalty, poverty, or abortion," the bishop wrote. "The Project Life postcards will simply underline another aspect of the consistent life ethic."

Advocacy for the consistent life ethic is the diocesan Synod's second goal, noted Suzanne Schnittman, consistent life ethic coordinator, whose office is issuing campaign postcards. Parental notification and welfare reform are the year's two priorities designated by the diocesan Public Policy Committee, she also noted.

Schnittman has asked that signed cards be turned in to the pastoral center

by Feb. 5, so they can be sorted and sent out. Diocesan delegations will take postcards to each legislator. On Feb. 27, delegates attending the New York State Catholic Conference's annual lobbying day in Albany will deliver the speaker's postcards.

Specifically, the postcards back a bill requiring a physician or physician's agent to give written notice to both available parents if their child, still under their care, is planning to have an abortion. It requires a 48-hour wait before the procedure.

Exceptions are made for emergencies, for cases where parents confirm they are aware of a daughter's plans, and for when family court waives notification.

EDITORS' NOTES: For more information about the campaign, contact Suzanne Schnittman at the Diocese of Rochester, 1150 Buffalo Road, Rochester, N.Y. 14624.

Buses to take life marchers to D.C. rally

Bus organizers for the annual March to Life Jan. 22 in Washington are taking reservations, accepting donations for riders, and asking for prayers.

Amy and Bob Dorscheid of the Church of the Holy Spirit, Penfield, are organizing a bus that will leave St. Jude's Church, 4100 Lyell Road, Rochester, at 10 p.m. Jan. 21. A prayer service will be held at 8 p.m.

Knights of Columbus Trinity Council No. 4618 is sponsoring a bus leaving St. Rita's Church, 1008 Maple Drive, Webster, at 10 p.m. Jan. 21, preceded by a prayer service at 9:30 p.m.

Kathy Peters of St. Mary's Parish, Waterloo, and former chair of the Geneva Area (now Finger Lakes Area) Right to Life, is organizing the Finger Lakes Right to Life trip. Its bus will leave St. Mary's School, 29 Center St., Waterloo, at 10 p.m. Jan. 21.

Sharon Pearte of St. Mary's Parish, Elmira, and president of Chemung County Right to Life, is coordinating a bus leaving Grand Central Plaza, Center Street and Grand Avenue, Horseheads, at 11:30 p.m. Jan. 21 with two stops later in Pennsylvania.

"We're asking people who wish to go but can't, if they would be willing to pay for a bus seat or donation toward someone who wants to go," Pearte said. "We've done this for years." Several people, a church social ministry group and other organizations have donated money for about a dozen seats in the past, she added.

All but the Knights' bus will unload riders at St. Peter's Church behind the Capitol in Washington. The church offers early Mass and continental breakfast for marchers from upstate New York. The Knights' bus will leave people off at the National Shrine of the Immaculate



S. John Wilkin/Staff photographer

Bishop meets with legislators

Bishop Matthew H. Clark joined with county legislators and directors of the Catholic Family Center, Bethany House, Office of Black Ministries and the Diocesan Public Policy Committee Jan. 5 at Pittsford's St. Louis Church to discuss legislative issues, including welfare reform.

Conception.

The Finger Lakes group will split, with Peters, principal of St. Michael's School in Newark, taking young marchers on an educational field trip to Arlington Cemetery, museums and memorials while her husband Don escorts older members to lobby at congressional offices.

After a noon rally at the Ellipse, marchers will walk down Constitution Avenue past the Capitol and Supreme Court. As is customary, the march will take place Jan. 22, the day in 1973 the U.S. Supreme Court's Roe vs. Wade decision essentially legalized abortion.

More information is available from the Dorscheids, 586-3956; Peters, 315/539-8006; Pearte, 607/734-2680; and William Polito, Knights of Columbus, 872-1948 daytime and 872-5337 evenings. Most seats cost \$35-40. The Knights are also offering a \$15 fare for students of any age.

—Kathleen Schwar

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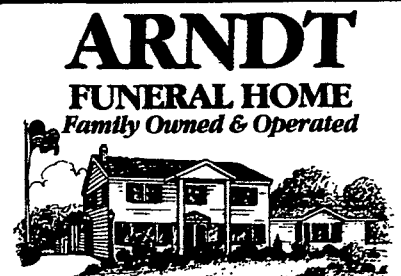
Correction

Donatella Cardillo-Young's parish was misidentified in the Dec. 21, 1995, issue of the *Catholic Courier* ("Penfield woman publishes original Nativity story"). She is a member of Church of the Assumption Parish in Fairport. The *Courier* regrets the error.

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Course will look at family rituals, Saturday, Jan. 20

Karen Rinefiel, diocesan coordinator for young adult, adult and family faith formation, will present "Celebrating Family Rituals" on Saturday, Jan. 20, from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at St. Columba Church, 198 North St., Caledonia.

Designed as a course for parents and catechists, Rinefiel's presentation will offer practical ideas and strategies for families to use in celebrating a variety of rituals, including such family milestones as birthdays and graduations, religious and ethnic holidays, and daily meal blessings and nighttime prayers.

Both secular and religious observers of personal development have begun to acknowledge the importance of rituals in building one's sense of self, Rinefiel commented. She pointed out that the continuity rituals provide can help people overcome many personal obstacles in their lives, as well as link them to God's presence in their world.

For example, Rinefiel said, parents who say prayers with their children every night remind them that God is constantly with them. "It helps us to realize that God is in our homes," she said of ritualized prayers.

The course fee is \$10 per person, and the deadline to register is Wednesday, Jan. 17. Those wishing to attend should send their name, parish, phone number and the course title, along with a check (payable to the Diocese of Rochester) to: Jeannie Raisbeck, Dept. of Evangelization and Catechesis, 1150 Buffalo Road, Rochester, N.Y. 14624.

Participants should bring a lunch. Beverages and snacks will be provided.

The course requires a minimum of 10 participants, or it will be cancelled. Call Raisbeck at 716/328-3210, ext. 279, to make sure the course is running as scheduled.

—Rob Cullivan

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