

WORLD & NATION

Catholic hierarchy condemns abortion ban veto

By Nancy Frazier O'Brien
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON — Joining together in what they called a "virtually unprecedented" action, eight U.S. cardinals and the president of the U.S. bishops' conference expressed "deep sorrow and dismay" at President Clinton's veto of the Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act. (See local story, Page 3.)

"As Catholic bishops and as citizens of the United States, we strenuously oppose and condemn your veto of H.R. 1833 which will allow partial-birth abortions to continue," they said in a letter to Clinton April 16, six days after the veto.

They pledged, individually and through the bishops' conference, to "do

all we can to educate people about partial-birth abortions" and to tell Americans that "partial-birth abortions will continue because you chose to veto H.R. 1833."

The letter was signed by Cardinals Joseph L. Bernardin of Chicago, James A. Hickey of Washington, Bernard F. Law of Boston, Adam J. Maida of Detroit, Anthony J. Bevilacqua of Philadelphia, William H. Keeler of Baltimore, Roger M. Mahony of Los Angeles and Joseph J. O'Connor of New York, as well as by Bishop Anthony M. Pilla of Cleveland, president of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops.

The legislation vetoed by Clinton would have banned a procedure used in late-term abortions in which the fetus is

partially delivered before surgical scissors are stabbed into the base of the infant's head. The child's brains are then removed by suction, allowing for easier delivery of the rest of the fetus.

In their letter, the cardinals linked the veto to two recent federal court decisions on assisted suicide.

"Mr. President, your action on this matter takes our nation to a critical turning point in its treatment of helpless human beings inside and outside the womb," they wrote. "It moves our nation one step further toward acceptance of infanticide."

"Combined with the two recent federal appeals court decisions seeking to legitimize assisted suicide, it sounds the alarm that public officials are moving

our society ever more rapidly to embrace a culture of death," the letter added.

The three-page letter sought to refute some of the arguments used by Clinton in his veto message.

"At the veto ceremony you told the American people that you 'had no choice but to veto the bill,'" the cardinals wrote. "Mr. President, you and you alone had the choice of whether or not to allow children, almost completely born, to be killed brutally in partial-birth abortions."

"Members of both houses of Congress made their choice. They said no to partial-birth abortions," the letter added. "Your choice was to say yes and to allow this killing more akin to infanticide than abortion to continue."

CALENDAR

All Diocesan

Adult Education

■ **WED, APRIL 24** — Part one of series: on faith; sponsored by Diocesan Charismatic Renewal Office; Fr. Joseph Catanise, presenter; Guardian Angels School, 2059 E. Henrietta Road, Henrietta; 7:30-9 p.m.

Religious Activities

■ **SAT, APRIL 20** — Alumnae reunion: 140th anniversary of the Academy of St. Joseph, Brentwood, Long Island; alumnae reunion for all classes; Mass and luncheon, noon; call 516/273-2406.

Monroe County

Adult Education

■ **FRI, APRIL 19** — Registration deadline: for April 26-28 "Enneagram III — Light and Life" seminar at Mercy Prayer Center, 65 Highland Ave., Rochester; co-sponsored by Mercy Prayer Center and Sisters of St. Joseph Spirituality Center; 7:30-9:30 p.m. Friday, 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Saturday and 1-4 p.m. Sunday; Sr. S. Ruth Schlehr, RSM, leader; \$65 for entire program or \$22 per day; call 716/473-6893.

■ **SUN, APRIL 21** — Lecture: "Monks & Monasteries;" Room 11, Corpus Christi School at Blessed Sacrament Church, 546 Oxford St., Rochester; 11:10 a.m.-noon; Thomas Tripiciano, presenter; call 716/342-1177.

■ **SUN, APRIL 21** — Lecture: "Exploring Race and Community Building;" Stanley I. Stuber Lecture/Seminar; Colgate Rochester Divinity School, 1100 S. Goodman St., Rochester; 7:30 p.m.; Dr. Fumitaka Matsui, presenter; free; also seminar April 22-23 (\$35 per person, \$10 for students); call 716/271-1220, ext. 277.

■ **MON, APRIL 22** — Series: "Artist and Public: What Is Read?" part of Downtown Community Forum Conversation se-

ries; The Dugan Center, St. Mary's Church, 15 St. Mary's Place, Rochester; Bill Stewart, speaker; 12:12-12:50 p.m.; brown bags welcome; call 716/232-7140.

■ **WED, APRIL 24** — Series: "Help Wanted: Hope Dealers"; rescheduled from last fall; part of Downtown Community Forum "Life After Five" series; St. Mary's Church, 15 St. Mary's Place, Rochester; 5-7 p.m.; Debbie & Edward Fickess, speakers; wine, cheese and snacks provided; free; call 716/232-7140.

■ **WED, APRIL 24** — Fireside Chats: with Msgr. William H. Shannon; Sisters of St. Joseph Spirituality Center, 402 Rogers Parkway, Rochester; 7:30-9 p.m.; \$10; call 716/336-4370.

■ **WED, APRIL 24** — Lecture: "Jesus: Response to Human Longings," part of St. Bernard's on the Road; Holy Name of Jesus Church, 15 St. Martin's Way, Rochester; 7:30 p.m.; \$3; call 716/621-4040.

■ **THU, APRIL 25** — Lecture: "Being Catholic and Making Choices," part of St. Bernard's on the Road series; St. Cecilia Church, 2732 Culver Road, Rochester; 7:30 p.m.; \$3; call 716/338-2349.

■ **THUR, APRIL 25** — Discussion: on medical ethics; sponsored by Morningglory Support Group; parish resource center lounge, St. Joseph's Church, 43 Gebhardt Road, Penfield; 7:30 p.m.; Sr. Pat Schoelles, president of St. Bernard's Institute, speaker.

■ **APRIL 26-27** — Consistent Life Ethic Weekend: speeches by John Carr of the U.S. Catholic Conference, Sharon Daly of Catholic Charities USA, and Julie Loesch Wiley, activist and writer; Consistent Life Ethic Dinner and awards presentation; and dramatic performance by David Shakes and Arthur Brown; 7:30 p.m. dinner April 26 at Harro East; all other events at St. Bernard's Institute, 1100 S. Goodman St., Rochester; for information and tickets, contact call 716/328-3210.

Education

■ **SAT, APRIL 20** — Open house: for high school juniors interested in St. John Fisher College; Kearney Auditorium, St.

John Fisher College, 3690 East Ave., Rochester; 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

■ **APRIL 23-25** — High school registration: Bishop Kearney High School, 125 Kings Highway S., Rochester; 2:30-4:30 p.m. and 6:30-8 p.m.; class of 1999 registers April 23, class of 1998 on April 24, and class of 1997 on April 25; registration fee of \$125 due at registration; call Sr. Elaine Englert, SSJ, principal, 716/342-4000.

■ **APRIL 24 & 25** — Meeting: Annual Report to Parents by Catholic Schools-of-Monroe County; April 24 at St. Ambrose School, 31 Empire Blvd., Rochester, and April 25 at Sacred Heart School, 311 Flower City Park, Rochester; 7-9 p.m. both evenings.

Entertainment

■ **APRIL 19-21 & April 26-28** — Performance: "Another Macbeth;" Nazareth College Arts Studio Theatre, 4245 East Ave., Rochester; 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays, 2 p.m. Sundays; April 28 show interpreted for the hearing impaired; adults \$8, students \$7, senior citizens \$6; call 716/586-2420.

■ **SAT, APRIL 20** — Concert: "We Sing That They Shall Speak and Hear;" by the Chorus of the Erie Canal; main auditorium, Nazareth College Arts Center, 4245 East Ave., Rochester; 8 p.m.; \$7 general admission, \$5 for students; call 716/586-2420.

■ **APRIL 22 & 24** — Auditions: for comic drama "Wrong Turn at Lungfish;" play will run June 14-July 7; The Shipping Dock Theatre; St. John Fisher College, 3690 East Ave., Rochester; 7:30 p.m. both evenings; call 716/385-8400.

Fundraisers

■ **APRIL 18-20** — Next-to-New Sale: auditorium, Our Lady of Lourdes School, 165 Rhinecliff Drive (off Monroe Avenue), Rochester; 9 a.m.-8 p.m. Thursday, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Friday and Saturday.

■ **APRIL 19-20** — Garage sale: parish hall, St. Salome's Church, 4282 Culver Road, Irondequoit; 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

■ **SAT, APRIL 27** — Benefit hike: for homeless at Dimitri House; registration begins 9 a.m. at Dimitri House, 102 N. Union St., Rochester; hike starts

at 10 a.m.; also April 26 concert by Open Soul at Corpus Christi Church, 864 Main St., E., Rochester; \$5 per person or \$15 per family; call 716/325-1796.

■ **SAT, APRIL 27** — Arts & crafts show: parish hall, Mother of Sorrows Church, 5000 Mt. Read Blvd., Rochester; 9:30 a.m.-4 p.m.

■ **SUN, APRIL 21** — Ziti dinner: Holy Spirit Church, 1355 Hatch Road, Webster; 1-5 p.m.; \$6 per person, children under 6 free; net proceeds to charities of Penfield-Perinton Kiwanis Club.

Religious Activities

■ **FRI, APRIL 19** — Meeting: for Renewal in the Spirit & Secular Franciscans; St. Charles Borromeo Prayer Center, 3011 Dewey Ave., Rochester; 7:30 p.m.; call 716/225-4134.

■ **SUN, APRIL 21** — Radio program: "The Abbey of the Genesee"; a production of WXXI-AM 1370; 1:30 p.m.

■ **SUN, APRIL 21** — Memorial service: at the monument to the unborn; St. Peter & Paul Cemetery, Elmira; 2 p.m.; sponsored by Elmira Council Knights of Columbus.

Social Activities

■ **FRI, APRIL 19** — TGIF: sponsored by Single Adult Ministry of St. Louis Church, Pittsford; Hattie's Lounge at the Strathallen Hotel; for information call Pat, 716/461-1745.

■ **FRI, APRIL 19** — Dinner & Bingo: sponsored by St. Thomas More Singles' Club; 5 p.m. dinner at Roger's House, 271 Central Park, Rochester; 7 p.m. bingo at St. Cecilia's Church, 2732 Culver Road, Rochester; call Anne, 716/482-5656.

■ **SAT, APRIL 20** — Country Line Dance: sponsored by Single Adult Ministry of St. Louis Church, Pittsford; Rustler's Roost, Western Style Restaurant & Saloon, 4853 W. Henrietta Road, Henrietta; 7 p.m.; dance lessons available.

Seneca Cayuga

Adult Education

■ **SAT, APRIL 27** — Lec-

ture: "A day With Thomas Merton's Thoughts"; presented by Auburn chapter, International Thomas Merton Society; Sacred Heart Parish Center, 90 Melrose Road, Auburn; 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.; \$5; bring own lunch; call Tom Fogarty, 315/252-6748, or Jane Wlad, 315/252-5626.

Meeting

■ **SAT, APRIL 20** — Support group: sponsored by Seneca County S/D/W; breakfast at Nicastro's Restaurant, four miles south of Waterloo on Route 96; 9 a.m.; call Carl & Alma, 315/539-2284.

Tompkin Tioga

Education

■ **TUE, APRIL 23** — Registration deadline: for April 30 junior/senior high faith-formation program, including parish ministers (paid or volunteer); St. Mary's Church, 901 N. Decatur St., Watkins Glen; 10 a.m.-3 p.m.; \$15; Michael Theisen, diocesan coordinator of youth ministry, presenter; for information, call Jeannie Raisbeck, 716/328-3210.

Fundraisers

■ **SAT, APRIL 20** — Auction: gymnasium, Immaculate Conception School, 320 W. Buffalo St. (off Plains Street), Ithaca; 6 p.m. preview and hors d'oeuvres; 7 p.m. bidding start with simultaneous silent auction; cash bar; must be over 21; \$5 tickets at door or by calling 607/257-5508; benefits Immaculate Conception School.

Yates Ontario Wayne

Meetings

■ **SAT, APRIL 20** — Support group: Ontario S/W/D Luncheon Group; Polimeri's Restaurant, Lakeshore Drive, Canandaigua; noon; for information, call June, 716/924-2340.