

# DIOCESAN NEWS

## Human Life founder stumps against abortion

By Rob Cullivan  
Staff writer

PENFIELD — Ask Father Paul Marx, OSB, where the United States is going and he might answer: To hell in a handbasket woven from contraception, sterilization, abortion and promiscuity.

"Contraception unleashes the sexual drive," Father Marx told the *Catholic Courier* May 17. "If not controlled, it becomes a tyrant. It must be controlled to become a servant."

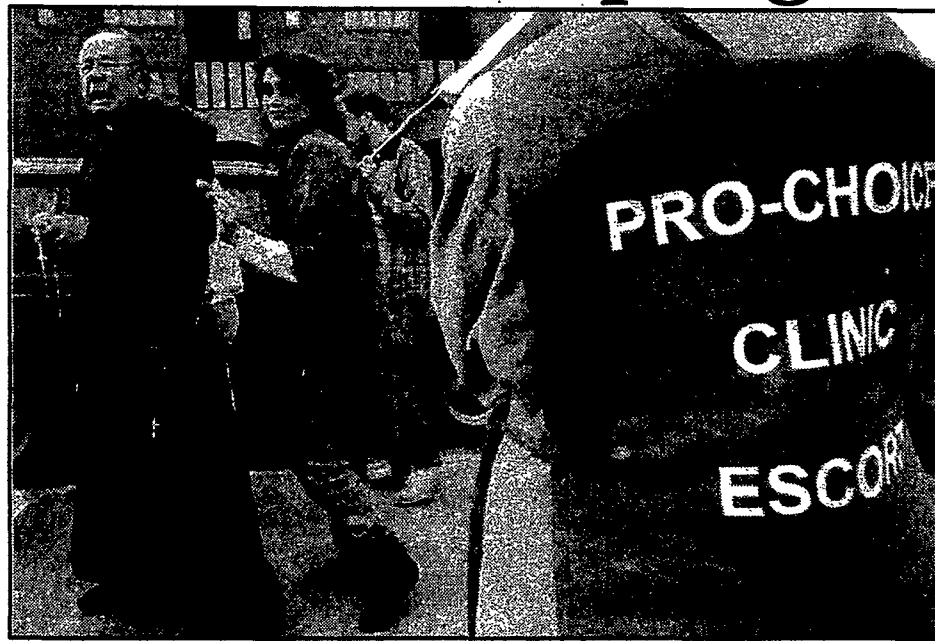
The sexual drive unleashed eventually throws a society off its hinges, Father Marx stressed, undermining the institutions of marriage and family. He pointed to abortions, single-parent families and venereal disease epidemics as just some of the bitter fruits of the widespread use of contraception, which allows sex outside of commitment and turns children into burdens, rather than blessings.

The 76-year-old priest serves as chairman of Human Life International, a pro-life organization he founded, with branches in 56 countries, that actively works against abortion, sterilization, infanticide, euthanasia, contraception and homosexuality. He made his remarks during an interview at Holy Spirit Church.

Father Marx was in town to give a speech at a dinner at the parish that Friday night. His speech was sponsored by the Diocesan Pro-Life Planning Committee, Holy Spirit Pro-Life Ministry, Catholic Physicians Guild, St. Thomas More Lawyers Guild, and the Irenaeus Study Center at St. Thomas the Apostle Parish in Irondequoit.

Father Marx also led about 100 people in a prayer procession and rosary outside the offices of Planned Parenthood of Rochester the next morning.

Officials from Planned Parenthood have locked horns with Father Marx be-



S. John Wilkin/Staff photographer

Father Paul Marx, left, chairman of Human Life International, leads a prayer procession outside Rochester's Planned Parenthood on University Avenue May 18. Over 100 people participated in the peaceful two-hour protest.

fore. He said he was threatened with a lawsuit by the international pro-choice organization after a Canadian television interview in which he called Planned Parenthood the "most wicked organization on earth" because it was "destroying our youth, families and culture." Planned Parenthood's lawyers, however, dropped the threat a month after making it, he added.

As for abortion, long before it became a divisive national issue, Father Marx was battling its proponents, starting back in 1959 when pro-choice U.S. lawyers began promoting abortion legalization statutes. Father Marx continued to monitor and work against the pro-choice movement throughout the 1960s and early 1970s, and even attended a 1971 pro-choice con-

ference in Oregon devoted to developing abortion legalization strategies throughout the United States.

"I called myself 'Dr. Marx' for the first time," he said, noting he holds a Ph.D. in sociology.

Using a tape recorder hidden in his clothes, Father Marx recorded the proceedings of the meeting, which he later transcribed and turned into *The Death Peddlers*, a book describing the pro-choice conference.

"It was four days in hell," the priest recalled.

In particular, he remembered the gathering of doctors, lawyers, politicians and abortion activists for its anti-Catholic tone. He summed up the strategy of abortion legalization proponents in one sentence di-

rected at the U.S. public: "Do you want the Catholic bishops to decide all moral questions in our society?"

This strategy was successful on two fronts, Father Marx said. On the first front, it divided the Catholic laity from its own leadership by solely identifying opposition to abortion with the church's hierarchy, rather than with the people in the pews.

On the second front, it divided Catholics from Protestants uncomfortable both with abortion and with Catholicism, he said, noting the United States' anti-Catholic history. Hence, for most of the 1970s, abortion was known as a "Catholic" issue, he emphasized, and many Protestants were too sheepish to take abortion proponents head-on for fear of trucking with the Catholic church.

Interestingly, however, many Protestants — and a small number of Jews — are now actively opposing abortion, and non-Catholics outweigh Catholics in the pro-life movement, he said. He added that President Bill Clinton's recent veto of a congressional bill that would have banned late-term partial-birth abortions has further stirred the consciences of many heretofore silent on the abortion issue.

"That has awakened a lot of people, including our bishops," Father Marx said.

An unapologetic advocate of the church's teachings against artificial birth control, Father Marx nonetheless acknowledged that some who use artificial birth control are also against abortion because it is the taking of a human life. However, Father Marx said he believed that tolerating contraception eventually leads to tolerating abortion because both have the same end — sex without the possibility of pregnancy, an approach that devalues children.

"I feel you have to fight the whole thing," Father Marx said of contraception and abortion.

## Fisher's first woman leader looks to add students, programs

By Kathleen Schwar  
Staff writer

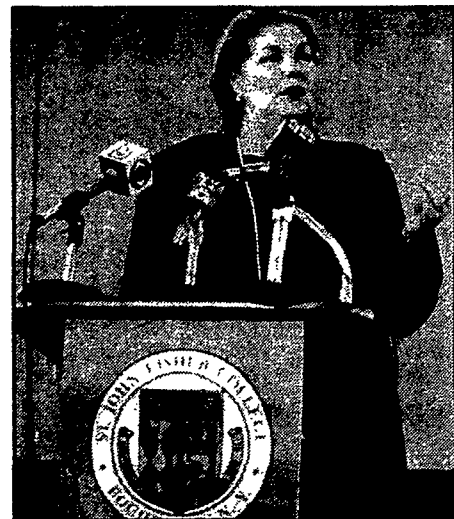
PITTSFORD — Dr. Katherine E. Keough says she will not only maintain the Basilian tradition at St. John Fisher College, where she assumes the presidency Aug. 1. She plans to expand it to educate "the most ethical, honest, value-laden students we can find."

Keough, 53, dean of the School of Education and Human Services at the Jesuit Canisius College in Buffalo, was voted president May 15, the same afternoon she was presented in a press conference.

She told the *Catholic Courier* the next day that she will work to increase enrollment 33 percent, to 2,000 full-time students within the next few years and to "dramatically increase" the programs offered — adding graduate science and business offerings, as well as undergraduate science courses. Fisher's full-time enrollment this decade was highest in 1992 at 1,696, and is now about 1,500.

Keough is the college's fifth leader, and its first woman president, since the college was founded in 1948 by the Basilians. Dr. William L. Pickett, the first lay president, is resigning this year after 10 years and plans a sabbatical to discern his next move.

Jack Palvino, chairman of the board of



S. John Wilkin/Staff photographer

Dr. Katherine E. Keough, new president of St. John Fisher College, speaks at a media conference May 15.

trustees, introduced Keough May 15.

Her mission will not be "maintaining the status quo," he said, but in assuring Fisher's competitiveness through her approach as a reputed innovator.

Keough is "presidential and approachable," he said. He also noted that since women comprise 55 percent of Fisher's full-time students, 70 percent of its part-

time students, and more than 80 percent of its nursing students, it is "appropriate" a woman be named president. More than 100 applicants, including clergy and religious, sought the position.

In her *Courier* interview, Keough noted that this is a "lean year" for Fisher, adding that, "Most small schools if they have two to three lean years will experience tremendous financial difficulty. It is imperative we increase our program offerings, and increase the number of students we have on campus to continue to grow."

But she added that her budget will contain a contingency plan to avoid reducing staff or faculty, should there be a shortfall.

She will manage an operating budget of \$22 million, and oversee nearly 200 administrative employees and 103 full-time faculty members.

Keough said another priority will be hiring a financial officer and a dean of admissions "with a proven track record." Both posts are currently open.

The Fisher presidency may be a milestone in the New York City native's life, as she put it. But there have been others.

Her late husband, William, was among the 52 Americans held hostage in Tehran in 1979. Keough, then an assistant superintendent at Tehran American School, fled to Pakistan. Later, as president of the

Family Liaison Action Group, she was a go-between for families of the hostages and the White House, State Department, and Department of Defense. She helped draft and implement the Hostage Relief Act of 1980 and the Omnibus Terrorism Act of 1985.

She has since pursued her career at Canisius, where she founded the School of Education and Human Services; at Xavier University, Cincinnati, where she was associate dean of the College of Social Sciences and chair of Xavier's Department of Education; and at Queens College, City University of New York, where she was director of the Graduate Administration External Program and assistant professor. She also was an assistant professor at William Patterson College in Wayne, N.J.

Her degrees include a doctorate in education administration from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Blacksburg; a master's in education and reading from Hofstra University, Hempstead, N.Y.; and a bachelor's in English literature from Pace University, New York.

Among her creative work is a film, "AIDS: Education's Deadly Imperative," which won an international award in 1988.

She was on boards of schools for the deaf and introduced sign language as a modern language at Canisius.

### Kid's Answers: from page 5

- word
- lamb of God
- bread of life
- light of the world
- good shepherd
- resurrection



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