

DIOCESAN NEWS

Crossed goes to county jail

By Rob Cullivan
Staff writer

BRIGHTON — Brighton Town Judge James E. Morris sentenced Carol Crossed, a Catholic peace and justice activist, Nov. 25 to 10 days in Monroe County jail after she pleaded guilty to third-degree criminal trespass in the office of Dr. Morris Wortman, a Brighton physician who performs abortions.

Wortman declined to comment on the matter when contacted by the *Catholic Courier*.

The case stemmed from a Sept. 19 incident in which Crossed refused to leave the office because she claimed to be there on behalf of a man who opposed his girlfriend's attempt to have an abortion that day.

The abortion was performed, according to Crossed, who said both the man and the woman have since expressed support to her for her actions. She also provided the *Courier* with letters of support given to the judge that were written by both the man and his girlfriend. Their names had been blacked out for reasons of confidentiality.

Crossed's attorney, Daniel M. DeLaus, Jr., said she decided to plead guilty to the charge because he was unable to get a reduction in the charge from the Monroe County assistant district attorney who prosecuted the case. He also said if she went to trial, and was convicted, she could have been sentenced up to 90 days in jail.

With time off for good behavior, Crossed should be out of jail by Saturday, Nov. 30, DeLaus said.

According to Crossed, she entered Wortman's office Sept. 19 at the request of a family friend whose girlfriend was there to have an abortion. The boyfriend, whom she declined to identify, did not want his girlfriend to have the abortion, she said, and had asked Crossed to go to Wortman's office to plead with the woman on his behalf.

"It was his feeling that she didn't really want to do this, and that she was there out of fear," Crossed said.

After attempting to speak to the woman outside the office, Crossed followed her inside. She said the woman was accompanied by a man who Crossed believed was the woman's brother, and who Crossed claimed rebuffed her attempts to speak with the woman.

Crossed went inside the office where she said she asked if she could speak to the woman. Although she was denied an opportunity to speak to the woman, Crossed did say she spoke with Wortman. However, when she was asked to leave the office, Crossed refused and was finally arrested by Brighton police and charged with criminal trespass.

Ironically, Wortman's office is located in a building managed by Home Properties, a company whose vice president is Crossed's husband, Richard J. Crossed, past president of Conifer Development, Inc. Conifer merged with Home Properties earlier this year.

In a letter he sent to Judge Morris on behalf of his wife, Crossed outlined his company's position regarding Wortman's lease. He noted that his company has been unable to persuade Wortman to relocate to another building.

"Dr. Wortman's lease will expire June 30, 1999, and it will not be renewed," Crossed wrote.

Prior to the sentencing, Crossed said she felt it was fitting that she do jail time for refusing to leave an office in a building managed by her husband.

"I feel responsible for the presence of the clinic," she said. "I live on blood money."

Monks reach world from Web site

By Kathleen Schwar
Copy editor/Staff writer

Brother Anthony Weber has been surfing the Net lately at the Abbey of the Genesee in Piffard.

But the Trappist is quick to add he mostly downloads "monastic stuff or stuff related to our life here."

"I discipline myself," he said, explaining he squeezes less than a half-hour a day on the computer into his monastic schedule. "I don't have the time."

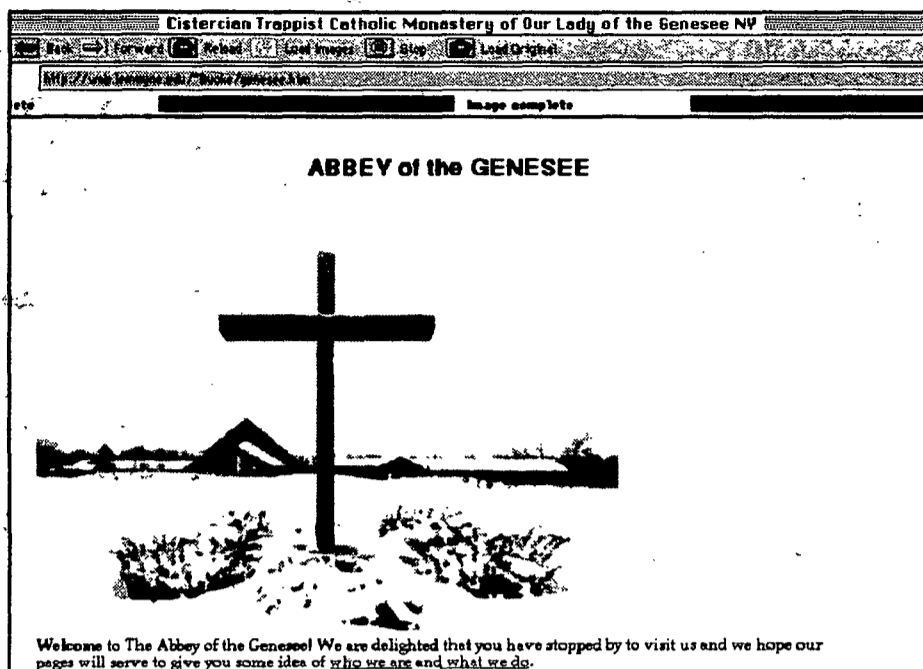
The abbey went online this fall, primarily to communicate vocations information. Brother Weber, who is the abbey's vocation director, edits the Web site pages himself, using hypertext language — a complex style that converts the input into readable text.

"It's cyberspace vocabulary. We don't even have signs for it," he quipped. The monks seldom speak to each other, and use sign language sparingly, he explained.

The public is welcome to "visit" the abbey via the Web site. Its home page displays a navigational bar for finding several pages that detail life at the monastery. "Abbey News" contains such stories as the burning down of the garage at the monks' Nazareth house in July, an update on the corn harvest, and the arrival of more *Abbey Psalters* for general sale. The "Abbot's Page" records what the abbot preached in his 25th anniversary homily Sept. 8. "Monks' Bread" explains how Monks' Bread is made on-site. The pages also address the monks' emphasis on contemplation.

"To this end we practice silence, speaking in a limited way, and exclude the use of radio and television and other irrelevant media," the site states, in part.

Other sections include information on retreats, liturgical services and prayer re-



quests — all open to the public. And further links explore such terms as Cistercians, the rule of St. Benedict and vespers.

Father Raymond Bucko, a professor of anthropology at LeMoyne College in Syracuse, and electronic editor for the Northeastern Anthropological Association, helped the Trappists find their way through the Web.

"He said, 'I'll trade you a week's retreat for lessons in hypertext,'" Brother Weber recalled. The deal was made and from there, the work proceeded one step at a time.

Most of the 17 other Cistercian monasteries in the country have their own home pages, Brother Weber noted. And they have a Regional Home Page that displays a map. By clicking on the map's dots, an in-

dividual may explore other monasteries.

Meanwhile, back in Piffard, Brother Weber said, "What is starting to take some time and could become problematic is the e-mail. We're getting an awful lot of responses, which really surprised me."

Most messages — some from as far away as Serbia — just say hello and thank you for the home page, he said, or ask for spiritual materials or monastery information, but some also come from people all over the world with prayer requests.

The abbey's web address is: <http://web.lemoyne.edu/~bucko/genesee.htm>. His e-mail address is abbeygen@frontiernet.net. The Regional Home Page is at <http://www.cistercian-usa.org>.

Obituary

Sr. Marie Emily Cooney, SSJ

Sister Marie Emily Cooney, SSJ, a former superior of her order's motherhouse, and the archivist for the Sisters of St. Joseph of Rochester, died at Rochester General Hospital on Oct. 31, 1996. She was 82.

Sister Mary Paul Geck, a colleague of Sister Marie Emily's, recalled her friend as a woman who could afford to be gentle because of her great inner strength.

"People loved her," Sister Geck said. "She was a true Sister of St. Joseph."

Sister Marie Emily was a native of Rochester who entered her order from Corpus Christi Parish in 1932. A graduate of Nazareth College who earned her master's degree there, Sister Marie Emily taught in diocesan elementary schools for 32 years. Among the schools where Sister Marie Emily taught were St. Monica's and St. Mary's Boy's Home, both in Rochester; St. Patrick's, Seneca Falls; Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Brockport; St. Stephen's, Geneva; St. Patrick's, Mt. Morris; and St. Anthony's, Elmira.

Sister Marie Emily also served as principal for six years each at St. Patrick's, Mt. Morris; St. Monica's, Rochester; and Immaculate Conception, Ithaca.

From 1969 to 1975, Sister Marie Emily served as superior of the Sisters of St. Joseph Motherhouse in Rochester. From 1975 to 1988, she was the archivist for her

order, work that Sister Geck said suited her colleague well.

"She enjoyed very much organizing the archives of her order and preserving them for the future," Sister Geck said.

"You could tell she really loved the community, and she really loved doing the work that she did," said another colleague, Sister Marie Tydings.

In 1988, Sister Marie Emily retired because of failing health, and in 1989, she moved to St. Joseph's Convent Infirmery in Pittsford.

Sister Marie Emily is survived by her sister-in-law, Irene (Dennis) Cooney of Boynton Beach, Fla.; nieces and nephews, grandnieces and grandnephews; as well as her fellow Sisters of St. Joseph.

Father Edward B. Zenkel celebrated her funeral Mass in the motherhouse chapel on Nov. 4. Msgr. William Shannon, Msgr. J. Emmett Murphy, Father John Hayes and Father Donald Curtiss concelebrated.

Interment took place in Holy Sepulchre Cemetery.

— Rob Cullivan

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The *Catholic Courier* is looking for childhood Christmas memories for its Dec. 19 issue.

If you have a memory to share of a person, an event or a family tradition, write a description of 100 or fewer words and send it to the *Catholic Courier*, P.O. Box 24379, Rochester, N.Y. 14624. Stories should arrive at the *Courier* office no later than Dec. 9.

Please include your name, address and a telephone number where you can be reached should there be any questions.

We will publish as many stories as possible from those submitted by the deadline.

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