

WORLD & NATION

Pro-life leaders condemn abortion clinic bombings

WASHINGTON (CNS) — As pro-lifers readied for their march in Washington on the 24th anniversary of the Supreme Court's *Roe vs. Wade* abortion decision, pleas for a nonviolent show of disgust over legal abortion came amidst abortion clinic violence in Atlanta and Tulsa, Okla.

Just three days after two bombs exploded at an Atlanta abortion clinic, two explosive devices detonated seconds apart Jan. 19 outside a clinic in Tulsa. Moderate damage was reported at the rear of the building. No injuries were reported.

On New Year's Day, two Molotov cocktails were lobbed at the same Tulsa clinic, again causing damage but no injuries.

In Atlanta Jan. 16, six people were injured after the second of two bombs exploded at an abortion clinic. No one was injured in the first blast at a professional building housing the clinic, but a second bomb, which exploded about an hour later in a trash container outside, injured six people, all of whom had converged on the scene as a result of the first bomb.

Condemnation was swift after the Atlanta bombing.

"We deplore and condemn the cowardly and pointless act of violence ... regardless of who bears responsibility," said Archbishop John F. Donoghue of Atlanta.

Cardinal Bernard F. Law of Boston, chairman of the U.S. bishops' Committee for Pro-Life Activities, said, "Such violence is the opposite of everything we stand for and everything we hope for our culture today: respect for the life of each and every

human being from its beginning to its natural end. We pray for those who were injured."

Investigators said they knew of no links between the two Tulsa bombings or between the Tulsa and Atlanta bombings.

As tens of thousands of pro-lifers from around the country were heading to Washington for the Jan. 22 March for Life, a board member for the annual march reiterated the nonviolent nature of the event.

"This is just a peaceful and orderly rally and meeting to explain our firm conviction that the right to life is invested in every human being at conception," said Katherine McEntee, "and no one has the right to choose who will live and who will die."

Cardinal James A. Hickey of Washington, in a column published in the Jan. 16 issue of the *Catholic Standard*, Washington's archdiocesan newspaper, highlighted non-violence as one of five steps of being an "ambassador for life."

"Be steeped in kindness," the cardinal advised. "Kindness and weakness of course, are not the same thing. We do not owe a kindness by surrendering to the culture of death. But angry, hateful words and deeds also do the pro-life movement a great disservice. We need to be gentle, loving but persistent advocates for life."

Cardinal Hickey's other steps included "humble prayer" and study. He also urged limiting and focusing conversion efforts to life issues rather than trying to change another's political party affiliation and social agenda and looking for the right time and



The parking lot and trash container, where one of two bombs exploded Jan. 16 at a professional building housing an abortion clinic in Sandy Springs, Ga., are shown in this overhead photo. Six people were injured by the blast.

place to deliver the pro-life message.

Eleven protesters delivering their message nonviolently were arraigned Jan. 10 for violating the federal Freedom of Access to Clinic Entrances Act of 1994 for their part in a Dec. 7 protest at Planned Parenthood's headquarters in Rochester.

Originally arrested for municipal ordinance violations, those charges were dropped when substituted with the federal charges. A U.S. district judge freed the protesters on their own recognizance.

All 11 are members of the Lambs of Christ, an abortion protest group. Among those arrested was the group's founder, Father Norman U. Weslin, a priest of the Diocese of Ponce, Puerto Rico.

In other abortion-related news, a Dan-

ish study published Jan. 9 in the *New England Journal of Medicine* found "a slight, though insignificant, decrease in risk" of contracting breast cancer among women who had an abortion within the first six weeks of pregnancy.

But the study also found a "statistically significant increase in risk among women with a history of second-trimester abortion."

The Danish study is the latest published effort to determine whether there is a link between abortion and breast cancer. An earlier U.S. analysis of 23 studies conducted throughout the world indicated that women who have had abortions may face a 30 percent greater risk of breast cancer than other women.

CALENDAR

All Dioceses

Fundraisers

■ **SAT, FEB. 8 — Charity event:** "Have a Heart"; to benefit Bishop Sheen Ecumenical Housing Foundation; J.C. Penney (all stores); \$5 donation entitles 25 percent off regular-priced goods and 5 percent off sale merchandise; for coupon send \$5 to Sheen Housing, 935 East Ave., Rochester, NY 14607; Sheen Housing staff will be at Marketplace mall Feb. 7, 8 for more coupon purchases.

Workshops

■ **FEB. 7-9 — Marriage Encounter Weekend:** for happily married couples wishing to enrich and deepen their relationships; sponsored by Worldwide Marriage Encounter; Holiday Inn - Airport, 911 Brooks Ave., Rochester; 7:30 p.m. Fri.-5 p.m. Sun.; for more information call Mike and Kathy Williams, 716/872-3180 or John and Belinda Brasley, 607/776-4870.

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Meetings

■ **SUN, FEB. 2 — Informational meeting:** for families interested in hosting a child from

Northern Ireland this summer; The Hibernian Center, 701 Kinyon St., Elmira; 4 p.m.; call 607/732-0418 or 607/732-5625.

Religious Activities

■ **FEB. 3-10 — Novena:** in honor of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal in celebration of the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes; Our Lady of Lourdes Church, 1100 West Church St., Elmira; 11 a.m. weekdays; novena prayer at regular weekend Masses; call 607/732-6261.

Monroe County

Fundraisers

■ **SAT, JAN. 25 — Skyway Open:** to benefit Mental Health Association; Rochester's downtown skyways will become two miniature golf courses; to register call 716/325-3145.

■ **SAT, JAN. 25 — Can and bottle drive:** to benefit St. Francis of Assisi Church, 77 Whitney St., Rochester; 10 a.m.-4 p.m.; call 716/436-6693 Mon.-Thu. 9 a.m.-4 p.m., or 716/328-1055.

■ **JAN. 25-26 — Antique show and sale:** sponsored by Our Lady of Mercy High School Alumnae Association; 1437 Blossom Rd., Rochester; 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Sat., 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Sun.; more than 40 vendors; \$3 per person; breakfast and lunch; call 716/288-2610.

■ **FRI, FEB. 7 — "CARE 2 DANCE":** to benefit people in Rochester and Finger Lakes Region with HIV and AIDS; Water Street Music Hall, 204 Water St. N., Rochester; to register call 716/442-2220.

■ **SAT, FEB. 8 — Chocolate Ball:** to benefit the Epilepsy Association; Radisson Hotel at Rochester Plaza; tickets \$20-\$115; for tickets call 716/442-4430, ext. 485.

Meetings

■ **MON, JAN. 27 — Meeting:** Alliance for the Mentally Ill, support group for families of the mentally ill; Lutheran Reformation Church, 111 N. Chestnut St., Rochester; 7-9 p.m.; call 716/423-1593.

■ **THU, FEB. 6 — Hospice care talk:** sponsored by the Marthas and Martins of St. Paul's Church, 783 Hard Rd., Webster; 8 p.m.; with Sheila Kinsky; refreshments.

Religious Activities

■ **FRI, JAN. 24 — Registration deadline:** for retreat Jan. 31-Feb. 2; Mercy Prayer Center, 65 Highland Ave., Rochester; \$80; call 716/473-6893.

■ **MON, JAN. 27 — Registration deadline:** for Feb. 3 program "You Are Welcome Here"; Mercy Prayer Center, 65 Highland Ave., Rochester; 7:30-9:30 p.m.; \$10; on church teaching for divorced and separated; to register call 716/473-6893.

■ **TUE, JAN. 28 — Registration deadline:** for Feb. 4 pro-

gram "The Art of Mindful Living"; Mercy Prayer Center, 65 Highland Ave., Rochester; 7-9 p.m.; \$10 per person.

■ **TUE, JAN. 28 — Series:** "Woman at the Well"; first of five-part monthly series for women; Sisters of St. Joseph, 4095 East Ave., Rochester; 7:15-8:45 p.m.; \$5; call Sr. Judy Reger, 716/586-1000, ext. 177.

■ **THU, JAN. 30 — Series:** "Dream Work for the Spiritual Journey"; first of four parts; Sisters of St. Joseph, 4095 East Ave., Rochester; 7:30-9 p.m.; \$5; call Sr. Judy Reger, 716/586-1000, ext. 177.

■ **THU, JAN. 30 — Centering Prayer:** Guardian Angels Church, 2061 E. Henrietta Rd., Rochester; 7:30-8:30 p.m.; call Nancy, 716/334-0036.

■ **FEB. 4, 11 — Mini-retreat:** "Men in Mid-Life"; SSJ Spirituality Center, 402 Rogers Pky., Rochester; 7:30-9 p.m.; \$10 per meeting; call 716/336-4370.

■ **SUN, FEB. 9 — Marriage Reaffirmation Mass:** for married couples and their families; St. Francis of Assisi Church, 77 Whitney St., Rochester; 9 a.m.; call Phyllis Burruto, 716/328-1055, or the rectory, 716/436-6693.

Social Activities

■ **SAT, JAN. 25 — Concert:** 75th anniversary of St. Ambrose Church and Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra; St. Ambrose Church, 25 Empire Blvd., Rochester; 8 p.m.; full or-

chestra conducted by Jeff Tyzik; free; reception; call Ric Ramirez, 716/288-5000.

■ **SAT, JAN. 25 — "Winter Guard '97":** hosted by the Bishop Kearney High School Performance Ensemble; Bishop Kearney High School, 125 Kings Highway S., Irondequoit; 5:30 p.m.; 26 color guards from Syracuse, Buffalo, Rochester and Canada; tickets \$4 in advance, \$5 at the door; for tickets call Ann O'Connell, 716/342-4000.

■ **SAT, JAN. 25 — Play:** "Daniel and the Lions"; Nazareth College Arts Center, 4245 East Ave., Rochester; 8 p.m.; \$25; for information call 716/389-2180; for tickets call 716/389-2170.

■ **SUN, JAN. 26 — Concert:** Asbury First United Methodist Church, 1050 East Ave., Rochester; 3 p.m.; music from black church tradition; goodwill offering; for more information call 716/271-1050.

■ **WED, JAN. 29 — Auditions:** for Genesee Valley Orchestra and Chorus; call 716/716-0536.

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Social Activities

■ **SAT, FEB. 1 — Casino night:** Immaculate Conception School gym, 320 W. Buffalo St., Ithaca; 7-11:30 p.m.