

for LIFE

By Scott

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while this was the second for Sarah. Sarah noted that the thrill of marching with so many people in Washington led to a heightened sense of spirituality.

"You felt like God was with you the whole time, watching over you and guiding you," said Sarah, 15, a sophomore at Our Lady of Mercy High School. She and her sister are parishioners at St. John of Rochester Church in Perinton.

A bus that left from St. Jude's Church in Gates carried several young members of the Fredericks family. That contingent included Elizabeth, 17, Theresa, 16, Andrew, 14,

and Francis. They are home schoolers and parishioners at Holy

Rosary Church in Rochester. All four have attended previous March for Life rallies in Washington as well.

Theresa said that the March for Life inspires her to continue crusading at other times of the year, when pro-life events attract much smaller crowds.

"It's helpful to see other people feel life is sacred. Abortion is wrong," Theresa said. "There aren't always a lot of people who say they're pro-life. You go to the March for Life, and you meet people who are willing to say it to the whole world."

Andrew said he spread his message

to the world in a fun fashion during the March for Life. He recalled taking part in such lively chants as "Hey hey, ho ho; 'R-V-Wade' must go."

For Jack, the trip contained both high and low moments. Upon arriving in Washington early Wednesday morning, he and the Newark youths enjoyed a whirlwind sightseeing tour that included stops at the Arlington National Cemetery, the Lincoln Memorial and the Vietnam Memorial.

However, Jack said that the march itself provided disturbing reminders of why he came to Washington in the first place.

"Some of the signs were a little bit graphic," Jack said. He admitted that he was bothered by displays of aborted fetuses that several demonstrators carried.

Sarah, meanwhile, was disappointed that media attention was given toward a small group of people who wish for abortion to remain legalized.

"It seemed like the pro-choice people were interviewed more than we were," Sarah remarked.

Sarah and her sister belong to Our Lady of Guadalupe, a pro-life teen group from the Rochester area. The coalition was formed in 1993 by several teens who had gone to Denver to take part in World Youth Day. On

their trip home, they decided to start a pro-life movement to uphold the wishes of Pope John Paul II, who in Denver had urged youths to defend life.

Our Lady of Guadalupe works in conjunction with adult pro-life organizations in Monroe County. For instance, the teens have joined with these groups at demonstrations outside the Planned Parenthood offices in downtown Rochester to protest abortions arranged through Planned Parenthood or performed at Planned Parenthood's University Avenue headquarters.

Many Our Lady of Guadalupe teens also belong to the "First Friday" youth group that meets at various locations in Monroe County. According to the group's organizer, Dr. Helen Owens, meetings consist of rosary recitations along with discussions of pro-life issues. Members have also attended the annual Maria Conference in Rochester, Owens added.

Our Lady of Guadalupe's teen coordinator, John Purcell, traveled to Washington on the bus from Holy Trinity. Last week marked the fourth March for Life for the McQuaid Jesuit High School sophomore.

John said his group seeks a peaceful solution to the struggle over abortion.

"If someone comes by and starts saying bad things, we just pray they'll see the light," said John, 16, from St. John of Rochester Church.

Other teens emphasized that the only way to end legalized abortion is to make a long-term commitment to this cause. Although Julie has not yet decided where she'll attend college next year, she said she plans to be in Washington for the 1998 March for Life. She added that if a campus group isn't already going to the march, she might organize one.

Elizabeth agreed that pro-life activists must continue their efforts for as long as necessary, in the hopes of one day seeing *Roe vs. Wade* overturned.

"It took years for slavery to stop. It's not like we should stop now," she stated.



From left, Elizabeth, Andrew, Frances and Theresa Fredericks show the banner they would carry at the annual March for Life in Washington, D.C., before boarding a bus Jan. 21 at St. Jude's Church, Rochester, to take them to the march.

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