

WORLD & NATION

AMA trustees endorse abortion procedure ban

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Pro-life supporters, including a spokeswoman for the U.S. bishops, praised the May 19 decision of the American Medical Association to back an amended version of the bill banning partial-birth abortions.

"No longer are there any 'medical' pretenses left with which to defend this horrible procedure," said Helen Alvare in a statement.

"We urge senators who have relied on these to abandon them and to cast a vote for ending partial-birth abortions in the nation," said Alvare, who is director of information and planning for the bishops' Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities.

Gary Bauer, president of the Family Research Council, said the AMA decision "means the other shoe has dropped."

"First, we learned that the abortion industry lied about the number and nature of abortions when they lied about the healthy mothers and healthy, viable children subjected to this barbaric procedure," he said in a statement.

"And now we learn that this inhumane way of ending life is never necessary," he added.

The National Right to Life Committee also praised the AMA endorsement, which came after the chief sponsors of the bill, Rep. Charles Canady, R-Fla., and Sen. Rick Santorum, R-Pa., agreed to several changes.

The bill, vetoed last year by President Clinton but passed again in the House by a veto-proof majority in March, would ban the controversial procedure except to save the life of the mother.

In a partial-birth abortion, the unborn child is partially delivered, feet first, before surgical scissors are stabbed into the base of the infant's head. The brain is then removed by suction, allowing for easier delivery of the collapsed head.

NRLC legislative director Douglas Johnson said the "clarifying changes do not weaken the thrust of the bill, and the AMA's endorsement is most welcome."

"At a Capitol Hill press conference, Santorum said the changes were designed "to protect the doctor who's delivering the baby who runs into a problem" and must unexpectedly abort the fetus to save the mother's life.

According to the AMA Board of Trustees' statement, the modified bill "makes it clear beyond any question that the accepted abortion procedure known as dilation and evacuation is not covered by the bill."

Also, the bill does not restrict use of the procedure for physicians intending a delivery at the outset or require physicians trying to save the life of the mother to show that no other procedure would suffice.

Additionally, the new version gives physicians accused of performing an il-



CNS photo

Land mines protested

Tun Chennereth, who was severely maimed by a land mine in Cambodia, joins a demonstration in Washington May 16 to urge President Clinton to sign the international treaty to ban anti-personnel land mines. More than 200 religious and social activists participated in the demonstration.

legal procedure the right to a review by a state medical board before trial.

Two alternative bills that would have permitted partial-birth abortions for women facing "serious adverse health consequences" or "grievous injury" to their physical health were defeated in the Senate May 15.

The Senate was expected to debate and vote on the modified bill May 20. Santorum said May 19 there are 62 solid votes for the ban, and "more than enough" wavering senators to provide a veto-proof two-thirds vote.

If passed, the amended bill would be sent back to the House for a final vote.

CALENDAR

All Dioceses

Fundraisers

■ **TUE, JUNE 3** — Dinner: to benefit the Women's Scholarship Committee of St. Bernard's Institute; Kearney Hall, St. John Fisher College; 6:30 p.m.; Msgr. William Shannon, guest speaker; for reservations call 716/381-2845 or 716/654-8960.

Meetings

■ **TUE, MAY 27** — Reservation deadline: for May 30 luncheon meeting for Catholic 20s/30s/40s; call Mary Conslor, 716/328-3228, ext. 281 or 800/388-7177.

Religious Activities

■ **WED, MAY 28** — Diocesan convening: on missions; DeSales High School, 90 Pulteney St., Geneva; 7-9:30 p.m.; keynote "Mission: Building Solidarity" with Fr. Stephen DeMott, editor of Maryknoll Magazine; call 716/328-3210, ext. 303 or 800/388-7177, ext. 303.

Chemung Schuyler

Fundraisers

■ **SAT, MAY 31** — Golf tournament: to benefit Holy Family Catholic Schools; Mark Twain Golf Course; 9 a.m. shotgun start; dinner at Lib's

Supper Club; \$220 per team of four; for application, call Joe Kosmicki, 607/734-6339 or Virginia Andrus, 607/734-4414.

Religious Activities

■ **MON, MAY 26** — Field Mass: sponsored by Elmira Council Knights of Columbus; Ss. Peter and Paul Cemetery, Franklin St., Elmira; noon; Fr. Severine, celebrant; bring a chair; in the event of rain, Mass will be celebrated at St. Mary's Church, Franklin St.

Social Activities

■ **MAY 30-31** — Festival: St. Mary Our Mother Church, 816 W. Broad St., Horseheads, Fri. 5-10 p.m., Sat. noon-10 p.m.

Monroe County

Fundraisers

■ **FRI, MAY 23** — Performance: of "Peter and the Wolf"; by the Rochester City Ballet, to benefit Evan Cummings; Our Lady of Mercy High School, 1437 Blossom Rd., Rochester; 7 p.m.; \$9 for adults; \$7 for children 12 and under; for advance tickets (\$7 and \$5) call 716/473-7082.

■ **SAT, MAY 24** — Garage sale: to benefit Bishop Kearney Marching Kings; Bishop Kearney High School, 125 Kings Hwy. S., Irondequoit; 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

■ **SUN, MAY 25** — Country music: jamboree; to benefit various charitable orga-

nizations; hosted by the Fraternal Order of Eagles; The Eagles Club, 1200 Buffalo Rd., Rochester; 2-10 p.m.; for more information call 716/647-1617.

■ **FRI, MAY 30** — Wine tasting: hosted by the Seton Women's Group of St. Mary's Hospital; Four Points IIT Sheraton (formerly Holiday Inn); 7-10 p.m.; for tickets call 716/464-3255; to benefit St. Mary's Enrico Fermi Health and Wellness Center to be located at School 17.

Meetings

■ **WED, MAY 28** — Program: "A Time to Live: Seven Tasks of Creative Aging"; St. Mary's Church, Dugan Center, 15 St. Mary's Pl., Rochester; 5-7 p.m.; Robert Raines, speaker.

Religious Activities

■ **FRI, MAY 23** — Registration deadline: for May 29 celebration of women; sponsored by St. Salome Church; St. Salome School, 4282 Culver Rd., Rochester; 7:15-9 p.m.; free; men and women are invited to celebrate women's spirituality, feminine images of God, and women's spiritual heritage in prayer, song and presentations; free; for more information call 716/323-1160.

■ **SAT, MAY 24** — March: for Jesus 1997; from Charlotte Middle School down Lake Ave. to Lake Ontario Beach Park; 2 p.m.; call 716/234-1522.

■ **SUN, MAY 25** — Day trip: Niagara on the Lake; sponsored by the St. Thomas More Singles Club; meet at 9:30 a.m. near Media Play store at Ridgmont Plaza; for more

information call 716/482-5656.

■ **THU, MAY 29** — Registration deadline: for "An Overnight Getaway"; June 5-6; Mercy Prayer Center, 65 Highland Ave., Rochester; 6:30 p.m.; \$25; for reservations call 716/473-6893.

■ **SAT, MAY 31** — Presentation: "Women of the early church — in Scripture"; 9-11 a.m.; Holy Ghost Parish Center, Coldwater Rd., Rochester; Gloria Ulterino, presenter; to register, call 716/234-3325 by May 29.

■ **SAT, MAY 31** — Registration deadline: for June 7 program "Spiritual Writing"; Mercy Prayer Center, 65 Highland Ave., Rochester; 10 a.m.-2 p.m.; \$12; brown bag lunch; Barbara MacCameron, presenter; call 716/473-6893.

Social Activities

■ **MAY 22-24** — Festival: St. John the Evangelist Church, 2400 W. Ridge Rd., Rochester; Thu.-Sat. 6-11 p.m.; also Sat. 1-4 p.m.; food, games, raffles; Sat. night autograph session with Raging Rhinos; for advance tickets call Jeannie Daly, 716/227-1381 or Ann Robach, 716/663-0453.

■ **SUN, MAY 25** — Concert: by the Cathedral Choir School; St. Anne Church, 1600 Mt. Hope Ave., Rochester; 4 p.m.; \$5; for tickets call 716/235-3422 or 716/671-1821.

■ **SAT, MAY 24** — Music: "Fiesta de Trios"; guitar trios playing Latino folk music, DJ music also; School Hall, Holy Redeemer/St. Francis Xavier Church, 316 Bay St., Rochester; 7 p.m.-2 a.m.; \$7; for informa-

tion call Elizabeth, 716/482-3211.

■ **MAY 30-31** — Play: "Winnie the Pooh"; presented by Nazareth College Arts Center, 4245 East Ave., Rochester; Fri. 7:30 p.m.; Sat. 11 a.m., 2 p.m.; produced by Cleveland Signstage Theatre in American Sign Language and spoken English; \$8; for information call 716/389-2180; for tickets call 716/389-2170.

Seneca Cayuga

Fundraisers

■ **SAT, MAY 31** — Chicken barbecue: St. Patrick's Parish; 97 W. Bayard St., Seneca Falls; 4-7 p.m.; call 315/568-6295 or 315/568-5203.

■ **MON, JUNE 2** — Golf tournament: to benefit St. Patrick's Parish Society; Seneca Falls Country Club; 12:30 p.m. shotgun start; \$40; call Mark and Chris Hylwa, 315/568-2311 or Brad Jones, 315/568-6855.

Yates Ontario Wayne

Meetings

■ **SAT, MAY 24** — Breakfast: meeting of the Divorced/Separated/Bereaved Support Group of Macedon; Log Cabin Restaurant, Route 31F, Macedon Center; 9 a.m.; call 315/597-9558.