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# Catholic Courier

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## Workers' Layoffs

### Life after leaving Kodak

The article and accompanying article on Page 10 - are the first in an occasional series on the topic of layoffs, which is this year's focus for the Diocesan Public Policy Committee.

Mary Ann Fackelman remembered her initial reaction when she found out last week that she was losing her job at Eastman Kodak Company in Rochester.

"I had a really strong record, and I was surprised when I was cut," said Fackelman, a Catholic who has worked for 23 years at the company. "Actually, I felt embarrassed. I didn't want people to think I had a lousy record."

Fackelman, a training coordinator that lost her job, Kodak says she had good records with the Rochester area's largest employer.

As a justification, the company announced a downsizing of 34,000 in Rochester by 1999. Some employees were eligible for retirement.

Fackelman, who was not eligible for retirement, was given 60 days to find another position in the company, if one was available, according to Paul Allen, Kodak's manager of economic relations.

Fackelman received a severance package that included 10 weeks of pay for 20 years of service as well as \$5,000 for retraining courses, he said.

Although Fackelman said she harbors no bitterness toward Kodak, she acknowledged that it has taken her some time to adjust to life outside her former corporate job.

She said she will be back in late January. Still, because she has no other income, she considers her mortgage payments to be a burden.

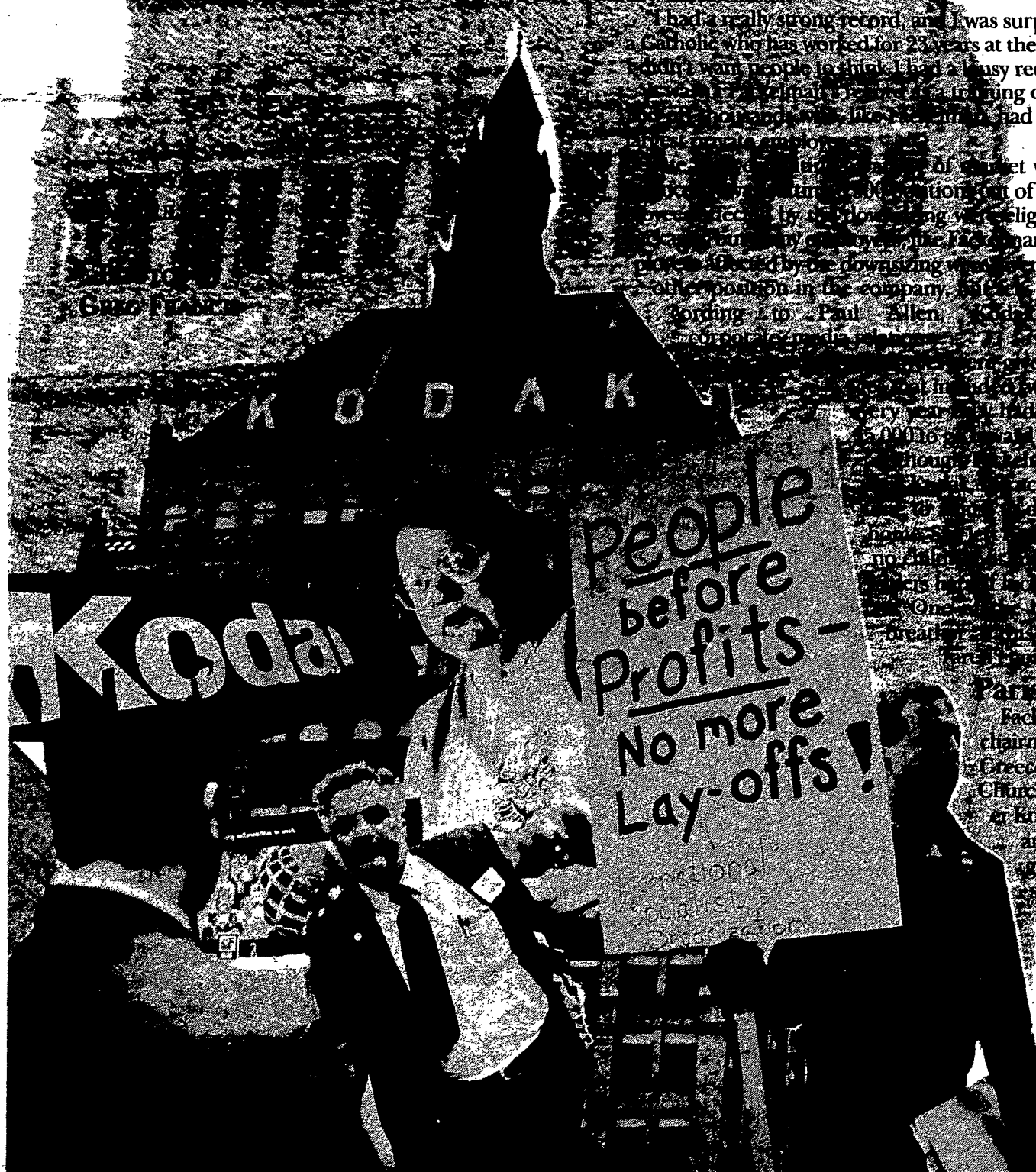
"One of the blessings for me is that I can take a break from time and regroup, and three people are going to starve because I do," she said.

Fackelman serves as program committee chairman at the Borromeo Prayer Center in Greece, a ministry of St. Charles Borromeo Church. When she learned that she and other Kodak workers were being downsized, she and fellow staff members at the center organized a Jan. 12 listening session for such workers, as well as for anyone who had lost a job at other companies in the area.

"People need a safe place where they can come and talk," she said.

She added that the center wants to help people see how God may be speaking to them through their job loss. Such a loss may be painful, but it can lead to new spiritual growth, she said, if the person uses the unemployment period to reassess where their life is going.

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At top, Mary Ann Fackelman, an involuntary Eastman Kodak Co. retiree; Dan Friedman (left), a voluntary Kodak retiree, seeking job information, and Brian Erway, picketing for the International Socialist Organization, at Feb. 19 Kodak job fair at Rochester Riverside Convention Center.

