

Justice seen central to Church life

By JERRY FILTEAU

WASHINGTON (NC) — "Today, the ministry for justice is center stage for the life of the Church," said Archbishop Peter L. Gerety of Newark, at a symposium here sponsored by the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate (CARA). The two-day CARA symposium, "Ministry for Justice: Planning Strategy for the Future," attracted more than 100 people involved in various social ministries.

In his keynote address opening the symposium, Archbishop Gerety said the Church has undergone a major change in its attitudes towards justice in the past decade.

Before the Second Vatican Council, he said, "It seemed that we as a Church community did our best to emphasize our separateness from the world, to stay apart from an evil world. Our religious practices, our emphasis in prayer, our spiritualities helped to maintain this separateness. The work for social justice, the discussion of social doctrine was too often viewed as peripheral to the life of the Church."

But since the council, he said, "the Church has come to look upon itself more and more as a community . . . called to be completely involved in all things that are human, to be involved in the human process to bring justice to all, to build a better world . . . As a consequence any true Christian spirituality means commitment to a ministry for justice."

In this ministry, he said, "we seek justice for all sectors of society, not only for the poor, but also for the unemployed, and for women. We are concerned . . . for every minority group . . ."

This also involves working toward the greatest possible participation "of all groups in the work of framing a vision of the true and of the good society," he said. "It is not a question of decision-making left to the few and imposed upon the others but rather . . . involving others in the very process of forming the vision."

Archbishop Gerety said he considers three qualities particularly necessary to make a ministry for justice "truly a Gospel ministry":

✓ The kind of compassion exhibited by Christ who "identified Himself with His people" and "was not above them, not apart from them, but among and within them."

✓ The love that gives strength to efforts of justice. "I do not substitute charity for the justice that is owed," the archbishop said, "but my justice is sustained by, animated and promoted by my deep true Gospel love."

✓ Understanding, or full knowledge of actual situations through "patient analysis," so that "we are not acting merely according to our preconceived myths or our personal ideologies."

3 senators seek reelection

BERKELEY HEIGHTS — Of the eight at-large members of the 44-member Senate of Priests the three who agreed to accept another term have been nominated. Msgr. John J. Kiley led the field with 51 votes; Rev. Paul Kirchner, O. Carm., one of four religious order priests nominated, is next with 35 votes; and Rev. Joseph Cevetello pulled 23 votes.

Only 321 priests cast ballots, but 656 names were offered for nomination, according to Rev. Salvatore Busichia, elections



Pro-life demonstrators march up Pennsylvania Ave. in Washington on Jan. 22.

Large Jersey group at life rally

By ED GRANT JR.

WASHINGTON — Despite a heavy snowfall back home and bitterly cold temperatures here, a large and vocal contingent from New Jersey joined some 50,000 protesters at the third annual national Right to Life march and rally here Jan. 22.

The march, commemorating the third anniversary of the Supreme Court decision legalizing abortion, centered on the twin themes of the bicentennial and "no compromise." The latter sentiment was expressed by Richard Gallagher, President of the New York-based Human Life Amendment Group, who said: "We will not support any bill which will not do a thorough job of stopping abortions. If you make exceptions in the legislation, you will split the pro-life group. A 'concession amendment' would cause disunity."

Joining Gallagher on the platform during the morning rally on the White House Ellipse was Judie Novak of Phillipsburg, chairman of New Jersey Right to Life.

"This march is an obvious achievement," Mrs. Novak told the shivering crowd. "It demonstrates that this most important movement will not go away. This group has grown as no other civil rights group ever has. It is time to stop apologizing to the legislature, to woman's lib and to the media for our stand."

With Mrs. Novak on the platform was her son Jeremy, born on the eve of the life march last year.

After the last of the late buses from the

metropolitan New York area arrived, the assembly became a march and proceeded down Pennsylvania Ave. to the Capitol and the featured rally. Leading off the speeches was Sen. James Buckley, who called the rally "a demonstration of faith, hope and love."

Following Buckley to the podium were Rep. James Florio of Camden and Stephen Foley of Asbury Park, recently-announced candidate for the New Jersey Democratic senatorial nomination against incumbent Harrison Williams.

Florio said, "The Supreme Court decision we protest today is only a symptom of the bigger problem, which is a lack of support for human individuals. We have adopted a cavalier attitude for human life." Foley, one of a group of congressional candidates to campaign here, stated that "We must use prayer, word, deed; in fact, every means available to communicate our complete opposition to the (abortion) decision. A law which denies that all men are created equal must be erased if our society is to retain its heritage."

Following the rally, pro-lifers called upon their congressmen. The prime object of New

Essex war vets to honor three

IRVINGTON — The 29th annual convention of the Essex County Chapter of Catholic War Veterans will be held Feb. 1 at Sacred Heart of Jesus parish here, with Rev. Thomas Lewczak of the host church among those to be honored by the delegates.

During the opening session at 1 p.m., Father Lewczak will receive the "For God" award of the county chapter. The "For Country" award will go to James Smith, county first vice commander, and the "For Home" award to Henry O. Thoms for his many contributions to the community and youth of Irvington.

The convention will be held in conjunction with the 26th annual conference of the Essex County CWV Ladies Auxiliary. The open joint session will be followed by separate closed business sessions. The convention will close with Mass at 5 p.m. in the parish church. New officers will be installed at the Mass.

Jersey marchers, and many others, Rep. Peter Rodino, chairman of the House Judiciary Committee, left town hours before the bulk of the demonstrators arrived.

However, according to Rev. Paul Wickens of St. Venantius, Orange, Rodino met with a small pro-life group earlier in the day. Indications were that he is more favorable now than he was a year ago to the various proposed Pro-Life amendments to the Constitution, which must pass his committee before coming to vote in the full House.

"Rodino promised that there will be hearings," Father Wickens said. "That's our main goal at this point."

Rev. John M. Morley, director of the Family Life Apostolate for the Newark Archdiocese, was also among those who met with Rodino. He said that it was "a good session" and that Rodino explained his failure to take a position on the human life amendments as "the neutral position I have to take as committee chairman."

"We spoke for about an hour," Father Morley said. "He brought up the Karen Quinlan case and suggested that it was in some way analogous to abortion. But I pointed out to him that there was no analogy — that one involves the termination of extraordinary means to sustain a life which is already permanently damaged, the other involves the destruction of a life that will develop normally if not interfered with. But he did affirm his personal endorsement of the pro-life position."

A large number of marchers were young people from high schools and colleges across the nation. Included in the New Jersey representation were groups from Oratory Prep and Oak Knoll School of the Holy Child, both in Summit, and Our Lady of the Valley in Orange.

Half a Coat . . .

SOUTH ORANGE — WSOU, the Seton Hall radio station, is doing a T-shirt give-away. But in order to tie it in with the station's frequency, the promoters have to give away 89.5 T-shirts. Program manager Roger Domal is philosophical about it. "We're just going to keep our scissors handy and let the last lucky winner decide how he wants it divided."