Holy Week: Rescues Continue Despite Threats, Arrests

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clearing a path of rescuers away from the building. Some "Family Planning" personnel thereby escorted about 6 girls into the mill. Lieutenant Helman of the LAPD used the display to coerce remaining rescuers to avoid arrest. None of them budged.

Concurrently, on another side of the building, two O.R. leaders, Jeff White and Joseph Foreman, attempted to walk past a line of police officers to approach the front of the building. They were immediately subdued and thrown to the ground.

At this point, other rescuers in the same area proceeded to crawl to the front of the building so that police would not mistake their attempt as a surge or attack. Police with batons, joined by mounted officers, responded by thrusting their batons into the individuals while advancing on them, pushing the crowd back.

One officer lost control of her mount, as she attempted to force crawlers back with the animal. The horse began to rear and buck over those laying in the street, nearly losing its rider. Only one man was trampled during the affair and was later reported to be O.K.

Pastor Al Howard, So. Cal. Director of O.R., was one of those attempting the crawl. He received a baton in the groin. Several others were injured as well. O.R. will press charges against the city for these and other brutal police tactics.

Throughout the rescue, one group of pro-aborts donning black apparel brandished juvenile displays of vulgarity. One such act was crated by a male in a black dress as he carried a large cross and simulated thrusting it into the rectum of himself and his partner.

In all, 243 rescuers were arrested on Saturday. Four leaders, including White and Foreman, were booked on suspicion of felony conspiracy charges after they allegedly instructed others to block doorways. Later the charges were reduced to misdemeanors. Other rescuers were booked on misdemeanor charges and released throughout the night.

O.R. reported that two pregnant women were turned away from the abortuary that day. Kathy Spillar, representing the mill, said she thought that almost all of the 45 patients scheduled for abortions had entered by noon.

A very painful day for many rescuers—physically and emotionally. No babies were confirmed saved. They yet have their hope, and the consolation of knowing they remained faithful to upholding the sanctity of human life...faithful to a call from God...faithful to the words..."take up your cross and follow Me." ■

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ON THE COVER: L.A> Holy Week Rescue in Tustin, California. (Photo: Robert Fowler)

Randall Terry Speaks In L.A.

"When we allow tyrannical police, judges or D.A.'s to oppress rescuers and don't hold them accountable for their actions, we are neglecting our brethren and Christ (see Matt. 25:43-45), and we are actually making a covenant of silence with the oppressors. We are saying, 'I won't speak out when you abuse my brother.' Ultimately this is suicidal."

These words, an excerpt from a recent letter by Randall Terry, surmise the very critical point he was trying to make when he spoke at the Holy Week pre-rescue rally in So. California last month. "The church is in danger," says Terry, who is concerned about the rise of "anti-Christian bigotry in America today."

Fearing for the future of this country, "the future of our children," Randall Terry is calling for the confrontation of the "oppressors of the church." "If we tolerate the oppression of the few, we pave the way for the oppression of the many."

Terry, who says that child killing and the oppression of God's people are linked (See Ps. 106:36-42), is helping the church to realize its vital role in protecting those who protect the unborn. Namely, rescuers who are being oppressed by unjust treatment from public officials.

Randall Terry would concur, peacefully trying to prevent murder is not the crime, child killing is. One need not be a rescuer however, to recognize the trend of Christian hatred in America today. But, certainly those who do rescue are among those who know first-hand the sort of enemies we have; Randall Terry does to be sure!

Citing Heb. 13:3, Terry says, "We have not remembered the prisoners as if in prison with them, or 'those who are mistreated as if you yourselves were suffering,' (NIV) One reason we've been willing to let our brethren suffer is because it seems so "noble." God keep us from making sacrifice an idol."

"It's time to give them a loud and clear message," says Terry, "If you're going to harass a few of us, you're going to deal with a lot of us."

Terry, who is now speaking for O.R. around the country, is exhorting the church with many practical ways to hold judges, police, D.A.'s and the like accountable for judicial tyranny, long jail sentences, police brutality, etc.. Phone calls, letters, and pickets are just a few.

Along with holding tyrannical officials accountable to us, is the need to love those presently oppressed. "When rescuers are incarcerated, we must work for their release, visit them, write them, and take special care for their and their families' needs. We cannot forget them."

As the current National Executive Director for O.R., Randall Terry is taking this pertinent message to churches throughout America. In his words..."even as I write, scores of rescuers are in jail. What are we doing on their behalf?" ■

A simple and effective idea

Mock Graves Stir Emotions

Reprinted from New Jersey Record, 4-20-90

New Jersey—At first glance, it appears to be a cemetery. But a closer look reveals that there are no graves.

The lawn of Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in Wayne has 170 unmarked white crosses, all standing straight and neatly in rows. Indeed, they are meant to be memorials. But to whom the church does not know.

The crosses represent the number of abortions performed each hour in the United States, said the Roman Catholic church's pastor, the Rev. Paul Knauer.

"I tried to state the anguish over abortion," he said.

But neighbor Margery Neave wishes Knauer would confine his anguish to the pulpit.

"I feel no group has the right to force their morality on someone," said Neave, who lives four blocks from the church on Ratzer Road. "Don't put an offensive display in my front yard, which, in effect, is what they're doing."

Neave and Knauer recently exchanged letters on the display, which catches the eyes of motorists on the busy road with a large sign that says: "170 abortions per hour in the U.S.A."

The pastor says he respects Neave's viewpoint and does not expect to change her mind. "I don't doubt there is disagreement," he said.

Neave said she wrote because of the effect the display had on her 11-year-old daughter. "She found the crosses and the symbol of a cemetery so overwhelming, she was crying," Neave said. "She found it offensive."

Eleen Spirko, chairwoman of Passaic County Right to Life, called that argument a "lot of baloney."

"Kids nowadays do not get frightened," she said. "Do you see what they watch on TV?"

Spirko praised Knauer for putting up the display, which was erected two weeks ago with the help of the Knights of Columbus. It is scheduled to remain until the end of the month.

"I know people are seeing it," Spirko said. "Father Knauer is great."

Wayne officials say there are no regulations governing such a display.

"Since it's not a permanent structure, I don't think it would be a violation," said Thomas Melani, the Planning Board's attorney. "From what I've seen, it's just crosses planted in the ground. Under freedom of speech and freedom of religion, it's probably protected."

Similar displays have been erected at churches in other states and in Washington, D.C., but Spirko said she has not heard of another one in New Jersey.

Myra Terry, coordinator for the New Jersey Religious Coalition for Abortion Rights, said New Jerseyans were more sophisticated about the abortion issue and less likely to be swayed by a display like the one on Ratzer Road.

"Generally, it's done by some overly zealous priest, who, to make a point, takes into his own hands some self-righteous venture," she said. The coalition counts many Protestant and Jewish denominations among its members.

"If I were the clergyman in that particular parish, I wouldn't want that stigma—the crazy church that does that thing," Ms. Terry said. "It's sort of ramming this issue down everyone's throat."

Among his flock, Knauer has found the reaction relatively muted. "Some people think it's great. A lot of people have said nothing," he said.

It was the kind of response Knauer has hoping to provoke. ■

Oscar & Rosalba Keep Their Baby

Tustin, CA—The couple had circled the block twice before finding a nearby parking place. Venturing to gain access to the inundated abortion mill, they were greeted by Vince, a sidewalk counselor who spoke with them in Spanish. The conversation that ensued for the next several minutes would be a life-change for Oscar and Rosalba Gonzalez and their family.

Due to some allergy medication taken by Rosalba during her pregnancy, the young couple was led to believe that possible complications warranted an abortion. Stopping to speak with Vince gave them a completely different perspective. Praying with the counselor to commit their lives to Jesus Christ, the Gonzalez's decided to entrust their family to God, and not to abort their second child.

Rosalba stood by and smiled as she cuddled her other baby, Edmar, in her arms. When asked what they will name the yet-to-be-born child, Oscar responded, "If it's a girl, we will name her Yvonne. If it's a boy, Oscar Jr.!"

"Today we have made some friends," said Oscar, surrounded by several members of the body of Christ. The Gonzalez's friends are prepared to aid the family in whatever way they can. For example, Oscar new job affords him no medical insurance, a small concern for his new friends!

The Gonzalez's denied claims of "clinic administrators" who said the couple was an O.R. plant and did not have an appointment scheduled. ■