Cathy Ramey

Photographed during a 1991 clergy rescue, Wichita Family Planning is said to have lost most of its business.

Two Wichita Abortuaries May Close

Tiller prepared to handle all killing

Wichita, KS -- Two of the three abortion mills in Wichita are about to go out of business, according to clinic officials. The stated reason is "harassment of doctors and staff by anti-abortion protesters."

Wichita Family Planning, known as the "Central Street mill," was targeted during the Summer of Mercy and was the site of the largest demonstration of civil disobedience by pastors in recorded American history. On August 2, 1991, 83 pastors blocked all entrances to the mill and were arrested while praying and singing worship songs.

Clinic director, Deb Riggs, said the tactics of "harassment" employed by anti-abortion protesters are taking their toll. "It's a good possibility that we could close down. Right now I have doctors, but I think with all that's happened, there's a possibility that my doctors won't stay." Darin Sparkman, the last remaining abortionist at Central contacted pro-life activist Bryan Brown only days after her statement to announce that he was quitting, "effective immediately" and would no longer perform abortions.

Wichita Women's Center, called "The Crypt" by pro-lifers, is having similar problems. Ft. Worth, based businessman Roneal Martin owns this and four other child-killing enterprises in Louisiana and Texas.

Martin said, "I've had windows broken out. I've had holes chopped in roofs. I've had walls knocked down. I've had stink bombs multiple times. I've had garden hoses stuck through mail slots, graffiti on walls and fences, and I've had all the blockade tricks." His Houston mill was firebombed in 1982. "They threw a Molotov cocktail through a plate-glass window." He indicated that no one was ever caught, and pro-life sources do not discount the possibility that the damage might have been caused by someone on the pro-abortion side.

Martin dismisses theories that he and abortion zealots may have been responsible, stating, "I don't put anything past these people. We've been saying this for months and months and years and years: These people are dangerous. And no one's listened. They say, 'Oh no, they're just nice little Christians, in their own way.'"

Martin claims that "some of his doctors" are wearing bulletproof vests. "If I don't find a physician, there is no option. Either I find a licensed physician, or we don't do procedures." Martin's two Wichita abortionists will graduate from medical school in June, and he and mill director, Roxann Meyer, cannot find medical students or physicians willing to take their place. Insiders say that the abortuary may have to close its doors sometime in the early summer.

Doubts were expressed by Don Treshman of the Houston-based Rescue America, who has opposed Martin in the past. "Roneal Martin is actually very hard core," said Treshman. "I'm afraid that some of these possible 'closings' are merely saber-rattling

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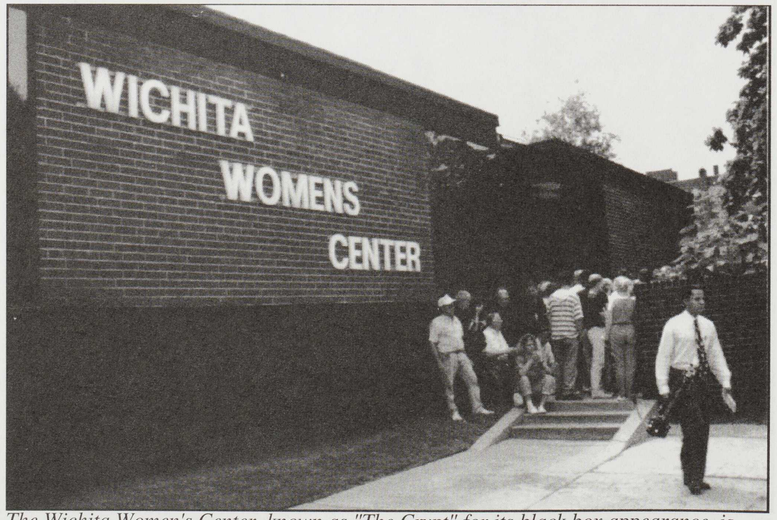


The Wichita Women's Center, known as "The Crypt" for its black box appearance, is one of the two clinics rumored to be closing. It is seen here during a 1991 rescue.

Wichita Abortuaries...

(Continued from previous page)

by abortuaries to focus media attention on their plight and push for more restrictive laws against the pro-life movement."

Both mills kill babies through 16 weeks gestation and both recruit their killers from HCA Wesley Hospital's medical intern program, in conjunction with Kansas State University's School of Medicine.

Some recent campaigns run by Bryan Brown, director of Godarchy Productions, have included informing the female medical student who was moonlighting as an abortionist that her upcoming wedding would be picketed and she would be exposed to the Catholic parish she attends. Abortionist Kathy Towadris quit the following week.

Other methods, according to Brown, include pamphleteering abortionists' neighborhoods; confronting them on site and "calling them to repentance"; sending advance notice to towns where these "doctors" plan to move after finishing their internship; broadcasting their names, and those of their spouses, on the "Godarchy Line" and on a local pro-life radio show.

Hundreds of flyers recently went out to all medical students at Kansas State Medical school urging them not to "moonlight as vampires."

Though the tactics and methods are not new in the pro-life movement, they are having a great effect in Wichita. Local leaders have attributed this in part to the fact that young people studying medicine, for the most part, do not intend to become abortionists, but are seeking ways to supplement their income during medical school. "However," said Brown, "you can't kill repeatedly without becoming desensitized. Many of them could grow up to be abortionists. Usually their families and friends are not aware of the horrendous activities and 'exposure' may stop them before they become hardened."

The "seasoned killers" are perhaps a different story. According to Brown, the same tactics employed against George Tiller, late term Wichita abortionist, and the target of many campaigns and rescues, have not been as fruitful. Tiller himself seems delighted at the prospect of being the only abortion provider in Wichita. He said that if the other clinics close, he could probably pick up the patients.

When asked what his next campaign would be, Brown said it would be aimed at the Church in Wichita. "It's a very sad fact that there are men in the pulpit who respond more to the negative press about our tactics and rush to disassociate themselves from us faster than they rush to actively stop innocent babies from having their arms and legs torn off or their brains sucked out. I think we should organize Life Chains around churches with signs that read 'Apathy Kills Children.'" ■

Archbishop Roach says Operation Rescue not welcome

Impact School Scheduled for Twin Cities

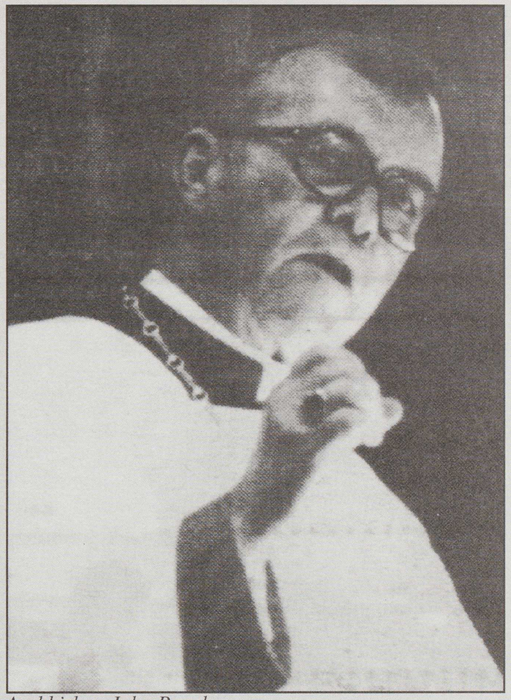
Operation Rescue National's announcement that it plans to hold its Impact School in the Twin Cities this summer has drawn criticism from Roman Catholic Archbishop John Roach. Speaking during the annual awards meeting of the Minnesota Associated Press Broadcasters in late March, Roach expressed his opposition to the Impact School, which trains pro-life leaders.

"I don't find Operation Rescue to be a positive element in the pro-life movement, and I just wish they'd stay wherever they are," said Roach, who heads the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis. Claiming that Operation Rescue's tactics lead to violent confrontations, Roach said, "I would like to be able to convince the pro-life people that we're really doing rather well without Operation Rescue."

That assessment was news to Gordon Peterson, pastor of Calvary Temple and local host for the Impact School. "Isn't it amazing how 'well' we are doing, and yet we continue in the Minneapolis-St. Paul area to open up new abortion [facilities] instead of closing them. We continue to kill more babies yearly instead of decreasing the number. And the church of Jesus Christ is perhaps known for 'fitting in' and 'being acceptable' to what is politically correct instead of being acceptable to God. When all of us come before God in the Great White Throne judgment, we will be judged according to how we have obeyed God and His word. How well are we really doing?"

Peterson questioned whether Roach had personally witnessed the work of Operation Rescue, or if he was relying on reports from others. He also noted that a number of Catholic leaders from around the nation have endorsed the work of Operation Rescue.

"With the moral mandate of Jesus Christ in Luke 10 that we love our neighbor as ourselves, is it not inconsistent and perhaps even hypocritical that we would castigate certain pro-life ministries and exonerate others?" asked Peterson. "Do we not need one another as the body of Christ? Do not all of us as member in that body have different functions to perform?" ■



Archbishop John Roach

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