Pro-life leader urges support

Talk to congregation stresses participation

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The national leader of Operation Rescue urged members of a Baton Rouge church Sunday evening to join him in abortion protests at a local women’s clinic this week.

“I admonish you, I exhort you, I encourage you and I beseech you. Please do not pass up this opportunity to become a living sacrifice this week,” the Rev. Keith Tucci told the congregation at the Hosannah First Assembly.

Operation Rescue’s “Summer of Purpose” is scheduled to run through Saturday. City officials and pro-choice activists expect the group to demonstrate at the Delta Women’s Clinic on Remington Avenue.

Hosannah’s pastor, Glen Berteau, introduced Tucci to about 600 people in the audience. Before Tucci spoke, Berteau conducted “a special love offering” for the pro-life leader.

Berteau said the collection would enable Tucci to continue his pro-life protests.

During his hour-long address, Tucci told the congregation that if they participate in Operation Rescue’s activities, they could get arrested. But he urged them not to let that stop them.

“Don’t you understand, if you would take a stand some things would change,” Tucci said.

“This city needs to know that they’re not going to intimidate us with fences and judges and police.”

The national leader of Operation Rescue, the Rev. Keith Tucci, addresses the congregation at the Hosannah First Assembly on Sunday.
Protests

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And he contended it is reasonable for Christians to actively protest abortion. "We know when and we know where they're killing people and it's only a reasonable Christian response to intervene," Tucci said. "What Operation Rescue does is not radical. We offer our bodies to intervene for them. It is an extremely reasonable response to mass murder."

Ever since Roe vs. Wade, the 1973 Supreme Court decision that made abortion legal, "the country has managed to bring calamity on itself," Tucci said.

Since that ruling, the country has been plagued by teen suicide, drive-by shootings, AIDS and drug abuse, Tucci said.

The congregation sang songs for about an hour before Tucci addressed them. Tucci sat in the front row and joined in the singing, even dancing to the livelier hymns.

Meanwhile, workers at the Delta Women's Clinic continued to prepare for this week's onslaught.

Workers boarded over two large windows near the clinic's entrance over the weekend.

A white trailer was parked just off the clinic's grounds to the west. It sported a 15-foot pole with five speakers attached at the top.

On Sunday, police continued to guard the fence that the city erected last week around the clinic and nearby grounds. The fencing cost the city $8,000.

Four makeshift tents protected 11 uniform police officers from the sun Sunday. Two police motorcycles and four marked cars sat nearby.

One pro-life protester stood on the south side of the fence that runs down the middle of Bennington Avenue. He held a sign whose message equated abortion with Nazism.