

Church. By that time, a jury later decided, Bray was being drawn to the violent margin of the antiabortion movement.

From February 1984 to Jan. 1, 1985, explosions rocked 10 abortion-related facilities, including clinics in Rockville, Wheaton and Southeast Washington as well as the offices of the National Abortion Federation. Bray was convicted in May 1985 of scouting the facilities and helping to plan the bombings, which U.S. District Judge Alexander Harvey II said were "among the most cowardly and despicable of criminal acts."

A three-judge panel overturned the conviction on a jury-selection technicality, but before the case was retried, Bray entered an Alford plea in which he did not contest the charges and served 46 months in prison. Bray still has never said that he was involved in the bombings, but as his wife points out, he "affirms the morality of what he went to jail for."

Many in the antiabortion movement do not. The Roman Catholic Church and several other mainstream groups condemned the bombings as matching one injustice with another. Michael Bray said he regrets that there is not agreement in the movement that clinic bombing is "right in principle."

Her husband's imprisonment caused major changes in Jayne Bray's life. She visited him for one week each month at a prison in New York. She also took Elli, their oldest daugh-

ter, now 10, out of public schools and began teaching her at home so the girl could make the trips.

Friends said that Michael Bray's absence brought forth in his wife a strength that many suspected was there all along. Jayne Bray had long been active in antiabortion activities, including clinic blockades, but, as Fridlend put it, she "knew her place scripturally and stayed in the background."

In the fall of 1989, however, a prominent legal battle placed her in the forefront. After Operation Rescue announced plans to blockade abortion facilities in the District, Maryland and Virginia, the clinics sought protective injunctions. By virtue of the alphabet, Jayne Bray became the lead plaintiff in the Rescue movement's appeal. That appeal is now under consideration by the Supreme Court and will determine whether an 1877 anti-Klan statute can be used against future clinic blockaders.

"I've been real honored to represent the hundreds of thousands of women who do what I have done and more," she said. "It signifies what this is all about. A bunch of nameless, faceless women who are opposing abortion."

The Brays's opponents do not see them as nameless or faceless, but as well-organized and extremely dangerous.

"There is clearly an edge to the movement that is ugly and has committed violence against clinics. And anytime that happens there is a

danger to human beings," said Larry Seldon, legal director for Planned Parenthood. "It has exacted a tremendous price. It is a threat, and every [abortion] provider takes it seriously."

Clinic bombings fell from 149 in 1985 to 57 in 1990, according to statistics kept by the National Abortion Federation. But Michael Bray does not interpret the drop as evidence that passions have subsided. He believes that the abortion issue might one day start a civil war.

"Maybe we will have abortion states and abortion-free states," he said. "That may be a solution to avoid the same scene as the [Civil] War." He speaks of moving to North Dakota, where there is only one abortion clinic, or to Ireland, where abortion is illegal, or to Guam, where a strict antiabortion statute is being reviewed by the courts.

"There's a thing about culpability that you have when you are in a society and you are part of it, paying your taxes and so forth, and the society as a matter of law permits the holocaust," Michael Bray said. "You feel blood guilt for that."

He is sitting beside his wife in the living room of their home. This is the place where they tutor their five children. Epiphany, 6, wanders in, and her father gently encourages her to go practice her piano. Beseda returns with another picture book.

"Once you can establish that it is wrong to kill the unborn," her mother is saying, "then you must respond to that. You must respond if you know murder is taking place. Or you condemn yourself."

