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# ANGELUS

NEWSPAPER OF THE DIOCESE OF SAN ANGELO

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## Pope Names Record 37 Cardinals, Including Three Americans, Places Stamp On Church Governance

By John Thavis  
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Naming a record 37 new cardinals in January, Pope John Paul II placed a definitive stamp on the body that will help him govern the church for the rest of his papacy and someday elect his successor.

The pope enhanced the influence of two groups in particular: cardinals from the Roman Curia and Latin America.

The 12 new appointees of the Curia, the Vatican's administrative structure, means that of the 128 potential electors in a conclave, 39 would be active or retired Vatican career officials — 30 percent of the total.

Latin America picked up nine residential cardinals and one in the Vatican, which would give the continent 26 cardinal-electors, or 20 percent of the total. That percentage will increase as cardinals turn 80 over the next few years, because Latin America's cardinals are younger than the rest.

In fact, of the church's 25 youngest cardinals, eight are from Latin America — seven of them residential archbishops.

The reverse process will occur among Roman Curia voting-age cardinals: Of the 15 cardinals who



Jesuit Father Avery Dulles, 82, was among those named a cardinal by Pope John Paul Jan. 21. Cardinal-designate Dulles is the first U.S. priest-theologian to be honored with the title. (CNS file photo)

will turn 80 over the next two years, 10 of them are from the Curia. So the Vatican's numerical influence in a potential conclave is at a high point, but will steadily decline.

The latest batch of cardinal nominees are important whether or not a conclave is held anytime soon, however. Pope John Paul has increased the cardinals' voice in church governance and tends to rely on them individually as the most trusted advisors on re-



Cardinal-designate Edward M. Egan celebrates Mass Jan. 21 at St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York. He said that being named a cardinal was an honor "first and foremost for the Archdiocese of New York." (CNS photo by Maria Bastone, Catholic New York)

gional and universal issues.

Cardinals from around the world are, more and more, frequent visitors at the Vatican, where they help manage the business of Vatican congregations and other agencies, take a leading role in synods and, when necessary, meet with the pope in private audience.

For the last few years at the Vatican, there has been talk of a "Latin American moment." The



Cardinal-designate Theodore E. McCarrick presents a gift to President George W. Bush and first lady Laura Bush Jan. 25 at the residence of the archbishop of Washington in Hyattsville, Md. The first couple dined with Cardinal-designate McCarrick and several other bishops in a private meeting just five days after Bush's inauguration. (CNS photo by Rafael Crisostomo, Catholic Standard)

Synod for the Americas in 1997 ended up being dominated by Latin American issues. Since then, the pope has selected a number of important Latin American prelates to head Vatican departments, including sacraments and divine worship, clergy and health care.

The idea that the College of Cardinals might elect a Latin American pope in the next conclave is not so strange, considering that the continent is home to more than 40 percent of the world's Catholics. But until now,

few Latin American cardinals have been well known outside their region.

That is clearly changing, and the latest group of nominees includes several high-profile leaders, including Honduran Cardinal-designate Oscar Rodriguez Maradiaga of Tegucigalpa, former president of the Latin American bishops' council and a member of four major Vatican agencies.

The biggest surprise in the pope's naming of 12 Roman

**see "POPE" page four**



# Don't Play With Human Life

By Bishop Michael D. Pfeifer, OMI

Human life is sacred and has a special dignity as it has been created in the very image and likeness of God. There are constantly new threats to human life, and one of the most recent is the use of human embryos for medical research. Briefly, I share with you the position of the Catholic Church as regards this type of research.

Richard Doerflinger, of the Secretariat for Pro-life activities of the U.S. Catholic Bishops' Conference recently issued a statement strongly criticizing the new guidelines of the National Health Institute that would allow such research, which, he says is:

- Immoral. For the first time in history, the federal government will promote research in which developing human beings are destroyed. The objections of thousands of people during the consultation period have been ignored, and conscientious objector tax payers will be forced to support it.
- Illegal. Funding of research in which human embryos are destroyed is prohibited by federal law. The new guidelines seek to bypass this regulation by advising researchers on how to go about obtaining grants.
- Unnecessary. The claim that embryonic stem-cell research is needed for medical advances has been rebutted by numerous breakthroughs in adult stem-cell research and other alternatives. The statement concludes saying that all avenues will be explored to reverse the guidelines and ensure that medical research is carried out ethically.



# No Jugar con la Vida Humana

Por Obispo Miguel D. Pfeifer, OMI

La vida humana es sagrada y tiene una dignidad especial como ha sido creada en la imagen y semejanza de Dios. Hay constantemente nuevas amenazas contra la vida humana, y una de las mas recientes es el uso de los embriones humanos para investigación médica. Brevemente, yo comparto con ustedes la posición de la Iglesia Católica respecto a este tipo de investigación.

Richard Doerflinger, del Secretariado Por la Vida de la Conferencia Episcopal de Estados Unidos, publico recientemente una fuerte crítica a las orientaciones del Instituto Nacional de la Salud que permitirían esta investigación. La declaración afirma que es:

- Inmoral: Por primera vez en la historia, el gobierno federal promoverá investigación por la que se destruyan seres humanos en desarrollo. Se han pasado por alto las objeciones de miles de personas durante el tiempo de comentarios abierto, y se va a forzar muchos contribuyentes objetores de conciencia a que costeen con sus impuestos tal investigación.
  - Illegal. El costear una investigación por la que se destruyan embriones humanos está prohibido por la ley federal. Las nuevas orientaciones del Instituto de Salud indican cómo conseguir fondos saltando la ley.
  - Innecesario: El argumento de que se necesita esta investigación con células de embriones humanos para el progreso médico ha sido refutado en varias ocasiones con otros avances científicos que lo hacen innecesario porque se pueden utilizar células de otros organismos.
- La declaración concluye diciendo que se buscarán los médicos de que estas orientaciones se detengan y la investigación se haga éticamente.

## The Bishop's Schedule



### February 2001

- Feb. 1: San Angelo, Diocesan Pastoral Center, Presbyteral Council Meeting at 1:30 p.m.
- Feb. 3: Christoval, Mass and Bless new Carmelite Monastery at 10:00 a.m.
- Feb. 4: Brady, St. Patrick, Mass at 11:00 a.m. and Meet with Pastor, Pastoral and Finance Councils after Mass
- Feb. 5-7: Dallas, Medical Moral Workshop for Bishops
- Feb. 8: San Angelo, Diocesan Pastoral Center, Meeting of the Diocesan Legal Advisory Team at 11:00 a.m.

- Feb. 10: San Antonio, St. Mary's University, Installation of New President
- Feb. 13: San Angelo, Diocesan Pastoral Center, Staff Mass at 8:30 a.m. and Meeting at 11:00 a.m. Cathedral Church of the Sacred Heart Endowment Board Meeting at 7:00 p.m.
- Feb. 14-15: San Antonio, St. Mary's University, Meeting of Texas Bishops with Presidents of Texas Universities
- Feb. 16: Colorado City, St. Ann, Meet with Pastor, Pastoral and Finance Councils of Colorado City and Lorraine at 7:00 p.m.
- Feb. 17: San Angelo, Cathedral Church of the Sacred Heart, Scout Awards Mass at 5:00

- p.m.
- Feb. 18: Austin, Retirement Ceremony for Bishop John McCarthy at 3:00 p.m.
- Feb. 19-20: Austin, General Assembly of the Texas Conference of Churches
- Feb. 20: Austin, Board Meeting of the Texas Conference of Churches
- Feb. 24: San Angelo, Diocesan Conference Day
- Feb. 25: Olfen, St. Boniface, Mass at 11:00 a.m.
- Feb. 27: San Angelo, Presbyteral Council at 10:30 a.m.
- Feb. 28: San Angelo, Cathedral Church of the Sacred Heart, Ash Wednesday Mass at 12:00 noon

- shop on Prison Ministry 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
- Mar. 8: St. Lawrence, St. Lawrence Church, Meet with Pastor and Pastoral Councils of St. Lawrence and Midkiff at 7:00 p.m.
- Mar. 9: Coleman, Sacred Heart, Lunch with Priests of Abilene Deanery at 11:30 a.m.
- Mar. 11-12: San Antonio, Meeting of Texas Bishops
- Mar. 13: Midland, Our Lady of Guadalupe, Lenten Night of Prayer for Priests, Sisters, Deacons and Wives of the Midland/Odessa Deanery at 7:00 p.m.
- Mar. 14: San Angelo, St. Mary, Sermon and Soup at noon

- Mar. 15: San Angelo, Christ the King Retreat Center, Staff Retreat 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., St. Margaret, Lenten Night of Prayer for Priests, Sisters, Deacons and Wives of the San Angelo Deanery at 7:00 p.m.
- Mar. 17: Big Spring, St. Thomas, Mass at 6:30 p.m.
- Mar. 18: Odessa, Our Lady of San Juan, Mass at 8:30 a.m. and meet with Pastoral Council after Mass
- Mar. 24: Brownwood, Sanction Center, Mass at 2:00 p.m.
- Mar. 25: Merkel, Our Lady of Mercy, Mass at 11:00 a.m.
- Mar. 27-30: Private Lenten Retreat

### March 2001

- Mar. 1-2: Rest and Prayer
- Mar. 4: San Angelo, Cathedral Church of the Sacred Heart, 1:30 p.m. Rite of Elections, 4:00 p.m. Rite of Elections
- Mar. 6: San Angelo, Diocesan Pastoral Center, Mass for Staff at 8:30 a.m., Diocesan Liturgy Commission meeting at 10:00 a.m., Staff Meeting at 11:00 a.m.
- Mar. 7: San Angelo, Christ the King Retreat Center, Work-

## Adoration Of The Blessed Sacrament

*"Could you not watch one hour with me?" Matthew 26:40*

One of the greatest truths that Catholics hold in common is our belief in the real presence of Jesus Christ in the Eucharistic bread and wine after the consecration at the Eucharistic Celebration. We underscore this belief by visiting with the Eucharistic Christ exposed on the altar every Tuesday, 5:15 – 6:15 p.m., in the Christ the King Retreat Center chapel. It is a private time for reflection, meditation and praise. Everyone is welcome!

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# Vocation Circle: One Year – How Are We Doing?

by Fr. Tom Barley, JCL  
Director of Vocations and  
Seminarists

On January 17, 2000 I was transferred from St. Lawrence Church near Garden City to the Vocations Office as Director of Vocations and Seminarists. In this first year of vocations ministry I have stayed busy. My work includes 1) vocations awareness and promotion through out the Diocese; 2) working with new vocations through a discernment and application process; 3) supporting and evaluating our seminarists at each stage of their progress; 4) staying in contact with seminaries and programs that support seminarists; 5) visiting and giving presentations to various diocesan organizations and groups; 6) attending regional and national meetings of vocations directors; 7) other vocations related activities. Very often I ask myself – How are WE doing with vocations?

In the past year I have visited the following parishes – St. Patrick (Brady), St. Joseph & St. Agnes (Fort Stockton), Cathedral Church of the Sacred Heart (San Angelo), Immaculate Heart of Mary (Big Spring), St. James (Sanderson), Holy Redeemer (Odessa), St. Mary's (San Angelo), Immaculate Heart of Mary (Sweetwater) & St. Albert (Roscoe), St. Lawrence (Garden City) & St. Thomas (Midkiff), St. Mary's (Brownwood), St. Mary's (Odessa), St. Mary's (Fredricksburg – for a friend), St. Vincent (Abilene), St. Theresa (Junction) & Sacred Heart (Menard), St. Elizabeth Ann Seton (Odessa), St. Joseph (Stanton) & St. Isidore (Lenorah), Our Lady of Lourdes (Andrews), Holy Family (Abilene), St. Margaret (San Angelo), St. Ann's (Midland), St. Joseph (San Angelo), St. Ambrose (Wall), St. Joseph (Rowena), and St. Joseph (Odessa). There are still forty-six parishes and mission in the Diocese for me to visit – 22 in the San Angelo Deanery, 10 in the Abilene Deanery, and 14 in the Midland-Odessa Deanery. I go to a parish on the invitation of the pastor when our schedules allow for the visit. See you someday!

I have participated in several youth activities including Youth 2000, a youth pro-life Mass, Jesus 2000 at the Cathedral, SEARCH vocation talks, and Seminaristas en Familia (OLSJ, Midland). This last group is a parish-based gathering of young men from Midland and Odessa gathering as a community to discuss the possibility of vocations in the Church.

I visit each of our three Catholic schools each semester and two religious education programs (St. Joseph in San Angelo and St. Ambrose in Wall) so far. While any vocation in this age group has plenty time to mature and make a commitment, it is encouraging to many of our youth are still open to thinking about priesthood and sisterhood. I am willing to visit any high school religious education program to present on vocations.

I have celebrated the Eucharist at the Newman Center several times and presented at a career day at Midland College. I visited and prayed a vocations rosary with a Knights of Columbus Council in San Angelo and visited a Catholic Daughters Meeting at St. Ambrose. Early in the year I visited the Sacred Heart Senior Citizens gathering. Many dioceses find vocations among their college-aged Catholics. Grandparents can have a powerful influence on their grandchildren. Everyone can have a hand in identifying, encouraging and supporting vocations in our Diocese.

Over the past six years I took almost eighty girls from St. Lawrence and St. Thomas to visit a convent in San Antonio on the Nun-Run. Last summer I accompanied boys from St. Ambrose and Holy Family (Mereta) to Assumption Seminary and Oblate School of Theology on a Priest Pursuit. Each year the youth enjoyed the trips and learning about vocations. While we have priests and women religious in our Diocese, these activities give our youth the opportunity to see a seminary and a convent. Watch the WTA for future Priest Pursuits, Nun-Runs, and other vocation activities in the Diocese.

At least each year I have vis-

ited the seminaries where we have had seminarists. These are Assumption Seminary-Oblate School of Theology (San Antonio), St. Mary's Seminary (Houston), Holy Trinity Seminary (Dallas), and Conception College Seminary (Conception, MO). I attend their annual meetings for directors of vocations and seminarists and the annual evaluations of seminarists. I visit the seminarists whenever I am near a seminary. Our seminarists and where they are studying are – Rodney White, Ferney Medina, and Michael Matthiesen at St. Mary in Houston, Joey Faylona and Ariel Lagunilla at Assumption in San Antonio, and Ruben Covos and Emilio Sosa in Conception Seminary in Conception, Missouri. I meet with all of the seminarists in convocations during the summer and Christmas.

I attended meetings of Region X of Vocations Directors in Houston and San Antonio, the convention of the National Conference of Diocesan Vocations Directors in Las Vegas, and an institute in Baltimore for new vocations directors funded by the Knights of Columbus and the Society of St. Sulpice. These meetings have been very beneficial in sharing ideas and in providing a supportive network for the vocations directors across the U.S. I keep hearing that this is one of the toughest and most rewarding ministries in the Church. These experiences have reminded me that while we have fewer vocations we have many great priests and women religious.

I have given reports of my vocations activities at deanery meetings, and regularly to the Bishop, the Presbyteral Council, and my Priest Advisory Team/Commission for Orders and Ministry. The last group helps me to review applications, evaluate the seminarists, develop policies, and think through situations regarding vocations and seminarists. I either write articles for the West Texas Angelus – The Vocation Circle or request that other priests and women religious present an article about their vocational journey or their religious community.

In addition to these vocations related activities I attend staff meetings of the Pastoral Center, monthly Presbyteral Council Meetings, and Assumption Seminary Board of Directors Meetings. I help present Engaged Encounters and the EE Team Gathering, Rachel's Vineyard, Advocate Training sessions for the Tribunal (St. Ann's in Midland, St. Joseph in Fort Stockton, the international priests, Immaculate Heart of Mary in Sweetwater), an advocate re-fresher gathering, and Confirmation retreat for a parish. I celebrated Holy Week at St. James in Sanderson and Christmas Mass at St. Teresa in Carlsbad. For my own growth I attended the annual diocesan priest retreat and the Texas Catholic Conference Scripture Conference. I have helped with confessions during Lent and Advent. I hosted a Maryknoll Missionary friend to visit the Diocese to promote vocations to the foreign missions. Two other ministries I am involved in are as a Judge on the Tribunal and as Spiritual Director for the Diaconate Program.

I hope that soon I will be able to develop a diocesan vocation team with representatives in dif-

ferent areas of the Diocese. This team will help to develop and coordinate vocation programs, give support to parish vocation teams, and invite collaboration from all of the members of the Diocese to work on vocations.

I tell you about these activities not to focus on myself, but to illustrate how much can be done to promote, identify, and support vocations in our Diocese. My question earlier in this article is - How are WE doing with vocations? While I do a lot of things, what I do is useless unless you are active in your family, parish, and community encouraging, promoting, and supporting vocations for the Diocese. While not everyone who wants to be a priest or sister will succeed in becoming one, I believe that God invites many more people to priesthood and sisterhood than answer this call. Recently, many families of the Diocese contributed toward seminarian education. Now, would you be willing to pray for a vocation from within your own parish or family? While I miss my old parish, I look forward to my second year in this ministry. Will you help?

## Sunrise

One day I got up early,  
My night of sleep was done.  
I gazed out towards the eastern sky,  
To watch the rising of the sun.  
The pinks and purples splashed across the azure sky  
Many colors seemed blended into one.  
Someone up in heaven must be painting,  
The rising of the sun.  
The birds soon start their chirping,  
Their day of song has now begun.  
They, too, must see the beauty  
In the rising of the sun.  
Now we may dream of lofty heights,  
Or of the victories we have won.  
But may we often pause to see God's glory,  
In the rising of the sun.  
And when our Lord shall call us home,  
when our earthly work is done.  
May our souls wend their way to heaven,  
Like the rising of the sun.

*An inspiring poem from my cousin Rose in North Dakota.  
Bishop Michael Pfeifer, OMI*



# Statement By The President

by George W. Bush

THE WHITE HOUSE, WASHINGTON – Good afternoon, friends and fellow citizens. Two days ago, Americans gathered on the Washington Mall to celebrate our Nation’s ideals. Today, you are gathered to remind our country that one of those ideals is the infinite value of every life.

I deeply appreciate your message and your work. You see the weak and the defenseless, and you try to help them. You see the hardship of many young mothers and their unborn children, and you care for them both. In so many ways, you make our society more compassionate and welcoming.

We share a great goal: to work toward a day when every child is

welcomed in life and protected in law. We know this will not come easily, or all at once. But the goal leads us onward: to build a culture of life, affirming that every person, at every stage and season of life, is created equal in God’s image.

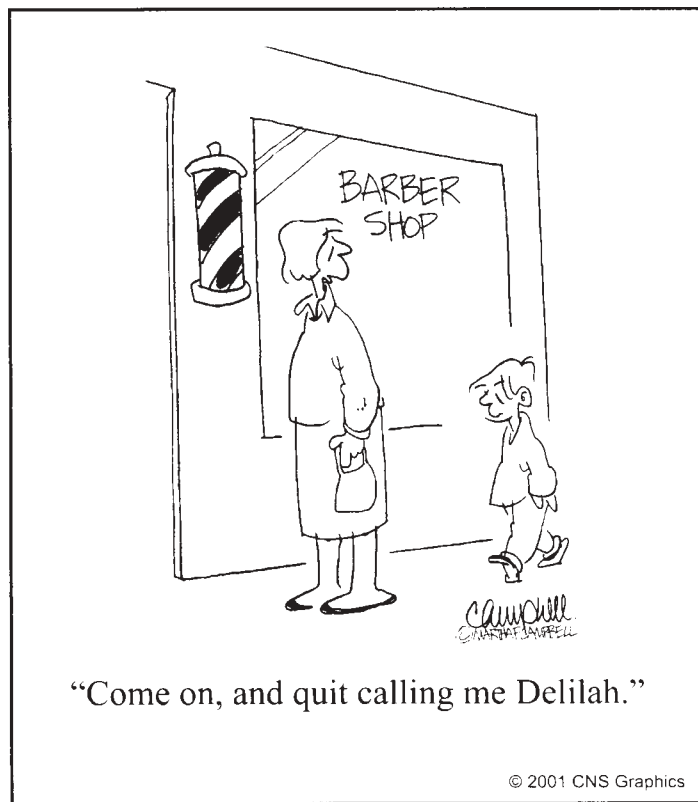
The promises of our Declaration of Independence are not just for the strong, the independent, or the healthy. They are for everyone – including unborn children. We are a society with enough compassion and wealth and love to care for both mothers and their children, to seek the promise and potential in every human life. I believe that we are making progress toward that goal. I trust in the good hearts of Americans. I

trust in the unfolding promise of our country – an expanding circle of inclusion and protection. And I trust in the civility and good sense of our citizens – a willingness to engage our differences in a spirit of tolerance and good will.

All of you marching today have never tired in a good cause. Thank you for your conviction, your idealism, and your courage. May God bless you all.

*(Editor’s Note: see related March For Life photo on page 7.)*

**Pray Often**



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## Partial-Birth Abortion: A Gruesome And Barbaric Procedure That Destroys A Child

by Bishop Michael D. Pfeifer, OMI

Partial-Birth Abortion is a gruesome and barbaric procedure that destroys a viable, living, helpless innocent child who is only seconds and few inches from being born. Our new president has pledged his support to overcome this cruel procedure that has the protection of law in our country. In this article I share with you the statement of the United States Catholic Bishops reacting to the Supreme Court’s decision giving legal protection to this cruel procedure.

“The principles of Roe and Doe have also been used to call into question the right to life of newborn children with disabilities and adults with serious illnesses. In 1997 the Court denied a constitutional “right” to assisted suicide, perhaps realizing that its legal reasoning on abortion must be reined in if it was not to exert a further corrosive effect on the protection of life after birth. However, any hope that the Court might reverse course on abortion itself was shattered this year. In *Stenberg v. Carhart*, a majority of five justices ruled that even the killing of a

child mostly born alive is protected by what the Court called “the woman’s right to choose.”

This decision has brought our legal system to the brink of endorsing infanticide. Already the National Abortion and Reproductive Rights Action League has used this decision’s expansion of the logic of Roe to attack congressional efforts to reaffirm that a child completely born alive is a legal person. Such a policy, said this group, is “in direct conflict with Roe,” which “clearly states that women have the right to choose prior to fetal viability.”

The euphemism of “the right to choose,” routinely used to avoid mentioning abortion, is now being used to justify killing outside the womb.

As religious leaders, we know that human life is our first gift from a loving Father and the condition for all other earthly goods. We know that no human government can legitimately deny the right to life or restrict it to certain classes of human beings. Therefore the Court’s abortion decisions deserve only to be condemned, repudiated and ultimately reversed.

As United States citizens, we

deplore the fact that our nation is at risk of forgetting the promise made to generations yet unborn by our Declaration of Independence: that our nation would respect life as first among the inalienable rights bestowed on us by our Creator. To uphold that promise, the nation’s founders pledged their lives, their fortunes and their sacred honor. We must do no less.

In the words of Pope John Paul II, we hope and pray “that our time, marked by all too many signs of death, may at last witness the establishment of a new culture of life, the fruit of the culture of truth and of love.” (The Gospel of Life, 77).

### POPE

from page one

Curia cardinals was the high number. Many had expected the pope to restrict the number of Vatican cardinals to make room for more residential archbishops and still stay under the numerical limit of 120 voting-age — or under-80 — cardinals; instead, the pope waived the limit and left the college with 128 voting members.

There had been rumors in recent weeks about papal displea-

sure at his own Curia, based on a papal warning late last year against “rivalry and careerism” among Vatican officials. In that sense, the pope’s generosity in handing out red hats in Rome probably came as a relief.

Among the curial cardinals, in fact, were two highly visible and mobile career Vatican administrators: Italian Cardinals-designate Giovanni Battista Re, head of the Congregation for Bishops, and Crescenzo Sepe, who helped manage Holy Year 2000 and is awaiting his next assignment.

The curial list also contained two quieter types, however, who may be important figures when conclave time arrives: Vietnamese Cardinal-designate Francois X. Nguyen Van Thuan, head of the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace, whose 13 years in a communist prison in his native country is seen by many as an eloquent witness of the faith in the modern age; and German Cardinal-designate Walter Kasper, a highly respected theologian who may soon head the Vatican’s ecumenical department or another curial

agency.

The recent appointments were considered good news in Italy, where the papacy is still popularly viewed as an Italian institution on loan to a foreigner. Over the years, practically every Italian cardinal has been dubbed “papabile,” or potentially electable in a conclave. Now, Cardinal-designate Re is already being described in newspapers as the Italian answer to church governance of the future.

Buoying Italians is the fact that they remain the biggest

single national bloc of conclave voters, with 24. The United States is next with 11, and no other country has more than seven.

But the clock is ticking for many of the Italians: Over the next year and a half, six Italian cardinals will turn 80. That will leave Italy with at most 18 voting cardinals — still the biggest group and nearly 15 percent of the total, but well below the 23 percent of the last conclave in 1978.



# Closing Of Jubilee Year, Holy Doors Seen As Beginning, Not End

By Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS)—The conclusion of the jubilee year and the closing of holy doors at churches throughout the United States marked a beginning, not an end, according to those who led those services.

"If ours has been a genuine pilgrimage, it will have stretched our legs for the journey ahead," said Father Walter Rossi, director of pilgrimages at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, at a Jan. 6 Mass.

"Tonight let us end this jubilee year as we began (by opening) our lives to Christ," he added. "May we too find the Lord when our pilgrimage of life has ended."

During the Mass, Archbishop Gabriel Montalvo, apostolic nun-

cio to the United States, closed and incensed the double doors which had been designated the national holy doors. He called the doors "a symbol of Jesus Christ, the true gate of heaven through which we must pass in order to gain everlasting life."

Father Rossi said the doors will not be bricked up like those of St. Peter's in Rome, and pilgrims will still be able to pass through them, although the doors will not be left in an open position.

Cardinal Anthony J. Bevilacqua of Philadelphia also said the holy doors at the Cathedral Basilica of SS. Peter and Paul — symbolically closed at a Jan. 7 liturgy — would remain in use after the jubilee year.

"We realize the door must always remain open wide to Christ

who never closes us out from the love his Father has for us, the love for all humankind and for society," the cardinal said.

Although the Mass also marked the end of the archdiocese's nine-year renewal process, Cardinal Bevilacqua told the approximately 1,800 worshippers at the Mass that "the church will always be in a state of renewal."

In the Diocese of Brooklyn, N.Y., Bishop Thomas V. Daily closed the Holy Door at St. James Cathedral in a simple prayer ceremony Jan. 7 and praised the jubilee as "a very successful and spiritually productive year."

But the bishop said the celebration is not over and that "our pilgrimage of faith will proceed." He urged Catholics to rededicate

themselves to regular attendance at Sunday Mass and more frequent reception of Communion and the sacrament of reconciliation.

In other parts of the diocese, a simple service at St. Thomas the Apostle in Woodhaven closed the jubilee year in Queens the weekend before. However, only eight people braved a blizzard to attend.

In Hartford, Conn., Archbishop Daniel A. Cronin closed the jubilee year Jan. 5 at the Cathedral of St. Joseph with an evening prayer service attended by more than 100 priests.

Reflecting on the year's events in his homily, the archbishop encouraged the priests to continue the spirit of hope and renewal that had prevailed by rededicating themselves to the ministry of

Christ.

"God wants you," he said. "That's why you were ordained. The Lord will give you grace to overcome any obstacle. These are the graces that we obtained from the holy year."

Bishop Frank J. Rodimer of Paterson, N.J., marked the end of the jubilee year with a Jan. 6 Mass at the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist and a message to the people of his diocese urging a renewed commitment "to the agenda of jubilee justice."

He called on Catholics "to join our brothers and sisters in faith, and all people of good will, to work for public policies that protect human life, promote human dignity, preserve creation and build peace."

Bishop Rodimer's letter, which was read at all Masses in the diocese Jan. 6-7, was a follow-up to his pastoral letter called "A New Epiphany," issued at the beginning of 2000.

see "JUBILEE" page ten

# The Response To Crime Is A Moral Test For Our Nation And A Challenge For Our Church

By Bishop Michael D. Pfeifer, OMI

The prison population in the U.S.A. has risen from 250,000 in 1972 to nearly 2 million in 1999. Just as African-Americans and Hispanics are victimized at higher rates, so, too, members of these minority groups are incarcerated at higher rates. Nationally, we now spend over \$35 billion annually on corrections. In many states, education, health and human services, and public transportation budgets remain stagnant or decline while more and more prisons are built.

In Texas large amounts of funds that could be used to provide for more schools and improving the quality of education, are used to build new prisons. Texas ranks highest in the nation on the percentage increase in the number of prisoners between 1990 - 1998. If more emphasis were given to investments in healthy education and formation of the young, there would be fewer

prisoners.

The response to crime is a moral test for our nation and a challenge for our Churches. While some say the crime rate may be falling, crime and fear of crime still touch many lives and polarize many communities. Putting more people in prison and, sadly, more people to death, has not given us the security we seek. With the opportunities that a reduction in crime presents and with the hope that comes from beginning a new millennium of human history, now is the time for a new national dialogue on crime and corrections, justice and mercy, responsibility and treatment.

Many of our parishes dramatically reflect the human and financial cost of so much crime. The church doors are locked; the microphones hidden. Often our parishes spend more on bars for their windows than on flowers for their altars. More tragically, these communities bury young people caught in gang violence, the drug

trade, or witness the hopelessness which leads children to take their own lives.

Our parishes as centers of faith struggle to respond to the needs of crime victims: the parents who lose a child, the elderly woman who is mugged, the shopkeeper who is robbed, the child of the parent who is incarcerated. Communities of faith experience the cost of crime in many ways, as they strive to reach out to victims of crime and prisoners and their families.

A distinctive Catholic approach to these questions may offer society a new way to understand, prevent, judge, and respond to crime, its victims and its perpetrators. The causes of crime are complex, the ways to overcome violence are not simple, the chances of being misunderstood are many. However, we must look at new ways to deal with this critical issue.

New approaches to this critical situation must move beyond

the slogans of the moment ("three strikes and you are out"), and excuses of the past, ("criminals are simply trapped by their background"). Crime, corrections and the search for real community require far more than the policy clichés of left and right.

We urgently need to restore in our country today a sense of civility and responsibility for human life, and to promote crime prevention and genuine rehabilitation. The common good is undermined by criminal behavior which threatens the lives and dignity of others and by policies which seem to simply give up on those who have broken the law, offering too little treatment and too few real alternatives.

Our Judeo-Christian tradition and our faith offer better approaches which can hold offenders accountable and challenge them to change their lives; reach out to victims and reject vengeance; restore a sense of community and resist the violence that

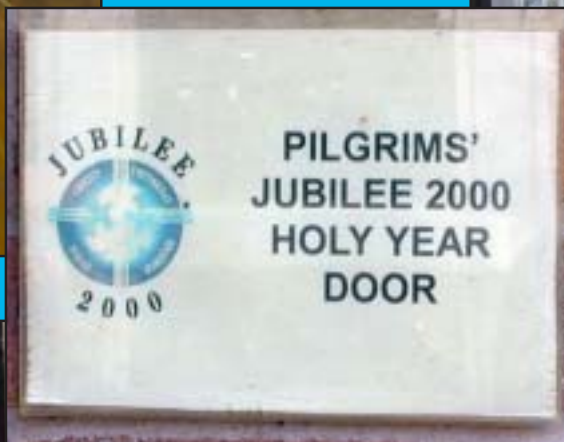
has engulfed so much of our culture and enslaved so many of our sisters and brothers.

Perhaps the following questions can help us frame some of the key issues as regards crime and criminal justice: How can we restore our respect for law and life? How can we show more compassion to the victims, and better rehabilitate the offenders? How can we protect and rebuild communities, confront crime without vengeance, defend life without taking life? These questions challenge all of us as Christians and especially teachers of the Gospel. They also challenge every believer to reflect on our faith and show us how to practice both justice and mercy, to confess our sins and seek forgiveness, to overcome evil through the hope of redemption as exemplified by Jesus Christ.

A Catholic approach to this situation begins with the recognition that the dignity of the human person includes both victim and offender and insists on justice without vengeance. The current trend of more prisons and more executions, with too little education and drug treatment, see "CRIME", page eleven



# Bishop Pfeifer Closes Diocesan Holy Door



(Photos by Pete Micale - WTA.)

## Pope Closes Holy Door To End Great Jubilee Of The Year 2000

By John Thavis  
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II pulled shut the Holy Door and formally ended the Great Jubilee of the Year 2000, giving thanks for a year of extraordinary grace and unveiling his vision of the church's path in the third millennium.

The pope said the jubilee's spiritual gifts will have a lasting impact only if they revitalize daily faith in action and spur the church's missionary outreach.

He issued a lengthy new document outlining how the main themes of the Holy Year — charity, penitence and personal

encounter with Christ — could be developed in the coming years and decades.

"Today this extraordinary year officially closes, but the spiritual gifts poured out during the year remain," the pope said Jan. 6 after swinging shut the ceremonial bronze door of St. Peter's Basilica.

"While today we close the Holy Door, a symbol of Christ, the heart of Jesus remains more open than ever. He continues to say to a humanity in need of hope and meaning: 'Come to me, all who labor and are heavily laden, and I will give you rest,'" he said.

An estimated 100,000 faithful joined the pope for a closing Mass in St. Peter's Square. The day be-

gan with light rain, but by the end of the two-hour liturgy the sun was breaking through and lit up the face of a visibly pleased pontiff.

The pope said the millions who came to Rome during the jubilee and who participated in local Holy Year celebrations around the world eloquently demonstrated the universality of the Gospel. They offered "a vivid image of the journey of the world's peoples toward Christ," he said in a sermon.

In the final days of the Holy Year, the pilgrim flow reached epic proportions around the Vatican,

see "DOOR", page eleven

Pope John Paul II closes the Holy Door in St. Peter's Basilica Jan. 6. The pope ended the Holy Year by closing the portal, celebrating Mass for more than 100,000 people in St. Peter's Square and releasing an 84-page letter on the church in the new millennium. (CNS photo from Vatican)





# Pro-Life Spokeswoman Decries 'Pro-Abortion McCarthyism'

By Catholic News Service

*(Editor's note: Although Cleaver does not name anyone specifically as a "pro-abortion McCarthyist" in the following article, it was very evident to anyone watching the hearings that the prime protagonist and point man for the unabashed attack was the senior senator from Massachusetts, Senator Ted Kennedy. American literature contains a heroine who is condemned to wear a "scarlet letter A." Perhaps it is time for this purported Catholic to also wear around his neck a scarlet letter A, which would stand for "Abortionist," and other applicable appellations.)*

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Efforts to derail President-elect George W. Bush's Cabinet nominees because of their pro-life views amounts to a form of "pro-

abortion McCarthyism," the U.S. bishops' pro-life spokeswoman charged.

Cathy Cleaver, director of planning and information for the bishops' Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities, said the attempts to disqualify nominees based on their pro-life convictions are an insult to all pro-life Americans.

"When did a belief in the inalienable right to life become grounds for denying people the opportunity to serve their country?" she asked in a statement.

Although Cleaver did not mention any names, her statement was released Jan. 16, the day that the Senate Judiciary Committee began hearings on the nomination of former Sen. John Ashcroft as U.S. attorney general.

Ashcroft and Wisconsin Gov. Tommy G. Thompson, Bush's

nominee as secretary of Health and Human Services, are among those who have been criticized for their pro-life positions.

"In effect, pro-life nominees for public service are being put on trial for their beliefs — trials whose tactics resemble those usually described as 'McCarthyism,'" Cleaver said.

The term refers to actions by the late Sen. Joseph McCarthy, who in the 1950s used his Senate committee to expose alleged members of the Communist Party throughout the country.

In a reference to McCarthy's frequent question to witnesses, "Are you now or have you ever been a member of the Communist Party?," Cleaver's statement began with the question: "Are you now or have you ever been pro-life?"



Ashcroft introduced at judiciary hearing. Former Missouri Sen. John Ashcroft is introduced by his successor, Sen. Jean Carnahan, D-Mo., at his confirmation hearing Jan. 16 before the Senate Judiciary Committee. Ashcroft was confirmed by the Senate and is the new attorney general. (CNS photo from Reuters)

"Efforts to deny highly qualified and accomplished individuals a chance to serve their country based solely on a commitment to the sanctity of human life are offensive to the American sense of fair play and achievement based on merit," Cleaver said.

"To turn disagreement with Roe vs. Wade into disqualification for public office is to demean all pro-life individuals, at whatever level, who have served their country well in the past and who will continue to do so in the future," she added.

# Pope Congratulates Bush, Prays For Future Of United States

By Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II, congratulating President George W. Bush on his inauguration, prayed the future of the United States would be marked by justice, freedom and respect for human dignity.

The pope, in a Jan. 20 telegram, told Bush he prayed "that almighty God will grant you wisdom and strength of purpose in the exercise of your high office."

Popes traditionally send a telegram of congratulations to new presidents of the United States on the day of their inauguration.

In his message to Bush, Pope John Paul said he prayed that under the new president's leadership, "the American people will discover in their rich religious and political heritage the ethical foundation for building a society marked by authentic justice and freedom with unflinching respect for

the dignity and rights of each individual, especially the poor, the defenseless and those who have no voice."

The pope also prayed that God would guide the president's efforts "to foster understanding, co-

operation and peace among the peoples of the world."

Pope John Paul also asked God to bless the Bush family and all the people of the United States.

## Pilgrimage To Italy June 26—July 5, 2001

Join Fr. Joe Vasquez, Fr. Michael Rodriguez, and Fr. Terrence Brenon on this exciting and spiritual journey to Italy! Visit the highlights of Italy including Assisi—mystical town of St. Francis & St. Clare. Then journey to Rome—the Eternal City! Visit the splendors of Rome including the 4 major Basilicas: St. Peter's Outside-the-Walls, St. John Lateran, St. Major Mary and St. Peter's. Also attend a Papal audience and be blessed by Pope John Paul II. A truly memorable and a once in a lifetime trip!

Brochures providing more details about the trip and reservation information may be obtained at the St. Joseph Church office: 653-5006.



Knight's Signs Held Up At Annual March For Life. Participants hold up Knights of Columbus signs that read "Defend Life" at the annual March for Life in Washington Jan. 22. The march solemnly recalls the 1973 Roe vs. Wade decision that legalized abortion throughout the United States. (CNS photo by Bob Roller)



# Bipartisan Delegation Presents Pope With Congressional Gold Medal

By Cindy Wooden  
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — More than a dozen members of the U.S. Congress traveled to the Vatican Jan. 8 to present Pope John Paul II with the Congressional Gold Medal in honor of his efforts to defend human dignity and promote peace.

In the Clementine Hall, under frescoed figures representing the virtues of religion, justice, charity and mercy, the bipartisan delegation gave the pope a standing ovation as well as the heavy gold medal and a framed copy of the bill.

Sen. Sam D. Brownback, R-Kan., told the pope, "In a world that has become darkened in many places by a culture of death, you stand in contradiction, fearlessly proclaiming a culture of life."

The senator said the pope gave people hope and tirelessly proclaimed a message of peace that the world urgently needs to hear.

House Speaker J. Dennis

Hastert, R-Ill., told the pope the ceremony was an expression of "our gratitude to you on behalf of our nation."

The speaker told the pope he was being honored for "preaching the message of love and truth" and for being "a pillar of morality and a voice for the oppressed."

"May your influence be as strong in the 21st century as it was in the 20th century," Hastert said.

Pope John Paul told the group of 50 members of Congress, their spouses and staff members, "I am honored, honored by the gracious gesture which brought you here.

"It is not for the successor of the Apostle Peter to seek honors, but I gladly accept the Congressional Gold Medal as a recognition that in my ministry there has



Pope John Paul II receives the Congressional Gold Medal from House Speaker Dennis Hastert, R-Ill., as Rep. Joseph Moakley, D-Mass., looks on Jan. 8 at the Vatican. More than a dozen members of the U.S. Congress were on hand at the Vatican to honor the pontiff for his efforts to defend human dignity and promote peace. (CNS photo from Vatican)

echoed a word that can touch every human heart," the pope said.

Proclaiming the word of God, he said, means proclaiming the dignity of the human person created in God's image and defending human life.

"To see the truth of Christ is to experience with deep amazement the worth and dignity of every human being, which is the Good News of the Gospel and the heart of Christianity," he said.

The pope said he accepted the

medal as a sign that the legislators "recognize the importance of defending human dignity without compromise so that your nation may not fail to live up to its high responsibilities in a world where human rights are so often disregarded."

For Father Daniel P. Coughlin, the audience marked the end of an amazing year. First, he became the first Catholic appointed chaplain of the House of Representatives, then both houses of Con-

gress passed bills honoring the pope.

"Life is a continuous surprise," Father Coughlin said after the papal audience.

The medal is a sign that "the Holy Father through the years has been so respected," he said. "People respect strength, and the pope is strong and so persistent.

"We Americans have such great ideals of human dignity and human life; now we have to live

see "MEDAL", page ten

## Statement of Speaker Dennis Hastert Presenting the Congressional Gold Medal to Pope John Paul II

VATICAN CITY, ITALY — January 8th, Speaker Dennis Hastert (R-IL), members of the Senate and members of the House presented Pope John Paul II with the Congressional Gold Medal. Of all recognition the Congress can bestow, the Gold Medal is considered the most distinguished. Originally, the Gold Medal was bestowed upon military leaders and the first one was awarded to George Washington for his "wise and spiritual conduct" as the commander of the

Continental Army.

In time, the Congress expanded its list of Gold Medal recipients to include artists, athletes, diplomats, politicians and entertainers. In recent years, Congress has recognized the distinguished achievements of such notable and revered Catholics as Mother Teresa of Calcutta, Former Notre Dame President Father Hesburgh and New York Archbishop John Cardinal O'Connor,

Hastert said of the award: "To-

day, I'm pleased that the Congress has bestowed this honor to you, John Paul II, and that you have agreed to accept it. This award celebrates your life not only as a spiritual leader of a billion Catholics, but also as a peacemaker, healer and beacon of light to the whole world.

"For your more than 20 years as Pope, you have tirelessly traveled this globe preaching a message of love and truth. You have delivered your message in differ-

ent languages, to different cultures, to people of different ages, economic backgrounds and political persuasions.

"You are a pillar of morality, an advocate for the poor and the oppressed and a voice for the unborn and the aged. Your strong words inspire the 1 billion Catholics you lead and impress people of various faiths all over the world. You have helped to bring down barriers that threaten our world's unity. You have played a pivotal

role in the downfall of Communism in Eastern Europe and you have expanded dialogue with political and religious leaders in the Holy Land.

"In this past year - the Jubilee year - you worked harder than ever to make sure your reconciling message was heard. While the holy year is now over, the beauty of your Jubilee message continues to resonate in the hearts of the world's people."





# HUD Nominee Came To U.S. From Cuba Under Catholic Program

By Jean Palombo-Gonzalez  
Catholic News Service

ORLANDO, Fla. (CNS) — For Tom Aglio, Mel Martinez's recent success brings about the same pride a father gains when his own son succeeds.

Martinez, a 55-year-old Cuban immigrant who came to the United States with Operation Pedro Pan, a 1960s project of the Miami Archdiocese's Catholic Charities, is President-elect George W. Bush's choice as secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

Aglio met Martinez, along with 90 other teen-age boys, in a camp south of Jacksonville when Aglio first started to work for Catholic Charities in 1962. The children were sent from Cuba with one suitcase of belongings. Aglio recalled how the young people clung to each other for security.

"Most of the boys were 14 or 15 and even at that age they could not comprehend why this was happening," said Aglio, current Orlando diocesan director of Catholic Charities. "Their parents

had given them explanations that it was for their own good and safety and that it was a wonderful opportunity. They weren't told that they were sent to America out of fear."

Martinez, who did not see his family for more than five years, said his Catholic faith filled the void.

"I remember an overwhelming feeling of loneliness and being scared. I also remember attending daily Mass and Communion being a wonderful companion," he told The Florida Catholic, newspaper of the Orlando Diocese. "Although I had already had a strong faith, those early days did a lot to shape my faith. It solidified who I am in my faith life. It was the only constant."

The father of three said his faith also shaped his role in Orange County and will continue to serve him as secretary of HUD.

"It gave me a heart for people in a different set of circumstances, whether they are homeless or a couple seeking their first home," Martinez said. "Seeing what HUD

does to serve other people, my experiences as a young man will be a part of doing good things for other people."

After the 15-year-old Martinez had been in the United States alone for a couple of months, Aglio arranged for a foster family to care for him. Aglio followed the teen's progress as he attended Bishop Moore High School in Orlando.

At that time, Martinez did not know much English, yet he progressed well at the high school. Martinez went on to earn a law degree from Florida State University, serving as a lawyer in the Orlando area for 22 years. He was elected Orange County chairman in 1998.

"Even though I was only 15 years older, those boys were like sons of mine," Aglio said. "I have a tremendous sense of pride and feel good about them when they achieve success."

Forty years ago, Martinez did not stand out among the crowd, although Aglio described the youth as polite, good-natured and

not a discipline problem.

"It was apparent early on that Mel would achieve. He was very family-oriented, and when he went off to school it was serious business. He went with a great intent to develop skills and knowledge," Aglio said.

Father Sean Heslin, rector of St. James Cathedral, where Martinez is a parishioner, was one of the first people to know about Martinez's interview for the possible Cabinet post. Martinez approached Father Heslin, asking for his support and prayers, before he headed to Washington.

"I was extremely excited and happy for him. It was quite a surprise at the time," Father Heslin said. "I prayed that the Lord might direct Bush to choose him."

Father Heslin described Martinez as a dedicated Catholic who is committed to Catholic education. Martinez serves on the board of Bishop Moore High School and had served as chairman of that board. He is busy at his parish as a lector, religious education and Rite of Christian



Cuban immigrant chosen to head HUD. Mel Martinez, a Cuban-American, listens as President-elect George W. Bush nominates him for secretary of housing and urban development in mid-December. Martinez came to the United States as a teen through the help of a Catholic Charities program. (CNS photo from Reuters)

Initiation of Adults volunteer, Cursillo member and special minister of the Eucharist.

"The community here will miss him," Father Heslin said. "He is a very dedicated, responsible and moral person. He is a cut above the general run of politicians."

## Special Message from Archbishop Patrick F. Flores

SAN ANTONIO, TX — "For God loved the world so much that he gave us his only Son so that everyone who believes in Him may not die, but have eternal life. God did not send his Son into the world to be its judge, but to be its savior." (Jn. 3:16)

*The Spirit of the Lord God brings freedom to those in prison. (Isaiah 61:1-4)*

However there are so many of God's children who have not heard His Word and do not believe. It is our call and duty to have the Word of God reach all his people. Those in jail and in penitentiaries are to be included just as much!

You know that today we have almost more brothers and sisters

in jails and penitentiaries than we do in colleges and universities. We have many priests, deacons, religious and members of the laity working as chaplains in state and federal penitentiaries. However, many of them write to me and tell me they do not have material to use working with them. They need and want bilingual New Testaments for each inmate. These cost \$6.30 each but we get one free for each one we buy from the American Bible Association.

I am writing to all Catholic Families in Texas and am asking each family for a \$6.30 donation to get these Bibles. If every family in Texas gives me one donation we can provide the Word of God for every one.

I am really convinced that Jesus wants us to help Him reach each and every one of the inmates. Jesus came to save sinners. Every sinner is important to Jesus and every inmate should be equally important to us. Our mission is one with Jesus. "To try to get all sinners unto him!"

Won't you kindly help me. Send check to me with a note "for Bibles."

Please send to: Archdiocese of San Antonio Chancery Office, P.O. Box 28410, San Antonio, Texas 78228-0410

Thank you. Archbishop Patrick F. Flores, Archdiocese of San Antonio.

## Pro-Life Prayer Event Scheduled

MEMPHIS, TN — The One Million Rosaries To End Abortion prayer event is set to take place on May 12th, 2001 (Saturday) during the 8:00 a.m. hour (Central Standard Time). Participants will pray the Rosary (Joyful Mysteries) for an end to the surgical and non-surgical killing of unborn babies. The Rosary may be prayed at one's home, at a Catholic Church, etc.

"If one million or more people participate in this prayer event, I'd say it would be without precedent. I know of no other similar happening," stated Patrick Benedict, director of Rosaries for Life, the sponsor of the May 12th prayer event. "It will take many people praying one Rosary each to make the goal of one million a reality. I am hopeful it will happen."

For more information, including a form to officially register as a participant for the ONE MILLION ROSARIES TO END ABORTION prayer event, please write to: Rosaries for Life; P.O. Box 41831; Memphis, Tennessee 38174. (It is asked, but not required, that one postage stamp be included for the return mailing.)

# Pray Often



# Knights Of Columbus Chief Executive Reaffirms Commitment To Fight 'Culture Of Death' At *Roe* Anniversary

by Charles Pucie

NEW HAVEN, Conn., Jan. 8, 2001 – Supreme Knight Carl A. Anderson of the Knights of Columbus today made the following statement in anticipation of the Jan. 22, anniversary of the Supreme Court's *Roe v. Wade* decision:

Let the Children Live!

How sad that as we begin the first year of the New Millennium – a millennium which marks the anniversary of the birth of a child 2000 years ago – we continue to mark the anniversary of *Roe v.*

*Wade*, the Supreme Court decision that condemned to death countless children before birth!

The birth of a single child changed forever the future of the world. Yet today the needless death of millions of unborn children jeopardizes the future of our own nation. Nearly three decades after the decision, *Roe v. Wade* is fully revealed not as a slippery slope, but as a moral precipice, the boundary for the moral abyss which we now understand to be the Culture of Death.

The struggle against the Cul-

ture of Death will not be easily or soon won. But a just Providence governs the course of history. Ultimately our nation will open to a renewed Culture of Life. On this tragic anniversary we are nonetheless hopeful. We reaffirm our resolve that our nation will someday be "a people of life and a people for life." And so we say again this year, *Roe v. Wade* must be overturned!

The Culture of Life will grow as and when a commitment to respect the inviolable right to life and dignity of every innocent

human being at every moment of existence is embraced by our society.

Nothing will deter the Knights of Columbus from this commitment. Nothing will deter the Knights of Columbus from the struggle against the Culture of Death. In this commitment and in this struggle no compromise is possible for the sanctity of human life is at stake – the fundamental right to life which is the precondition for the realization of any and all other human rights. We will continue to fight the Culture

of Death in our courts, in our legislatures, in society at large. While we do so, we will continue to help women find alternatives to abortion and to work for the day when all, however vulnerable, are welcomed and protected.

So in this New Millennium we look forward to the day when the Culture of Life is vindicated. As we do so we appeal to the consciences of all people of good will: Choose life! Let the children live!

## Death Penalty Considered By The Legislature

by Richard Daly

Up until three or four years ago, the only time the legislature considered issues relative to the death penalty was when the lawmakers were considering adding offenses to the list for which a person could be executed. Since a majority of Texans still favor the death penalty, there is no serious possibility that it will be abolished in Texas. It appears, however, that the 77th legislature will seriously consider a number of death pen-

alty initiatives.

Legislation was pre-filed by Representative Ruth Jones McClendon, of San Antonio, and Senator Eddie Lucio, of Brownsville, to give juries the option of assessing life without parole instead of the death penalty in capital cases.

Legislation is also anticipated banning the execution of the mentally retarded, providing for more adequate defense for the indigent, and mandatory DNA testing in

capital cases.

Another major issue that has arisen is an effort to impose a moratorium on executions in Texas.

Death penalty opponents have different views on what approach to take on the moratorium issue.

Because the Texas constitution does not give the governor the ability to declare a moratorium, there are those who believe that legislation should be enacted giving the governor that power.

Other individuals concerned about the death penalty favor a more direct approach calling for the enactment of legislation that would require the legislature to call for a moratorium.

This is clearly an example of how good people, in basic agreement on an issue, can disagree on strategy.

Those who advocate the "give the governor the ability to call for a moratorium" legislation feel that an outright moratorium is simply

not feasible in Texas, at this time.

The Texas Catholic Conference speaking on behalf of the Bishops of Texas, will continue to oppose the death penalty, but will also support any legislation that will cut-down on the number of executions. The TCC will be a strong proponent of any moratorium initiatives that go before the legislature this session and in the future.

## JUBILEE from page five

Bishop Michael A. Saltarelli closed the jubilee year Jan. 6 with a Mass for the feast of Epiphany at the Cathedral of St. Peter in Wilmington.

"Remember that we are pilgrims on a journey to the Promised Land, and that our pilgrimage doesn't come to an end until the day we die," he said. "We are all bearers of the good news that God gave us the wonderful gift of his Son — we must say in our homes, in our families and in our neighborhoods, 'Come and see how much the Lord loves us, how merciful and compassionate he is.'"

Six hundred people joined Bishop Gerald M. Barbarito of Ogdensburg, N.Y., at St. Joseph Church in Malone Jan. 7 for a sol-

emn evening prayer service marking the end of the jubilee year.

"Everything that the great jubilee year stood for is not over; all the grace has merely begun," he said. "What Jesus has stirred up in our hearts carries us beyond the jubilee itself: faith in Jesus Christ; hope in his message; love for one another and for the church; and a spirit of reconciliation with God and one another."

To mark the transition from the jubilee year to the new evangelization, 600 people attended the "Go Out to the Whole World" conference Jan. 6 at the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul, Minn.

Janet Smith, a philosophy professor at the University of Dallas, spoke of thankfulness for the gift of life as a key element in the new evangelization.

"Our consciences no longer instinctively understand that a new human life is more valuable than a new BMW," she said. "We need to re-evangelize the culture — not just to restore its commitment to Christianity, but to enable it to grasp truths that should be accessible to man even without the benefit of revelation."

Sister Dominga, provincial superior of the Missionaries of Charity for the eastern United States, said God calls everyone to be a missionary, no matter what the circumstances of their lives.

"For it's not what we do that makes us a missionary, but who we are — a carrier of God," she said.

*Contributing to this story were Gerard Perseghin in Washington, Lou Baldwin in Philadelphia, Ed Wilkinson in Brooklyn, John*

*Bohuslaw in Hartford, Rich Sokerka in Paterson, Jane Harriman in Wilmington, Suzanne Pietropaoli in Malone, and Julie Carroll in St. Paul.*

but people of different faiths. Some knelt before the pope and kissed his ring, while others shook his hand.

The pope gave each member of the delegation a medal in return — a bronze medal marking the 23rd year of his pontificate.

According to the U.S. Embassy to the Holy See, the delegation included:

— Sens. Brownback; Mikulski; Susan Collins, R-Maine; Robert Smith, R-N.H.; Mary Landrieu, D-La.; Frank Murkowski, R-Alaska; and Rick Santorum, R-Pa.

— Reps. Hastert; Christopher Cox, R-Calif.; Joseph Moakley, D-Mass.; James A. Leach, R-Iowa; Chris Smith, R-N.J.; Sherwood L. Boehlert, R-N.Y.; Robert E. Cramer, D-Ala.; Christopher John, D-La.; and Don Sherwood, R-Pa.

## MEDAL

from page eight

up to those ideals," the chaplain said.

Sen. Barbara Mikulski, D-Md., co-leader of the Senate delegation, told reporters afterward, "This was a fantastic moment for the U.S. Senate."

The pope, she said, "has really stood up for freedom, human rights and the dignity of people."

The delegation included not only Democrats and Republicans,



# Catholic TV & Movie Reviews

There are several ways for interested people, especially Catholics, to get current movie reviews. You can get capsule versions of the reviews by calling 1-800-311-4222, or you can look at the U.S. bishops' Web site, nccbuscc.org.

There are also subscription publications that are available. One publication is the TV & Movie Guide, which contains full reviews of current films and also capsule reviews of videos plus TV material. It is a weekly publication and the subscription rate is \$51 a year. The other publication is the Movie Guide Monthly, which contains only capsule reviews, but costs only \$15 a year. Either publication can be obtained from the Catholic News Service by calling 1-202-541-3291.

## Noteworthy!

New even-steven 107th Congress continues numerical prominence to Catholics among 535 members. Catholics have led the denomination count since 1964.

- 1) 150 identify themselves as Roman Catholic: 91 Democrats, 59 Republicans.
  - 2) 72 Baptists: 37 Republicans, 34 Democrats, 1 Independent.
  - 3) 65 Methodists: 39 Republicans, 26 Democrats.
  - 4) 49 Presbyterians: 32 Republicans, 17 Democrats.
  - 5) 41 Episcopalians: 30 Republicans, 11 Democrats.
  - 6) 37 Jews: 33 Democrats, 3 Republicans, 1 Independent.
  - 7) 29 Nondenominational Protestant: 19 Republicans, 10 Democrats.
  - 8) 20 Lutherans: 11 Democrats, 9 Republicans.
  - 9) 15 Mormons: 12 Republicans, 3 Democrats.
  - 10) 8 United Church of Christ: 5 Republicans, 3 Democrats
- Of note: 7 claimed no religious affiliation; no Muslim, Buddhist, Hindu members.

### Diocesan Conference Day

**February 24, 2001**

**9:00 am – 4:15 pm**

**San Angelo Convention Center**

#### Keynote Speakers

**Dr. James McGinnis &**

**Dr. Kathleen McGinnis**

**from the Institute of Peace and Justice,  
St. Louis, MO**

**Fee: \$16.00**

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## CRIME

from page five

does not truly reflect Christian values and will not really leave our communities safer.

In a special way all of us need to stand in solidarity with victims of crime in their pain and loss, insisting that all of our institutions reach out to them with compassion and healing. The status quo is not really working; victims are often ignored, offenders are often not rehabilitated, and many communities have lost their sense of security. And many people, despite recent decreases in some types of crime are still fearful about crime.

We need to explore aspects of recent trends in crime and punishment in our society. We also need to examine the implications of the Church's teaching and moral tradition for issues of crime and punishment. There is also a necessity to apply principles of Catholic social teaching to these challenges and suggest some directions for policy on crime and punishment at all levels.

*(Info taken from Responsibility, Rehabilitation, and Restoration of U.S. Catholic Bishops).*

## DOOR

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with some visitors waiting three hours to get into the Holy Door before it closed. On the final evening, the basilica's officials kept the door open until 3 a.m. to accommodate late-comers seeking the special jubilee indulgence associated with the door.

The pope ended the jubilee where he began it — in front of the Holy Door. Dressed in gold vestments, the 80-year-old pontiff entered the atrium of St. Peter's at the end of a long procession.

Looking frail but determined, supported by the arm by two aides, he went up three steps to the threshold of the door and knelt in private prayer.

Then, standing just outside the near-empty basilica, he swung the two panels of the doors shut, one by one, and turned the handle to close it. The door was later bricked up and was not expected to be reopened until 2025, when

the next Holy Year is scheduled.

During the Mass, the pope repeated what has become a favorite theme in recent weeks: Christ is the real "holy door" and the key to future success of the jubilee.

"We need to set out anew from Christ, with the zeal of Pentecost, with renewed enthusiasm, to set out from him above all in a daily commitment to holiness," he said.

He said the jubilee program over which he presided, including more than 70 major liturgies, offered some spiritual lessons and moments of special grace. He said it became clear that the church does not "shine with her own light, but reflects Christ," lighting the path for all people.

To non-Christians who may not have understood the intent of the jubilee, the pope said there was "no vain triumphalism" in the church's joyful duty to proclaim Christ.

"How could we possibly succumb to this temptation, precisely at the end of such an intensely penitential year?" he said.

On the contrary, he said, a main jubilee theme was the church's own examination of conscience, which led it to seek "God's forgiveness for the infidelities of the church's children over these 2,000 years."

The pope said now it was time to look to the future — though not in the sense of undertaking complicated new initiatives.

"We return to our normal activities, but this is something quite different from taking a rest," he said.

The pope's 84-page document, "Novo Millennio Ineunte" ("At the Beginning of the New Millennium"), put it another way: "If ours has been a genuine pilgrimage, it will have, as it were, stretched our legs for the journey still ahead."

In addition to revisiting jubilee highlights, the document offered a last word in the Holy Year debate over several sensitive and controversial issues, including the tension between mission and dialogue.

Dialogue with other religions must continue, the pope said, but it cannot be "understood as negotiation." Nor should Christians fear that their joyful proclamation of the gift of Christ will "be considered an offense to the identity of others," he said.

The document outlined

church priorities in the new millennium, including a rekindling of personal holiness, strengthening of ecumenism, an urgent push for new priestly vocations and creative Christian input on social issues.

To symbolize the church's commitment to social justice, he announced that excess jubilee funds would be used to finance a permanent charity in Rome, expected to take the form of a house for disabled pilgrims.

But the pope said that for the church, the jubilee follow-up is not a matter of inventing a new program.

"The program already exists: It is the plan found in the Gospel and in the living tradition. It is the same as ever. Ultimately, it has its center in Christ himself," the pope wrote.

The pope wanted the jubilee to go out on a festive note, so he approved a late addition to his schedule, a songfest with several thousand children Jan. 5. Choirs from five continents sang Christmas carols, and the children, most of them grade-schoolers, laid native gifts before a Nativity scene.

Many of the kids, including some with Down syndrome, lined up for a papal kiss and hug. The pope told them that he looked upon them all with "a heart full of hope."

"In your eyes and in your tender faces I seem to already glimpse the next jubilee," he said. As he spoke, papal delegates were closing the holy doors of the three other patriarchal basilicas in Rome.

The Vatican's chief liturgist, Bishop Piero Marini, said he considered it one of the pope's greatest personal accomplishments that he successfully guided the church into the new millennium.

"For Pope John Paul II, this was a primary goal. And happily, he has not only reached it, but has gone beyond," Bishop Marini said.

After the closing Mass, the pope stood and leaned with both hands on his silver staff, closing his eyes for several minutes in prayer as a hymn of thanksgiving was sung.

Then he took a long ride in an open jeep around nearly every section of the packed square and the adjacent area, giving cheering pilgrims one last jubilee treat and kissing five babies en route.



# Bishop Pfeifer Dedicates Carmelite Monastery



Well over 1000 people attended the dedication Mass, concelebrated by Bishop Michael D. Pfeifer, OMI, Fr. John Benedict, Vicar-General of the Carmelite Order, Fr. Ted Pfeifer, OMI, the bishop's brother from Mexico and many priests from the Diocese of San Angelo. The monastery cornerstone was blessed at the end of the Mass on Saturday, February 3, 2001. (Photos by Pete Micale - WTA.)

## Knights Present Donation to Bishop



KC Diocesan Deputy Norman Dierschke and Diocese of San Angelo Knights of Columbus Present a Texas State Charities donation check for \$500 to Bishop Michael D. Pfeifer, OMI as a contribution to his fund for infirm and retired religious. (Photos by Pete Micale - WTA.)