

Crowd Jams Basilica For Neumann Rite

Philadelphia (RNS) — Blessed John W. Neumann is unique among the great Americans identified with Philadelphia. Cardinal Krol told a standing crowd of 2,500 gathered in Cathedral Basilica of Ss. Peter and Paul here at a special Mass in Blessed Neumann's feast day.

The service took place two weeks after Pope Paul's announcement that Blessed John Neumann could be canonized on June 19.

"For more than 70 years," the cardinal said, "Bishop Neumann's life and everything he did and wrote were subjected to intense scrutiny in order to certify that he was truly heroic."

After detailing Bishop

Neumann's contribution to Catholic education, in establishing a diocesan board of education and in increasing the number of schools from 2 to 100, and to the development of the Church in the United States, through resisting in the courts of laws which would have given lay trustees authority which properly belonged to bishops, Cardinal Krol said:

"We honor the memory of a man whose activities continue around us and among us today in this city and the world. John Neumann did not do dramatic things. He humbly did things in a rather ordinary way. But as such he is an example to you and to me. His impact on future ages is lasting."

In a statement at the beginning of Mass, Michael

Sicifiana, student body president of Bishop Neumann High School in South Philadelphia, said, "As we celebrate this afternoon's Eucharistic liturgy, let us keep in mind the simplicity and dedication of America's first male saint. We are honored by his sainthood and look to his life for examples and virtues that can be adapted in our own."

Blessed John Neumann, who collapsed and died on a downtown Philadelphia doorstep, is buried at St. Peter's Church, which is staffed by members of the Redemptorist Order, of which he was a member.

Blessed John Neumann served in Rochester, arriving here on July 4, 1836. He worked among German Catholics before moving on to Buffalo.



BLESSED JOHN NEUMANN

'Brainwashing' Charge Levelled at Deprogrammers

By RELIGIOUS NEWS SERVICE

What is brainwashing? Is it possible to take control of a person's mind? Are some religious groups doing this? Are deprogrammers doing this also?

For several years, these questions have been in the minds of parents and clergy who are concerned about what happens to young people who join such controversial groups as the Unification Church, Hare Krishna, or the Children of God. Now they are being asked by attorneys and psychiatrists in efforts to determine whether religious and civil rights are being violated by the deprogrammers.

Ted Patrick, the original deprogrammer, got his start in 1971 in efforts to remove young people from the Children of God. Subsequently, he aided parents in efforts to remove their children from other controversial groups and won national publicity. He has been relatively inactive since he spent 90 days in jail last year on a California conviction of detaining a young woman against her will to try to deprogram her from the Hare Krishna movement.

Although Patrick is no longer getting the headlines, other deprogrammers have been organizing groups around the nation to further such activities. One of the most active is Michael Trauscht, former prosecutor for the Pima County, Ariz., attorney's office, who has established a Freedom of Thought Foundation in Tucson.

Trauscht has been working with attorney Wayne Howard, who handles legal cases for the parents of the deprogramming subjects, and psychologist Kevil Gilmartin, who observes the proceedings and occasionally assists in counseling.

According to Trauscht, "when you deprogram, all you are doing is trying to show the kid what he is involved in, and promote him to think on his own. It helps to have former cult people point out how they were mentally manipulated and financially raped."

But Oklahoma City attorney Charles Lane, who has handled legal cases of deprogramming subjects who escaped and pressed charges against Trauscht, disagrees. He says the deprogrammers "make deprogramming sound like a friendly chat with the parents, when they do exactly what they claim the cultists do."

Several parents' organizations have urged the U.S. Congress to investigate the activities of the Unification Church. Although their primary concern is with that group's alleged "mind control" techniques, they have been focussing on other legal avenues of attack, such as alleged income tax violations and immigration law violations.

At a hearing on the Rev. Sun Myung Moon's

ties with South Korea's government, Rep. Donald M. Frazer (D-Minn.), chairman of the House Subcommittee on International Organizations, stressed that "this hearing is not concerned with the religious philosophy or practices of the Unification Church. Those are protected by the First Amendment and those rights are inviolable."

A New York-based group called the Alliance for the Preservation of Religious Liberty has urged Congress to investigate the deprogrammers. In a 100-page document entitled The Anti-Religious Movement: An Abstract of Contemporary Terrorism, Kidnapping and Violation of Religious and Civil Liberties in America, the group declares that "in America today there is a network of groups and individuals attempting to eliminate freedom of religion through propaganda and the practice of religious terrorism."

Deprogrammers have had mixed results in their efforts to win legal support for their activities. Some district attorneys and police officers have cooperated with their efforts, but others have opposed them. As a result, some deprogrammers are seeking the passage of legislation that would legitimize deprogramming.

Eric A. Schuppin, a Vermont attorney who has attempted to have his daughter removed from the Unification Church both through deprogramming attempts and through the courts, suggests that legal action could lie in the area of special habeas corpus proceedings with a mandate to the courts that such proceedings had to be forthwith.

He has also called for "legislation providing remedies inuring to the parent, guardian, or state for commonlaw seduction, interference with the relationship of the parent and unemancipated child (to cover those situations in which the parent was still providing for, protecting, caring for, and keeping the child, even after the child had reached the age of 18 years)."

Andrew Leigh Gunn, executive director of Americans United, says that though proselytizing tactics adopted by some religious groups are certainly improper, neither state authorities nor over-zealous but well-meaning individuals have the right to kidnap, detain, interrogate, or deconvert mature individuals.

The Rev. Dean Kelley, director of civil and religious liberties for the National Council of Churches, is also upset by the activities of the deprogrammers. He calls deprogramming "an exercise of coercion on another human being to get him to change his beliefs," and drafted a resolution condemning deprogramming that the NCC Governing Board adopted in 1974.

Psychiatrist E. Mansell Pattison of the department of psychiatry and human behavior at the University of California, Irvine, points out

that "conversion, brainwashing, and deprogramming are terms that cover very complex processes. Popular books, like Battle for the Mind by Sargent, lump these terms all together as if the processes were all the same. This is much too simple."

According to Dr. Pattison, "religious conversion involves personal decisions and a personal choice, whereas 'thought reform' is the involuntary manipulation of people in a controlled social environment." Deprogramming is similar to brainwashing, he says, in that "the person is placed in insulated participation in a deprogramming social milieu."

Dr. Stephan Chorover, professor of neuropsychology at MIT, told a recent symposium at Harvard that "to the extent that brainwashing implies more or less coercively induced behavioral change, I think it might be argued that what is commonly called deprogramming certainly resembles it more closely than does the behavioral change manifested in the Hare Krishna people."

In contrast, Dr. Marvin Galper, a San Diego clinical psychologist maintains that there are definite differences between brainwashing and deprogramming. He says that "brainwashing is to implant definite attitudes and beliefs into the person by creating stress and psychological pressure," whereas the purpose of deprogramming is "to help the person regain the ability to make his own free choices."

Dr. John G. Clark, assistant professor of psychiatry at the Harvard Medical School, suggests that differences in language patterns provide one indication of personality changes when a person joins a cult.

Before the final state of acculturation into a cult, he says, "members seem to experience two forms of personality — the original and the imposed. The original is complex full of love relationships, expectations and hopes and, especially, rich language. This richness of language is that which parents suddenly miss when they first see their thought-reformed children. Their reaction is appropriately panic."

But others disagree. Dr. Allan Gerson, a Los Angeles psychologist has reported that "I have studied and tested Hare Krishna people and have not found them to be weird or insane-only different from the mainstream. Like any other evangelical or proselytizing religion, their converts could only become converts if they chose to believe."

Thus deprogrammers and controversial religious groups remain subjects of debate, as their supporters now approach the government in efforts to protect what they see as their rights and liberties. Sound legislation in this area will be difficult, if not impossible, to draft — and may prove equally difficult to enforce against the cults and the deprogrammers.