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# COURIER-JOURNAL

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## Bishops: Contraceptive Sterilization 'Forbidden'

By U.S.  
Catholic Conference

Washington — The National Conference of Catholic Bishops has reaffirmed that sterilization for contraceptive purposes is wrong and declared it "forbidden and totally alien to the mission of Catholic hospitals."

The conference said contraceptive sterilization is objectively immoral "even if done for medical reasons." This, it said, is "authentic Catholic teaching."

The NCCB "Statement on Tubal Ligation" noted a "certain confusion in the understanding and application" of this teaching by Catholic hospitals. But it also expressed gratitude to "the many physicians, administrators and personnel of Catholic health care facilities who faithfully maintain the teaching and practice of the Church."

The document cites several recent official Church statements on sterilization and related questions — "Ethical

and Religious Directives for Catholic Health Facilities" (November 1971); a statement issued in March 1975 by the Vatican's Sacred Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, and a commentary on the Vatican statement by the Administrative Board of the U.S. Catholic Conference in September 1977.

Besides reaffirming the Church's condemnation of contraceptive sterilization, the new statement rejects the view that the "principle of totality" can justify it.

This is the principle that a part of the body can be sacrificed for the good of the whole. Catholic moralists have traditionally held that the principle can justify medical procedures which have sterilization as an unintended or "indirect" result, but not those in which contraceptive sterilization is directly intended.

The statement virtually rules out instances of "material cooperation" in contraceptive sterilization on the part of a Catholic hospital — the situation in which the

procedure might be performed on the hospital premises without its approval.

The 1975 Vatican statement and the 1977 U.S. commentary both envisaged this possibility in extreme circumstances. But the new document repeats their stand that what they had in mind were not "medical reasons" but "grave reasons extrinsic to the case."

"Catholic health care facilities complying with the 'Ethical and Religious Directives' are protected by the First Amendment from

pressures intended to require material cooperation in contraceptive sterilization," the statement says. "In the unlikely and extraordinary situation in which the principle of material cooperation seems to be justified, consultation with the bishop or his delegate is required."

The statement says local bishops are responsible for insuring that Catholic moral teachings are "taught and followed in health care facilities which are to be recognized as Catholic."



Photo by Terrance J. Brennan

### Check Presented

Elizabeth Waldorf of St. Clair Shores, Mich., presents Bishop Matthew H. Clark with a check for \$2,500 for the work of Bethany House, the diocesan refuge for battered women. Ms. Waldorf, supreme president of the Ladies Auxiliary of the Knights of St. John, made the presentation during the 41st annual International Convention for her group last weekend in Rochester. At the same time, the Knights of St. John were holding their 62nd annual International Convention. The combined event drew more than 1,000 people. Other pictures on Page 8.

## Haitian Refugee Policy Illegal, U.S. Told

Miami (RNS) — A federal judge here has ordered the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service to stop its policy of arbitrarily designating Haitian boat people as "economic refugees" thereby denying them political refugee status.

U.S. District Judge James T. King said the INS illegally rejected asylum claims of more than 4,000 Haitians in 1978-79 by following a "systematic program designed to deport them irrespective of their asylum claims."

The INS treatment of the black Haitians "violated the Constitution, the immigration statutes, international agreements, INS regulations and INS operating procedures," Judge King said, in a class action suit brought by more than 4,000 Haitians.

The suit was brought by the Haitian Refugee Center, which was represented by a National Council of Churches legal team. NCC immigration consultant John Tenhula said the NCC has legally questioned the INS and State Department on due process violations against the Haitians and called for a study of

### Local Effort Progressing

On the local scene, efforts by the Rochester Committee on Cuban/Haitian Refugees to facilitate refugee resettlement in the area "are moving along," said Maurice Tierney, director of Individual and Family Life. "We're optimistic," he said regarding the resettlement work, and noted that Immaculate Conception parish is sponsoring a family, and that five translators are being obtained to alleviate language problems.

Also there are plans to link up three agencies: Catholic Family Center, the Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service, and Church World Service to better realize the resources at hand for successful resettlement of the 100 Cuban/Haitian refugee units.

human rights violations in Haiti.

Tenhula said the decision was important in recognizing

that political conditions in Haiti cannot be ignored.

In his 180-page decision, Judge King ordered the INS to take no further action on the plaintiffs' until the government has presented an acceptable plan for reconsidering the asylum claims. He said the plan must avoid the "wholesale violations of due process" that appeared to characterize the previous denials of claims.

Judge King dismissed the INS argument that Haitian boat people weren't political refugees but merely seeking better economic conditions and faced no political persecution upon return. He said evidence in the year-long trial showed, rather, that the Haitians were fleeing political persecution by the government of Jean-Claude Duvalier and would be subject to reprisals if they returned. He said much of Haiti's poverty was a "result of Duvalier's efforts to maintain power."

Judge King also noted that the government's decision to routinely deport black Haitians but accept lighter-skinned Cubans suggested racial discrimination.

## Pope Challenges Brazil To Peaceful Reform

By Religious News Service

During his 12-day tour of Brazil, Pope John Paul II used his church's social doctrine as a two-edged sword, challenging the rich and poor of Brazil to reform without violence.

Speaking in Salvador before 150,000 wealthy

businessmen, industrialists and government officials in a downtown plaza, the pope told them bluntly either to introduce sweeping social changes to help their country's poor or face the threat of violence.

Earlier in Sao Paulo, the country's largest city, the pontiff told a stadium of

150,000 cheering workers that the church backs their efforts to achieve social and economic justice but will not condone the use of violence or acceptance of Marxist doctrine to achieve it.

The two speeches came at the midpoint of the pope's visit to this South American country which has the

world's largest Catholic population as well as all of the social evils of the developing nations — a repressive military government, archaic social structures and an economy staggering under runaway inflation, large trade deficits and a \$56 billion foreign debt.

John Paul also made it

clear that he supports the progressive Brazilian bishops' efforts on behalf of the poor but repeated earlier statements he does not want the clergy, in Brazil as elsewhere, getting involved in partisan politics.

In Rio de Janeiro, the pope had his first encounter with the country's frightful

poverty, when he visited one of that city's worst slums, solemnly assuring the cheering slum dwellers that the church wanted to be "the church of the poor" and fight social injustice.

In a spontaneous symbolic gesture, he slid a gold ring off his finger and

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