

People and Events Of the World and Nation

Planned Parenthood Exclusion Asked By Archbishop

Baltimore (RNS) — Archbishop William Borders, who has been criticized and picketed by anti-abortion activists for his past support of the United Way, has urged Catholics to back the fund-raising campaign this fall but to insist that their contributions be withheld from Planned Parenthood of Maryland.

A United Way representative confirmed that supporters of the annual Central Maryland appeal will be able this year for the first time to specify where their money may not be spent. The negative choices will block distribution of their donations to any member agency or beneficiary of which they disapprove.

Julie Hensley, director of communications for United Way, said "complex" new computer equipment will make such "donor options" possible, although she conceded that the extra work involved for the staff "is still an administrative issue here."

In a letter to Maryland Catholics published in The Catholic Review, Archbishop Borders gave this reason for the change in archdiocesan guidelines with respect to United Way participation:

"Recently, on the local and national levels, Planned Parenthood has begun an active campaign to lobby for legislation supporting abortion. This aggressive and public advocacy by Planned Parenthood demands a response."

Belgium and France Take Steps to End Capital Punishment

Brussels, Belgium (RNS) — Belgium and France have each moved to abolish the death penalty.

The Belgian cabinet has approved a bill to get rid of the country's death penalty statute which has not been invoked in more than 60 years.

The action came a day after the French cabinet approved a measure to abolish capital punishment and end two centuries of executions by the guillotine.

France is the last West European country regularly imposing death sentences. Since the establishment of the Fifth Republic in 1959, 17 people have been guillotined.

Heart Attack Risk Said Long Term For Pill Users

Boston (RNS) — Women who use birth control pills have a significantly higher than normal risk of heart attacks, even years after they stop using it, a new study indicates.

Scientists who study disease patterns have long known that contraceptive users have from three to four times the normal incidence of heart attacks, but long-range dangers of the pill were unclear.

The new study now shows that though quitting the pill reduces the risk of heart attack, it's still up to three times higher than for those who have never used the pill.

Researchers found that the longer the woman uses the pill, the greater her chances for a heart attack later on. The threat was found greatest for women aged 40 to 49.

The study was conducted by researchers at the Boston University Medical School, Harvard School of Public Health, and University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine.

Results of the study, which were published in the New England Journal of Medicine, should "be interpreted with caution" until further confirmation, the authors said.

The study examined the records of 556 women aged 25 to 49 hospitalized with heart attacks between 1976 and 1979 at 155 hospitals in Massachusetts, New York, Connecticut, and New Jersey. It compared their use of the pill with that of 2,036 randomly selected women of the same age.

Church Groups Ask Release of Haitians From Detention Center

New York (RNS) — A consortium of religious and other groups have called for the release of 84 Haitian "boat people" who have been detained at a center here since mid-July awaiting amnesty hearings.

The action, coordinated by Church World Service of the National Council of Churches, is part of new efforts to seek the release and resettlement of several thousand Haitians currently held at detention centers across the nation and in Puerto Rico.

Consortium members include the Brooklyn Catholic Diocese.

Red Mass This Friday

The 36th annual Red Mass sponsored by the St. Thomas More Lawyers Guild will take place at 12:15 p.m., Friday, Sept. 11, at Old St. Mary's Church, 15 South St. in downtown Rochester.

Bishop Matthew H. Clark will be celebrant and the homily will be delivered by Bishop Thomas C. Kelly, general secretary of the National Catholic Conference of Bishops. His topic will be "A Fading Heritage."

Bishop Clark has celebrated the Red Mass annually since his appointment. His encouragement to the legal profession to share its gifts by service to the less fortunate gave impetus to the voluntary program instituted by Surrogate Court Judge Michael Telesca and was

TUREEN SUPPER

The Ladies Guild at St. Cecilia's Church will hold a tureen supper at 7:30 p.m. on Sept. 15, in the hall.

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instrumental in the formation of a committee of the guild to provide free legal services to the imprisoned. John Greisberger heads the committee.

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Emergency Help Asked


An urgent call for sponsors and volunteers to aid 14 Cambodian refugee families this month has been issued by the Catholic Family Center. Anna Humaydan, refugee coordinator, begged diocesan both to open their homes and give of their time for the families who must leave refugee camps in Thailand

before the end of this month. "All we want of the volunteers," she said, "is that they be friends to these poor families for a few hours a week." She said that Church response to these latest refugees has been "poor." Mrs. Humaydan may be reached by calling the CFC, (716) 546-7220, ext. 53.

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