



Hip Action

During the annual Armed Forces Week parade in Chicago's Loop, a Marine Corps color guard is suddenly blocked by two kneeling sign-carrying peace demonstrators. A hip check from the flag bearer moves a woman demonstrator out of the way and fancy stepping by another Marine keeps the unit on course with hardly a missed step. The protesters were dragged away by Chicago police moments later. (NC Photos)

National NFP Unit Votes Own Demise

By NC News Service
 Directors of the Human Life and Natural Family Planning Foundation voted May 22 to cease activities in natural family planning research and education, saying that its goals have been met and local organizations are now doing that kind of work.
 The directors announced the change on the 15th anniversary of Pope Paul VI's encyclical on birth control, "Humanae Vitae" (Of Human Life). They met in Pittsburgh, where plans for the original Human Life Foundation were drafted 14 years ago.
 The foundation, which had been funded primarily by contributions from U.S. bishops, plans to close its headquarters in Alexandria, Va., June 3.
 Father Edward Bryce, director of the bishops' Office for Pro-Life Activities in Washington, said he believes the foundation "met the purpose and goals they had when they started" but that "I think their resources were drying up" because of lack of funding.
 Now their work can be picked up by local organizations, he added.
 The foundation was begun in 1969 as an independent, non-profit organization, directed by lay people, to sponsor and stimulate research into and carry out educational programs related to medical, psychological and sociological aspects of

human reproduction.
 The National Conference of Catholic Bishops at its November 1968 meeting had decided to launch such a foundation as a response to "Humanae Vitae."
 Father Bryce said the foundation was the pioneer in the area of natural family planning and that when it was founded only the calendar rhythm method was known, a method which "was not meeting the needs of people trying to plan children, space children and avoid having children."
 The Human Life and Natural Family Planning Foundation "helped educate the country to the refinements of natural family planning" such as the ovulation method, the temperature method and the symptothermal method, which combines the two.

Viewpoint: Sisters Reflect



By Sister Patricia Beairsto

Being A Christian Of Action

"Inactive waiting and silent looking on are not Christian attitudes. The Christian is called to action and to compassion, not by the experiences of his or her own person, but by the bodily experiences undergone by the people for whose sake Christ suffered."

I copied these words of Dietrich Bonhoeffer into a notebook about five years ago. One recent experience in the southern and most eastern portion of our diocese has challenged me to examine those words once again. I have had the opportunity in the past year to share in the efforts of Tioga County Rural Ministry.

Tioga County is filled with beautiful hills, winding roads and a large number of poor, elderly and unemployed. Many of these individuals struggle to simply exist. They often lack adequate food and shelter. They often lack the money to pay for winter fuel bills. The rising costs of medical expenses puts a strain on already limited resources. These are the persons who have to wait in long lines to receive government cheese and who are supported by the work of Tioga County Rural Ministry.

The poor of Tioga County are probably much like the poor found in other parts of the United States. They just happen to be the ones that I have had the privilege of meeting. They are the ones whose human spirit has touched my own.

It is the vivid memory of their struggle that challenges me in my moments of complacency and self-absorption. I am challenged to ask ques-

Pope, Walesa May Meet

ROME (NC) -- Polish church officials are trying to arrange a meeting between Pope John Paul II and Lech Walesa, leader of the illegal Solidarity labor union, when the pope visits Poland in June, said Cardinal Jozef Glemp of Gniezno and Warsaw May 19.

"We will seek to arrange that he (Walesa) can have the meeting," Cardinal Glemp replied.

tions of a federal government that chooses to spend billions of dollars on defense while thousands of people are hungry. Their struggle compels me to begin to make the connections. The choice to spend money building bombs somehow does eventually mean less money for bread.

The incongruity of these and other choices in the face of the poverty of so many people in places like Tioga County convinces me that I no longer can remain silent.

The suffering poor of Tioga County have helped me to see more clearly my own broken and sometimes suffering spirit. They call me to work in whatever ways I can to help bring about a more healed and peace-filled world and self. The faces and the hearts of the poor of Tioga County have enriched my vision. My prayer is that my attitude as a Christian will no longer be one of inactive waiting and silent looking on.

Sister Patricia Beairsto, RSM, is a theology teacher at Our Lady of Mercy High School.

Biased Schools Lose Tax Exempt Status

By Jim Lackey
Washington (NC) -- Private schools which discriminate on the basis of race can be denied tax-exempt status even when those schools base their practices on religious beliefs, the Supreme Court ruled overwhelmingly May 24.

In a setback both for the Reagan administration and for a pair of evangelical Christian schools in the South, the court upheld an Internal Revenue Service practice of denying tax-exemptions to groups which act contrary to established public policy.

The eradication of racial discrimination is such an important public policy, the court said, that "it would be wholly incompatible with the concepts underlying tax exemption to grant the benefit of tax-exempt status to racially discriminatory educational entities."

The vote in the case was 8-1 with only Justice William H. Rehnquist dissenting.

To the argument that the school's discriminatory practices are protected by the Constitution's guarantee of freedom of religion the court noted that sometimes governmental interests are "so compelling as to allow even regulations prohibiting religiously based conduct."

"Denial of tax benefits will inevitably have a substantial impact on the operation of private religious schools, but will not prevent those schools

from observing their religious tenets," the court said in its majority opinion by Chief Justice Warren E. Burger.

The lawsuits which resulted in the high court's decision were brought by Bob Jones University of Greenville, S.C., and the Goldsboro Christian Schools of Goldsboro, N.C. Bob Jones prohibits interracial dating while the Goldsboro schools refuse to admit blacks.

They charged that the IRS overstepped its authority when it withdrew their tax-exemptions because, they said, Congress never formally enacted a public policy standard for the operation of tax-exempt charitable organizations.

As the schools' lawsuits worked their way to the Supreme Court the Reagan administration attempted to reverse the IRS policy, which had existed since 1970. But public protests forced the administration to back off its plans to change the policy and instead hope that the Supreme Court would strike it down.

Burger's opinion though was emphatic in upholding the IRS policy.

The chief justice traced the history of tax exemptions and noted that they traditionally have been granted to institutions "thought beneficial to the social order of the country as a whole or to a particular community."

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