

2 Atlanta Stations Drop Swaggart Show

By NC News Service

Two Atlanta television stations have dropped the Rev. Jimmy Swaggart's daily, paid-time-TV program following Catholics' complaints that he was attacking the church.

Shirley Cooke, a spokeswoman at Mr. Swaggart's Baton Rouge, La., ministry headquarters, said the organization had no comment on the stations' decisions.

The two stations, Channel 5 (WAGA), a CBS affiliate, and Channel 46 (WANX), dropped the daily show after mid-November protests from Catholics, including the Georgia Bulletin, Atlanta archdiocesan newspaper, which had editorialized against Mr. Swaggart's "gospel of hate."

A separate Sunday program, whose content is mostly Southern Gospel music entertainment and not preaching about other churches, remains on the air on Channel 46, said Herman Ramsey, the station's vice president and general manager. "He didn't seem to be offensive in that program," Ramsey said of Mr. Swaggart.

Ramsey said that Mr. Swaggart, in his broadcasts, attacked not only Catholics but Baptists, Episcopalians, Lutherans and other Christians, primarily those of "organized religion groups."

The broadcasting executive said he canceled Mr. Swaggart's daily show because "I just don't want him taking off after Baptists or anybody else."

Ramsey and Marc Doyle, program director at Channel 5, said that their stations have been deluged with phone calls and letters — many negative — following their mid-November decision to remove the program from the air. The Georgia Bulletin reported a similar bombardment and in response sent out literature on the Catholic faith to people willing to read it.

"We've gotten several hundred phone calls from people complaining about the decision" to remove the show, said Doyle. Nonetheless, he said, the station has no intention of returning Mr. Swaggart to the air.

"There are an awful lot of people who don't like the decision," and there has been a "huge number of calls protesting" it, added Ramsey. "But that's expected. I wouldn't expect people to write and applaud us."

The Georgia Bulletin, in an editorial Nov. 10, said that "it really is surprising that TV evangelist Jimmy Swaggart, in this day and age, would be so blatantly and disgustingly anti-Catholic in many of his programs."

"Without any attempt at documentation, without giving specific data on times, places or persons, this man of the televised biblical word describes the pain of Catholic people who come to him seeking healing from the disease of dissatisfaction with their church," the Bulletin said. Moreover, it said, not only Catholics but "all Christian denominations not in step with Jimmy are fair game."

Msgr. Noel G. Burtenshaw, editor of The Georgia Bulletin and director of communication for the Atlanta Archdiocese, told an Atlanta newspaper that, in his programs, Mr. Swaggart "was saying things like, 'priests are just leading people to hell.'"

In its Nov. 10 editorial, written by Msgr. Burtenshaw, the Bulletin said that the Swaggart material "is almost comic."

"However, laughable as his performance is, Mr. Swaggart's style is merely a continuation of mild-mannered divisive hatred that has no place within the arena of a loving, building community of faith," it added.

In a second editorial a week later, the Bulletin referred to Mr. Swaggart's message as "the Swaggart gospel of hate" and characterized the stations' decision to drop Mr. Swaggart's show as an example of "good journalistic professionalism."

Vatican Ties OK'd, Reagan to Sign Bill

Washington (NC) -- Congress has given final approval to ending a century-old ban on formal diplomatic relations between the United States and the Holy See.

The action came late Nov. 18 as the House and Senate disposed of dozens of bills before adjourning for the year. Among those bills was a measure authorizing programs for the State Department to which the Vatican relations issue had been attached earlier this year.

President Reagan was expected to sign the full bill into law. A White House spokeswoman said Nov. 22 she had no information on whether Reagan planned to

NFP Information Sessions

Natural Family Planning Education of Rochester, Inc. is sponsoring two information sessions at area hospitals in December.

Both sessions are from 7:30-9 p.m. — the first, Monday, Dec. 5, in the Kearney Building at St. Mary's Hospital; the second, Friday, Dec. 9, in the main conference room at Rochester General Hospital.

Both sessions are free, but pre-registration is required by calling the NFP office at 464-8705.

Natural Family Planning of the Southern Tier will sponsor an information session from 7:30-9 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 2, at St. Joseph's Hospital, Elmira.

This session is free and open to the public, but pre-registration is required by calling 607/562-3331.

St. Michael

Penn Yan — Catholic Daughters of America meet 7 p.m., Dec. 7; Jean Mashevske and Mary Jane Curtis chair the refreshment committee for the event which will plan Christmas projects. In addition the group will hold coffee hours following the 9 and 11 a.m. Masses, Dec. 4; Colleen DeMoras and Jesse Duffy will be chairpersons.

appoint an ambassador to the Holy See.

The measure approved by Congress does not require diplomatic relations between the United States and the Vatican. But Reagan administration officials have indicated support for the idea.

Reagan currently has a personal representative to the Holy See, William A. Wilson. The Vatican's current apostolic delegate in the United States, who does not have diplomatic status, is Archbishop Pio Laghi.

By coincidence the papal secretary of state, Cardinal Agostino Casaroli, was in the United States and was scheduled to meet with Reagan at the White House late Nov. 22.

The proposal to end the ban on diplomatic relations with the Vatican was first introduced last summer by Rep. Clement J. Zablocki (D-Wis.) and later was attached to the State Department bill by Sen. Richard Lugar (R-Ind.).

The Lugar amendment was approved in the Senate by voice vote with little discussion.

House members of a House-Senate conference committee then agreed to the Lugar amendment Nov. 1.

Full diplomatic relations between the United States

and the Holy See have been prohibited by law since 1867, when Congress approved legislation banning the use of U.S. funds to support "an American legation in Rome."

Critics of the Lugar and Zablocki proposals, including several Protestant groups and Americans United for Separation of Church and State, had urged congressional hearings before

any action was taken. They said appointment of an ambassador to the Holy See was a violation of separation of church and state.

But supporters of the move, such as Lugar, said the Vatican is a "sensitive diplomatic forum" and that Pope John Paul II has become "a significant political force for decency in the world."

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Neediest Cases

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portive services. They are very proud and try hard to remain independent, but it has become increasingly difficult because of declining health and limited income. They have numerous medical bills they are unable to pay.

30 F is 73, receives very limited Social Security, and is not eligible for SSI because he owns a small piece of property. His mental impairment makes community living very difficult. His limited income does not provide adequately for better housing, food and clothing.

31 L is a middle-aged grandmother on public assistance with serious medical problems.

Christmas Bureau Needs Volunteers

Sixty drivers are needed by the Christmas Bureau Wednesday, Dec. 21, at the Culver Road armory to deliver cheer baskets and special gift packages to elderly and infirm persons.

The deliveries will take one hour. Anyone interested should telephone 271-0868.

She has provided for her two granddaughters since birth, because their mother is in prison. This year, with the high rents, cost of living and the aid she receives, she will not be able to stretch her budget for Christmas.

32 B is 82 and has been living in a single furnished room for many years. He was recently displaced from his "home" of seven years when the landlord renovated the building and raised the rents. B spends half of his limited income for rent while waiting for a subsidized apartment to become available. At that point he will need to buy furnishings, from kitchen utensils to furniture.

33 H, 80, has been evicted from the furnished apartment where he lived for 23 years. He must now find an apartment and furniture while managing on an income of \$385 a month.

34 Ms. V is a full-time student working on a computer degree. She depends on public assistance to support her family of three children, 12, 10 and 4. During the past two years

she has had several major crises. Because of high rents, she has a housing problem, and faces a rent increase this month.

35 Ms. M is a young mother with two children, 4 and 2. They have no place to live. They recently moved to Rochester from a rural area. She cannot find an apartment and has no furniture. She is staying with a distant relative.

36 Ms. W, 68, has problems meeting the requirements for getting Social Security since she has been in the U.S. only eight years and does not have enough working quarters invested. She is rapidly losing weight because of dental problems and she does not have the money for new dentures.

37 T, 46, has lived a very difficult life: born out of wedlock, reared in foster homes and institutions, abandoned by her husband who left her with two small children. She suffered a breakdown and was confined to a mental hospital. She has recently begun the road to recovery. Her children, now grown, try to

help, but have their own family responsibilities with limited resources.

38 A is a single parent with two small children. She receives public assistance. A large portion of her grant is spent for housing, and the rest for food, leaving little for clothing and less for holiday treats.

39 P is a single parent with one small child who recently lost her minimum-wage job and fell behind in her rent. She is now receiving public assistance.

40 The Es are an elderly couple. Mrs. E is crippled with arthritis and a heart condition. They provide a home for a grandson, 11. The family is in need of clothing, bedding and diabetic foods.

Blue Army

The monthly vigil of the Rochester Chapter of the Blue Army of Our Lady of Fatima will open at 9 p.m., Friday, Dec. 2, at Holy Rosary Church. Fathers Frederick Bush, Ronald Stacey and Robert Meng will lead the rites.

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