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N.Y.C., Boston Archbishops Seen Affirming U.S. Church

By Jerry Filteau
NC News Service

What signal did Pope John Paul II send to the U.S. church with his choice of new archbishops for Boston and New York? If anything, it was an affirmation of the current mainstream of the American hierarchy, according to several close observers of American Catholicism.

Both new archbishops are considered well within the standard framework describing most American bishops: doctrinally orthodox and committed to the Second Vatican Council, strong on leadership and discipline within the church but comfortable with ecumenism and American pluralism. They also are considered committed to church involvement in issues of social justice and public policy.

Archbishop Bernard F. Law of Boston is a specialist in ecumenism and a former official of the U.S. bishops' national offices.

Archbishop John F. O'Connor of New York is an enigma to many, but there is wide agreement that he is a strong personality, an able administrator, and very much in tune with the bishops' positions on American public policy.

"Both are people who are concerned not only with the church as church, but with the church as part of the larger society," said Msgr. Francis Lally, secretary for social

development and world peace of the U.S. Catholic Conference for the past nine years.

"Archbishop Law's position on civil rights is outstanding," added Msgr. Lally, a priest of Archbishop Law's new See.

He said Archbishop O'Connor will probably be more involved in New York affairs than his predecessor, Cardinal Terence Cooke. "He is very forward-looking in solving both domestic issues and international ones."

Archbishop O'Connor received wide publicity in the United States in 1981-83 as the so-called "hawk" on the committee that drafted the U.S. bishops' controversial national pastoral letter on war and peace.

But Catholic analysts were widely agreed that this popular label was unmerited and represented a great oversimplification of his position.

Msgr. Lally said that the new archbishop, who since November has been chairman of the bishops' Committee on Social Justice and World Peace, has made "very good contributions" to the committee's work while a member for the previous three years.

"People have gotten the wrong impression in describing him in hawkish terms," Msgr. Lally said. Archbishop O'Connor's position on the war and peace pastoral was "not that at all," the priest explained, but a matter of caution as to



O'CONNOR ... forthright
LAW ... ecumenist

the extent to which the bishops are competent to address areas in which they do not have technical expertise.

Continued on Page 4



Flight from Fight

A refugee family flees an area of West Beirut as fighting flares up between Lebanese soldiers and anti-government forces. Hundreds of people left as the worst fighting in months broke out in the city. Pope John Paul II repeated his appeal for peace in the war-torn country. (NC Photo)

Help End Bloodshed In Lebanon, Pontiff Asks Reagan, Hassad

By NC News Service
As several days of fierce fighting in Lebanon between the army and Moslem militias left more than 200 dead, caused the resignation of the Lebanese cabinet and forced a pullback of U.S. peacekeeping troops, Pope John Paul II sent messages to President Reagan and Syrian President Hafez Assad asking them to help end the bloodshed.

The pope, at his Feb. 8 general audience, said he sent

the messages the day before as part of a plan to contact world leaders about Vatican concern over Lebanon.

The pope said he asked Reagan to use his influence to "stop the bombings and killings and to promote an immediate ceasefire."

The message to Reagan was sent on the same day Reagan announced a major change in U.S. policy by ordering a phased withdrawal of the 1,600 Marines from

their land base to offshore U.S. Navy ships.

Reagan also said U.S. battleships and war planes would begin bombing Syrian-held territory in Lebanon in retaliation for attacks against the capital of Beirut. Syria, with troops stationed in Lebanon since 1976 has been supporting the Moslem militias opposed to Lebanese President Amin Gemayel, a Maronite Catholic.

Continued on Page 4

It's Official: It's Over!

Bishop Matthew H. Clark officially announced today that the diocesan "boycott of all Nestle's products and services, including Stouffers Rochester Plaza, is over."

In a letter dated Feb. 15, the bishop expressed his pleasure at the news of recent negotiations between Nestle and the International Nestle Boycott Committee over the interpretation and implementation of the WHO/UNICEF International Code of Marketing of breast milk substitutes.

Those negotiations resulted in the boycott suspension which was jointly announced on Jan. 26 by the International Nestle Boycott committee and Nestle S.A. In a joint statement, the two sides said the boycott was suspended and that "Nestle recognizes and supports the commitment of INBC and its members to safeguard the children of the Third World from hazards related to the inappropriate marketing of infant formula."

Nestle had been accused by the boycotters of improper marketing of infant formula in underdeveloped countries where, critics contended, infants were threatened by formula because mothers were unable to use it properly due to inadequate safe water supplies, lack of education and other problems. The dispute continued over seven years.

Rafael Pagan Jr., president of the Nestle Coordinaton Center for Nutrition, Inc., said Jan. 26, "Now we can concentrate our efforts on the real causes of infant mortality and morbidity in developing nations — contaminated

drinking water, ignorance, malnutrition and inadequate health care."

A formal meeting of boycott supporters took place Feb. 2 in Mexico where the boycott suspension was ratified.

"As you are aware, I endorsed the boycott two years ago and actively worked toward negotiations that would bring about resolution of the issues," the bishop wrote. "My endorsement of the boycott was based on the concern that the lives of infants in Third World countries were threatened."

That endorsement generated both wide controversy and wide support in the Rochester community, particularly when a Nestle subsidiary, Stouffer, took control of a downtown hotel.

The bishop thanked diocesan "for the steadfast support you have offered in this matter."

"It took many years, firm commitment and sacrifices by many persons to accomplish our goal, but lives will be saved and that will be our reward," he wrote.

A key to settling of the dispute was Nestle's commitment to following the World Health Organization code in infant formula marketing.

Among its other efforts since the passage of the WHO code in 1981, Nestle has developed extensive marketing guidelines for its employees and set up an internal auditing commission chaired by former Secretary of State Sen. Edmund Muskie of Maine.

DIOCESE OF ROCHESTER
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Bishop's Office

My Dear People:

It was with pleasure that I received the news that after negotiations Nestle and the International Nestle Boycott Committee had agreed on all points regarding interpretation and implementation of the WHO/UNICEF International Code of Marketing of Breast Milk Substitutes. The six-year-long boycott of Nestle's products and services has been suspended. Therefore, I am delighted to announce that our local boycott of all Nestle's products and services, including Stouffer's Rochester Plaza, is over.

As you are aware, I endorsed the boycott two years ago and actively worked toward negotiations that would bring about resolution of the issues. My endorsement of the boycott was based on the concern that the lives of infants in Third World countries were threatened. Today I resolve in the commitment that the Nestle Corporation makes to the infants of the world to make the moral imperatives of the WHO code its business practice.

I would also like to thank all of you for the steadfast support you have offered in this matter. It took many years, firm commitment and sacrifices by many persons to accomplish our goal, but lives will be saved and that is our reward.

Your brother in Christ,
Matthew H. Clark
Bishop of Rochester