

# Archbishops

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Auxiliary Bishop Thomas Gumbleton of Detroit, who also was a member of the war and peace committee and who espouses a strict theology of non-violence, said Archbishop O'Connor "very clearly took a strong stand on the just war theology -- but so did the other bishops (on the committee) except for myself."

"Perhaps he was more forthright in pushing for certain points of view, but always we were able to engage in very reasonable discussion...and come up with wording that satisfied both our concerns," Bishop Gumbleton added.

Msgr. Lally said Archbishop O'Connor, as a member of the USCC justice and peace committee, is his own man, one who "studies the issues very carefully" and is "not afraid to ask questions or seek clarifications."

But he is also "very easy to work with...He relies heavily on the staff and trusts them," and even on controversial issues such as Central America "he has been very supportive of all our positions," Msgr. Lally said.

Jesuit Father Gerald Fogarty, a U.S. church historian and professor at the University of Virginia in Charlottesville, said that "the two appointments are different, so I'm confused" as to what kind of signals the pope might be sending to the U.S. church.

"Neither is Rome-trained," thus belying a prediction by some that the pope would be leaning heavily toward products of Rome's pontifical universities in his choice of key leaders in the U.S. church, he said.

Father Fogarty added that Archbishop Law is probably the first American bishop in history to have received his college education at Harvard University. Msgr. John Tracy Ellis of

the Catholic University of America, considered the leading U.S. church historian, agreed that this was probably correct.

The two historians also noted that Archbishop Law -- a priest in Mississippi and a bishop in Missouri -- was the first archbishop of Boston in many years who did not have his roots in the Boston area. His predecessor, Cardinal Humberto Medeiros, was born in the Portuguese Azores but grew up in Massachusetts.

A number of commentators said that new archbishops in the two major Sees of New York and Boston, regardless of who was named, would of necessity serve as some kind of counterpoint to the voice of Cardinal Joseph L. Bernardin of Chicago as national spokesmen for the church.

Since he was named archbishop of Chicago in July 1982, Cardinal Bernardin "has occupied center stage by himself," said Father O'Hare.

Msgr. Higgins described Archbishop Law and Archbishop O'Connor as "different types, with different backgrounds and different approaches." But the style of leadership they will exercise and how they might interpret or nuance church positions on national issues remains to be seen, he said.

While observers did not think the two new archbishops would favor significantly different directions on questions of the U.S. church and social policy, they saw in both appointments possibly a stronger emphasis on internal loyalty and discipline in the church.

Msgr. Higgins called Archbishop O'Connor "a very determined man," whose lengthy letter to priests shortly after he was made bishop of Scranton, Pa., last year showed clearly where he stood on "clerical discipline."

On troubling church questions such as the ordination of women, both could be expected to be "unyielding, but able to argue their positions well and make them acceptable," said Father O'Hare.

Peter Steinfeld, executive editor of the national Catholic magazine Commonweal, said that "both have the public image of standing for a very hierarchical view of the church, for strong discipline in the ranks, for standing up for what the pope says."

In those terms, he saw in the appointments "a visible assertion of a less pluralistic view of the church."

On major in-church issues such as the priesthood, ordination of women, abortion, or artificial contraception, Msgr. Higgins said it should be no surprise that whoever was appointed would have been "checked out very carefully" by the Vatican.

The announcement accompanying Archbishop O'Connor's appointment, that jurisdiction over the military vicariate would be split from the Archdiocese of New York, surprised some observers in view of the fact that the appointee was Archbishop O'Connor, a retired rear admiral with 27 years of experience as a Navy chaplain.

Father Fogarty suggested that the timing might be particularly good because it makes it clear that Archbishop O'Connor was being named to New York as archbishop of New York and not because of the traditional connection of that job to the military vicariate.

He also said it might be an effort to assure that no one again attains the personal power of the late Cardinal Francis Spellman of New York in the U.S. church.

# School Tax Relief Topic of Hearing

Albany -- "Parents and others interested in obtaining some tax relief to meet tuition and other school costs should attend Sen. Donovan's hearings and tell his Education Committee exactly how necessary aid is this year," said J. Alan Davitt, executive director of the State Catholic Conference.

Sen. Robert Donovan, chairman of the State Senate Education Committee, has scheduled a series of hearings around the state on "education tax benefit legislation, including a session from 3 to 8 p.m., Friday, Feb. 17, at Athena High School, 800 Long Pond Road, Greece.

"His purpose," said Joseph McTigue, executive secretary of the state's Catholic School Superintendents Council, "is to provide a reading of the level of voter interest in the issue. The more people who turn out, the more likely he is to move such legislation through his committee and out on Senate floor."

Meetings also have been

planned in Buffalo, Syracuse, Albany, Utica, Tonawanda and Johnson City.

He will be assessing public opinion on:

1. **Tuition expense deduction** -- Similar to the Minnesota statute approved by the Supreme Court, it would provide a deduction of \$500 per year per dependent in grades K-6, and \$700 per dependent in grades 7-12. Applicable to all children, both public and nonpublic, cost is estimated at \$35 million. Tuition, textbooks, transportation and other educational expenses would be included.

2. **Expense deduction without tuition** -- Similar to the first proposal except it would exclude tuition as a deductible expense.

3. **Tax credit** -- Provides an income tax credit (a direct reduction in income tax) for taxpayers who have eligible dependents attending qualified public and nonpublic elementary and secondary schools.

Sen. Donovan indicated he is most interested in helping low and middle income families.

# Vatican Decree On Vows

Vatican City (NC) -- Here is an NC News Service translation of the Italian text of the decree on temporary vows of Religious published by the Vatican Congregation for Religious and Secular Institutes and released by the Vatican Feb. 2. It was signed by the congregation's prefect, Cardinal Eduardo Pironio, and its secretary, Archbishop Augustin Mayer.

Attentive consideration having been given to Canons 607, no. 2; 653, no. 2; and 654 of the Code of Canon Law, the Congregation for Religious and Secular Institutes has considered it fitting to establish the following for religious institutes:

1. Candidates who, having finished the novitiate, according to the norm of Canon 653, no. 2, shall be admitted to the religious profession, in all religious institutes, and shall commit themselves from now on to observing the three evangelical counsels with a public temporary vow, other bonds of other kinds being excluded.

2. Let members who bound themselves with other bonds, once the period of the same has ended, emit temporary vows for the remaining time established according to the norm of the constitution.

3. The time spent with bonds of another kind is valid for computing the period of temporary vows which must be made to precede perpetual profession, according to the norm of the code (Canons 655 and 658, no. 2) and the constitutions.

This same decree, approved by the supreme pontiff John Paul II on 31st of the month of January, shall enter into force from the day on which it is published in the Vatican newspaper, L'Osservatore Romano. Given at Rome, the 2nd of the month of February of the year 1984.

# Steps Urged to End Overcrowding In State Prisons

Albany -- Calling the mounting tension and unrest in the state's prisons due to overcrowding an "urgent crisis," the State Catholic Conference recommended to the governor and the Legislature four steps to end what it called "the inhumane conditions of confinement in the state."

The conference recommends:

1. Presuming parole of inmates under supervision after they have served their judicially set minimum sentences.

2. Abolition of mandatory minimum state prison sentencing for nonviolent second felony offenders.

3. Enactment of legislation requiring the escalation of the scheduled release dates of screened and specified inmates whenever the prison system capacity has been exceeded by more than 5 percent for a 90-day period.

4. Legislation to permit the use of "good time" off the minimum sentence of incarcerated persons.

"Action is needed quickly not only for the safety of inmates but that of correctional officers as well," the statement says.

"The conference's Public Policy Committee has long supported various alternatives to prison," J. Alan Davitt, executive director, said. "But the situation is so grave now, it feels immediate action must be taken."

The statement was sent to the governor and each legislator.

The conference characterized overcrowded conditions as so "perilous" that "further and perhaps more violent incidents are not only likely, but predictable."

"The state is just not going to be able to build itself out of the crisis," Davitt said.

# Lebanon

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After arriving in Lebanon in August 1982 the U.S. Marines became a major target of opponents of the U.S.-backed government of President Gemayel. In October 1983, nearly 250 Marines were killed in a suicide truck-bomb attack on the Marine headquarters.

Italy, France and Britain, which also sent troops as part of the multinational peacekeeping force in Lebanon, announced similar decisions to withdraw.

"Profoundly disturbed by so much suffering by the Lebanese people and concerned for the survival of their country, last evening I sent a personal message to the president of the United States of America to communicate to him my apprehension and above all to ask him to use his influence to stop the bombings and killings and to promote an immediate ceasefire which would allow the finding of a just political solution," the pope said Feb. 2.

The pope added that he also had conveyed his concern to Assad and planned to do the same with other world leaders.

The Vatican press office said the pope had sent Assad a message similar to the one he sent to Reagan, but did not release the texts of the messages.

"I renew again the invitation of last Sunday to all parties responsible for the conflict to reach an immediate truce which will permit a loyal dialogue accompanied by the will to come to a just, effective and stable political solution," the pope said.

On Sunday, Feb. 5, at his weekly Angelus prayer and

during the homily of a Divine Liturgy concelebrated with Melkite Patriarch Maximos V Hakim, spiritual leader of Lebanon's 90,000 Melkite Catholics, the pope had prayed for peace in Lebanon.

In Lebanon, Moslem militia leaders have demanded the resignation of Gemayel who has been weakened by the resignation of his cabinet and by numerous defections from the army of Moslem soldiers.


The leadership of Lebanese political parties parallel the religious divisions in the

country because of the Arab custom by which people identify socially through their religion. The main complaint of the Moslem-led political groups has been that Christians have too much power in the government and military and Gemayel is unwilling to negotiate a serious redistribution.

A withdrawal of U.S., French, British and Italian troops from Lebanon would still leave Israeli troops occupying southern Lebanon and Syrian troops occupying northern Lebanon.

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