

# Nuclear Warhead Train Condemned by 12 Bishops

**By NC News Service**  
 Twelve Catholic bishops along "white train" routes for nuclear warhead transport have called such weapons shipments a violation of international law, the Gospel and the U.S. bishops' teachings in their 1983 war and peace pastoral.

The 12 bishops said Feb. 22 that they would join in prayer vigils and non-violent protests against the shipments, and they urged their people to "give prayerful consideration to joining in these vigils."

Led by Archbishop Raymond Hunthausen of Seattle and Bishop Leroy Matthiesen of Amarillo, Texas, the signers included bishops from the states of Texas, Oklahoma, Colorado, California and Washington.

They issued their statement as one of the "white trains" -- so called because their extra-long, low boxcars and turreted security cars are painted white -- was on its way from the Pantex nuclear

warhead assembly plant in Amarillo to the Trident nuclear submarine base in Bangor, Wash.

Sister of Loretto Patricia McCormick of Denver told NC News in a telephone interview that she and some 100 other demonstrators met the 17-car train at about 3:30 a.m. in Cheyenne, Wyo. They threw flowers on it from an overpass as it went by.

"My reaction was one of total awe," she said. The train "was unlike any other train you've ever seen."

Her awe was accompanied by "a tremendous amount of determination to make sure that these don't continue," added the nun, who works in a Catholic Worker soup kitchen in addition to her peace activities in Denver.

The 12 bishops said, in their joint statement released in Seattle, "We believe that a further escalation of the arms race by the further shipment and deployment of such weapons is in violation of

international law, the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and the teaching of our pastoral letter, 'The Challenge of Peace.'"

Since 1981, they said, the Agape Community, an interstate network of peace activists along the nuclear rail routes, has engaged in a series of prayer vigils and nonviolent protests against

the white-colored trains that carry the missiles and warheads. A number of people in the Agape Community network are Catholic nuns.

"Our teaching responsibility and the location of our dioceses along these tracks make it imperative for us to join with this community in its campaign," the bishops said.

"One meaning of the tracks campaign is that it can monitor and offer nonviolent resistance to each successive violation of our pastoral letter," they said. "Our stand

in the pastoral letter is that no further deployment of nuclear weapons can possibly be justified. Every missile and nuclear weapons shipment is both a significant step toward a first-strike holocaust and a violation of the moral stand we have taken."

In addition to protests against individual trains, the bishops pledged to "sponsor or join in a prayer vigil to be held at many sites along the tracks on peace Pentecost Sunday, June 10, 1984."

In addition to Archbishop Hunthausen and Bishop Matthiesen, signers of the bishops' statement are Archbishop James Casey of Denver; retired Bishop Charles Buswell of Pueblo, Colo.; Bishops Eusebio Beltran of Tulsa, Okla., Arthur Tafoya of Pueblo, Francis Quinn of Sacramento, Calif., Joseph Madera of Fresno, Calif., William Skylstad of Yakima, Wash., and Lawrence Welsh of Spokane, Wash.; and Auxiliary Bishops George Evans of Denver and Alphons Gallegos of Sacramento.

## Business in Diocese



LEWIS

Peter C. Lewis, son of Richard E. and Wilma Kenning Lewis of Rochester, graduated recently with a Juris Doctor from Western New England College School of Law in Springfield, Mass.

Lewis graduated in 1978 from St. Thomas More School, from McQuaid Jesuit High in 1976 and from Holy Cross College in 1980. He was chairman of the special projects committee of the Student Bar Association and a Bar Bri-Bar review representative.

### Focus on Eucharist

Focus on the Eucharist will be celebrated 7:30 p.m. Thursday, March 1 at the Church of Christ the King, 445 Kings Highway South. The event includes evening prayer and rosary, a Mass celebrated by Father Jay Walsh, CSB, a meditation period, and benediction. The public is invited to all or part of the evening.

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### Sarah Child

All in the Family



## Why Write? You Get Last Word

Our daughter warns me: "No more of those phony letters from college in your column. My friends all think I wrote them"

"But" I argue, "I was sure everybody would understand that I pieced the 'letters' together based on phone calls and letters home."

"Well they didn't," she says and tells me again to cease and desist.

It is not the first time one of our children has demanded I stop writing about them in this space. They have, for the last 14 years that the column has been in existence, been grist for the mill. And, during that time they have made it clear that they would have much preferred the kind of mother who bakes cookies twice a week, can sew a Halloween or school play costume in half a day and do the laundry without losing half of the socks.

I plead guilty to all their charges and when the aforementioned daughter sends the following quote by George Orwell I grin and acknowledge the truth therein.

"All writers are vain, selfish and lazy and at the very bottom of their motives there lies a mystery. Writing a book is a horrible, exhausting struggle, like a long bout of some painful illness. One would never undertake such a thing if one were not driven by one some demon whom one can neither resist nor understand."

Accompanying the quote is her explanation of how she thought it appropriate reading for someone who continues to turn out a novel a year and still has to see one published.

Since receiving the note, I have been trying to

figure out why I continue to write in the face of rejection.

One reason is that I have had enough kind, encouraging notes from editors to keep me going. Ditto the veteran authors in our writing group who point out that persistence is the name of the game.

But, those reasons alone are not sufficient to keep pounding out words. Over the last five years with three drafts per book I have produced well over a million words, none of them profound.

So what is the reason? I'm not sure myself but undoubtedly part of it is that I enjoy the escape.

And, part of it is also the opportunity to create and control one's characters. How satisfying to sit down and give birth to people who won't talk back to you and whom you can make as villainous, heroic or nutty as you like.

Likewise it is fun to create dialogue particularly for a confrontation and have the characters say things to each other you've never dared voice in real life.

George Orwell to the contrary, writing can be great fun. It certainly beats housework.

## MORAL RE-ARMAMENT OUR LADY'S PATH TO PEACE FIRST SATURDAY DEVOTIONS!

### Her Request:

- Confession
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- 15 Minutes of Meditation on Rosary Mysteries
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- On 5 First Saturdays of 5 Consecutive Months

### Her Promises:

- External Salvation
- Conversion of Russia



First Saturday Devotions will continue at **St. Mary's Church, 25 Center St., Waterloo** Saturday, March 3 at a Noon Mass

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