

# Will Not Compromise On Homosexuality, Archbishop Declares

New York (NC) — The New York archdiocese will not compromise church teaching on homosexuality even if it means giving up millions of dollars of government money for social service agencies, Archbishop John J. O'Connor of New York said June 8.

The archbishop said he would support laws against discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation if the term was defined to denote only an inclination, not active

practice or teaching of homosexuality.

"By orientation, we mean an inclination, but some states have interpreted it to include active homosexuality and the teaching of homosexuality," he said. "There is a tremendous difference between an inclination and the argument that heterosexuality is only one preference. The word 'orientation' is filled with pitfalls."

The archdiocese is considered a principal force in

blocking anti-discrimination measures brought before the New York City Council, most recently in March 1983.

Archbishop O'Connor made his comments following a Mass celebrated for the June 8 meeting of Courage, a group of Catholic homosexuals who accept church teaching and try to live in accordance with it.

In an interview with NC News Service and the New York archdiocesan newspaper, Catholic New York, the archbishop said the archdiocese would not compromise its principles to keep the millions of dollars of government money currently received by its social service agencies. The city contracts with these agencies to provide services such as day care for those too poor to pay for themselves.

But as the result of an executive order issued by Mayor Ed Koch in 1981, agencies receiving funds are required to pledge they will not discriminate in hiring on the basis of "sexual orientation or affectional preference."

Archbishop O'Connor said he had not met with Koch but that "my associates are talking with his associates" and he was confident that the mayor did not want to put the Catholic Church in the position of violating its fundamental teaching.

The issue came into public debate earlier this year when the Salvation Army said it would give up its contracts with the city rather than comply with an order violating its moral principles.

After celebrating Mass for the Courage group Archbishop O'Connor pledged support to Father John Harvey, Courage's leader and an Oblate of St. Francis de Sales.

"I am familiar with what Father Harvey has been doing, and I am very pleased with his work," Archbishop O'Connor said. "But it has to be extensively expanded. We will provide Father Harvey with every support. We have to involve more priests, sisters and brothers. We'll certainly meet any financial needs."

During the Mass, Archbishop O'Connor made no direct reference to homosexuality. He explained later that he thought it would be "more respectful" to address this congregation like any other and because he planned to issue a written statement soon.

Father Harvey, a moral theology professor at his order's seminary in Washington, said he began studying homosexuality in 1953 after a provincial accused him of giving seminarians insufficient instruction in the topic. His work in New York began in 1978.

One layman in attendance explained the outlook of Courage members as sympathy for the teaching of the church despite recognition of contrary tendencies within themselves. "We see the practice of homosexuality as morally wrong, but still it is something I must struggle with daily," he said, calling homosexuality a "misfortune" that can be compared to addiction to alcohol or drugs.



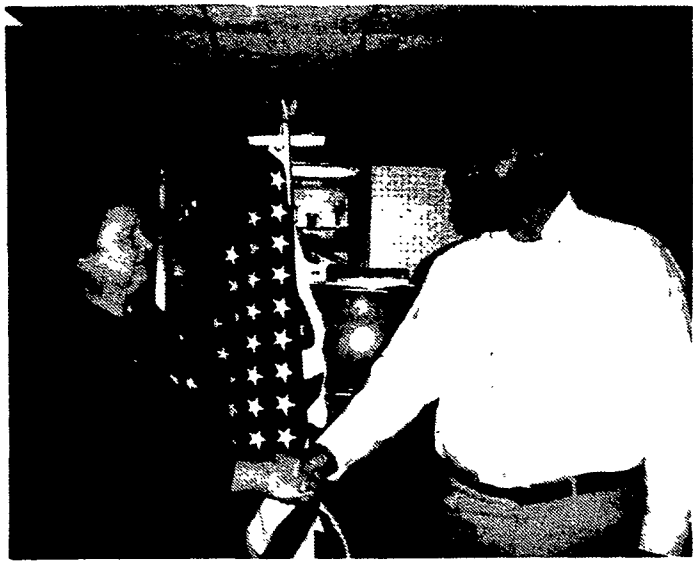
## Marchers

The delegation from Old St. Mary's Parish surrounds the float of the church built by Joe Driscoll used in the recent City Sesquicentennial Parade.



## VFW Auxiliary Donates Flags

Under the leadership of Ann Peacock, president of the Monroe County Auxiliary of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, flags have been given to Cub Scout Troop 296, Den 4 (above), under the leadership of Mr. and Mrs. Perkins; and to Den 5, under the leadership of Larry Gould, a Vietnam veteran who has recently joined the VFW. Ms. Peacock's tenure as president has recently concluded.



## Auxiliary Elects

Elmira — Mrs. Dominic Romeo has been elected president of the St. Joseph's Hospital auxiliary. She announced plans for the Elmira Charity Horse Show, July 12-15, the auxiliary's annual Christmas Sale, Nov. 8, and the first annual Founders

Ball, Nov. 24, at Elmira College.

Other officers are Mrs. John Rurak, president-elect; Mrs. John Moran, vice president; Mrs. Edward Hughes, secretary, and Mrs. Jerrald Bedenk, financial secretary.

Elected to three-year board terms were Mrs. John McInerney and Mrs. William Widman. Named to a two-year term was Mrs. Richard Woodhouse. Other board members are Mrs. John Flynn, Mrs. Joseph Calderone, Mrs. Edward Widman, Mrs. Malcolm MacFeiggan and Mrs. John Taft, treasurer.

## Holiday Deadline

Because of the July 4 holiday, the Courier-Journal deadline for that issue will be noon, Wednesday, June 27. As is the usual custom, the office will be closed the week of July 1; and no issue will be published July 11.



## Mooney Linguists

Students of French and Spanish at Cardinal Mooney High School were recently inducted into the school's language honor societies. Above, 63 students were initiated into the Sociedad Honoraria Hispanica for students of Spanish; below, 16 French students were initiated into the Societe Honoraire de Francais. To qualify for society entrance, students must maintain a cumulative average of 90 for the past three semesters of language study.



## Cenacle Plans Fourth of July Retreat Week

The Cenacle Renewal Center will observe Independence Day by bracketing it with an eight-day directed retreat.

The retreat opens after supper, Saturday, June 30 and closes Sunday afternoon, July 8.

According to Shirley Grasso, Cenacle spokesperson, participants "will be praying in Scripture, supported by

whatever personal guidance your particular situation would call for. Your prayer companion will meet with you each day, if desired, and move with you through Scripture suggested by the leading of the Holy Spirit from day to day."

The offering for the program is \$150.

Further information or reservations are obtained by

contacting the Cenacle Ministry Office, (716) 271-0875; 693 East Ave., Rochester, N.Y. 14607.

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