

Remarks 'Misinterpreted,' Archbishop Kelly Says

Louisville, Ky. (NC) -- "I have been getting a lot of surprising mail," Archbishop Thomas Kelly said after Catholic newspapers around the country reported comments he made in May to Louisville youths regarding married priests and women priests.

A story by National Catholic News Service on the meeting, carried by many U.S. diocesan newspapers,

began, "The church may start ordaining married men, but it is not likely to let already ordained priests get married," said Archbishop Thomas C. Kelly of Louisville.

Further down the story reported that the archbishop said he upholds the church teaching that women are not to be ordained, but it also quoted him as saying that the church is still "thinking" and

"praying" about the question.

Although the news report did not say that the archbishop advocated a change in church discipline in either area, he said some who read the story apparently "misinterpreted" his remarks, and he has been getting letters "from people who think I support them on some issues where I in fact oppose them."

As a result, Archbishop Kelly has been sending a brief statement to anyone who writes to him about the matter.

"One, I do not propose, nor do I advocate, the ordination of married men to the priesthood... Two, I do not propose nor do I advocate the ordination of women to the priesthood," the statement says.

Archbishop Kelly's original comments came during an "open forum" he had with about 40 young people in his archdiocese May 11. The floor was open to any questions the youths had about the church, and among the questions they asked were whether the church will let priests marry and what he thought about women priests.

On the first question, the archbishop distinguished between ordaining married men to the priesthood and allowing ordained priests to marry.

He said that if the present church discipline were to change at all, the church would be more likely to allow ordination of married men than to allow already ordained priests to marry.

"However, I did not say any change in discipline would, or should, take place," the archbishop commented in his statement.

Concerning his views on the ordination of women, he told the young people that he supports the church's teaching and has "not found anything compelling me, in the tradition of the church, to say women can be ordained."

He also said that "the question (of women's ordination) is not dead" and the church continues to think and pray about it, but he did not predict that such thought and prayer might lead to a change in church teaching or practice.

In his written statement

Archbishop Kelly noted that he had told the youths of the 1976 statement by the Vatican Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith which says that in not ordaining women the church is following the will of Christ.

"I said I am in agreement with this teaching. I did not propose or advocate any change in this teaching," he wrote.

In a telephone conversation June 27 Archbishop Kelly said he had received about a dozen letters since the story began appearing around the country a month earlier, and some were still coming in -- "I got two more today."

He said the letters were positive, not critical. The writers expressed approval and support for the positions they thought he had taken on women's ordination and married priests, but the problem was that they misunderstood his positions, he said.



Arms Testimony

Archbishop John O'Connor, left, of New York and Cardinal Joseph Bernardin of Chicago confer before testifying at a House Foreign Affairs Committee hearing on arms control. The two archbishops, both members of the committee which drafted the U.S. bishops' peace pastoral, criticized deployment of U.S. missiles in Western Europe and the "MIRVing" of nuclear arms. (NC photo)

Nuke Warfare

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Pershing II and cruise missiles in Europe, any escalation from the use of tactical weapons almost certainly risks escalation to the strategic, intercontinental level."

They said the bishops favor further development of NATO's conventional army capabilities so that the possibility of nuclear confrontation is decreased.

"The bishops are quite aware that another European war would be a catastrophe even if fought with conventional weapons, but at least the possibility of a fatal nuclear holocaust would be precluded," the two said in the prepared testimony.

Cardinal Bernardin and Archbishop O'Connor criticized weapons development

processes that allow technology to take precedence over ethical and political judgments. They cited what they called an "unspoken imperative" that a weapon must be built because it can be built or another nation already has built it.

They referred specifically to "MIRVing" nuclear weapons. MIRV stands for Multiple Independent Reentry Vehicles, warheads which can be carried on a single missile and independently and rapidly targeted against an enemy.

With MIRV, "it may not be too strong to say that we mortgaged the future of arms control by a technological decision taken without adequate citizen or congressional scrutiny," they testified.

While the United States apparently has "no recourse

but to negotiate from strength," the meaning of defense must be scrutinized, said Archbishop O'Connor. He posed a question for evaluating a proposed weapon or defense policy: "Can it so deprive the poor, so wreck other programs, that we're not defending our society at all?"

In their prepared testimony, the two churchmen called increases in the proposed fiscal 1985 budget for nuclear weapons "profoundly disturbing."

They urged reconsideration of the MX missile, given its price tag, the fear it has first-strike capabilities, and its alleged vulnerability.

"We believe that kind of assessment is still needed" on the MX, Cardinal Bernardin said.

The church leaders also questioned the wisdom of developing space-based weapons. "From the perspective of our pastoral letter, we support efforts to prevent the initiation of a nuclear race on yet another frontier -- outer space," they said.

The cardinal and archbishop were pressed repeatedly by Rep. Henry Hyde, R-Ill., to discuss the nature of the Soviet Union, and whether use of a nuclear weapon against the Soviet Union could be justified.

"I don't know of a bishop who's not scared to death of what could happen if that (Soviet) power were unleashed on the world," Archbishop O'Connor said. Yet, he reiterated, the bishops could countenance the possibility of using a nuclear weapon only "if conditions of discrimination (differentiation of civilians from military targets) and proportionality could demonstrably be verified."

Bishops Aide Denounces Statement by Farrakhan

Washington (NC) -- Father Donald Heintschel, National Conference of Catholic Bishops associate general secretary, has joined with religious, political and civil rights leaders in denouncing a statement by Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan reportedly calling Judaism a "gutter religion."

"Catholic Americans believe with all Americans that such language simply has no place in the public forum," said Father Heintschel in a statement. "It must be condemned for the hate-filled evil that it is."

The priest said that to attack Judaism "is beyond the bounds of political rhetoric, however widely construed."

"We Catholics, then, will join with those of other faith communities whether Christian, Jewish or Muslim, who would, out of respect for our dearest values, resist and denounce such pernicious characterizations of other religions."

Farrakhan acknowledged that he had described Israel as an "outlaw state" in a Chicago radio address June 24 but denied making the remarks about Judaism being a "gutter religion."

Farrakhan said he was "willing to pay \$10,000 out of my pocket and offer my life" if anyone can prove he made the remark.

The Chicago Sun-Times had reported June 25 that Farrakhan said in his radio address that Israel has not had peace in 40 years "and she will never have any peace because there can be no peace structured on injustice, lying and deceit and using the name of God to shield your gutter religion under his holy and righteous name."

The Sun-Times later said it had a tape of the remark.

Howard I. Friedman, president of the American Jewish Committee, said Farrakhan's speech called for "the strongest denunciation by all Americans, especially those who run for political office and who are leaders of racial, ethnic and religious groups."

Claire Randall, general secretary of the National Council of Churches, called the remark an "unwarranted slur" and said, "There is no place in this nation for the public articulation of the kind of bigotry apparent in Mr. Farrakhan's statement about the Jewish faith."

Benjamin Hooks, executive director of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, said his organization subscribed "to the tenets of the Judeo-Christian heritage and therefore cannot and will not be a party to casting aspersions on Judaism."

Mass Feature Of Annual Italian Fiera

Father Reno LaDelfa will be the principal concelebrant of the Italian Mass which will be part of the 10th annual La Fiera Italiana in downtown Rochester July 20-28.

The Mass will take place at 3 p.m., Sunday, July 22, in Old St. Mary's Church. Following the Mass, a procession will go from the church to the downtown festival site of the fiera.

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Liberation Theology

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accepted these movements of liberation, we have also seen people defamed, forbidden to teach theology, rendered suspect of infidelity to the Christian message, and accused of substituting ideologies for the Gospel, under the influence of Marxism... We express our strong solidarity with these movements of liberation and with their theology. We protest against the suspicions and unjust criticisms registered against them."

Among members of the Concilium board are such well-known European theologians as Swiss-born Father Hans Kung, Belgian-born Dominican Father Edward Schillebeeckx and French Dominican Father Yves Congar.

North Americans include Father Tracy, Elizabeth Schussler-Fiorenza of the

University of Notre Dame, Jesuit Father John Coleman of the Jesuit School of Theology in Berkeley, Calif., and Father Virgilio Elizondo of the Mexican American Cultural Center in San Antonio, Texas.

The statement also lauded the "process of liberation and reflection among women, finding themselves marginal to the life of society and the church, and among races and cultures conscious of their position as minorities in church and society."

Asked if that part of the statement reflected any specific concerns about official church pressures against Catholic feminist thinkers in the United States, Father Tracy said one such concern expressed at the meeting was the way church authorities have dealt with situations of political involvement by nuns.

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