

Healer

Michael Gaydos, a Catholic evangelist from Level Green, Pa., who practices healing ministry, will lead a service 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, July 17 at Corpus Christi Church. Gaydos is president of Visionary Ministries. According to Thomas Bird, Gaydos is instrumental in healing eyes. He is the author of "Eyes to Behold Him," a personal account of healing.

Archbishop Warns on 'Harassment'

New York (NC) -- Archbishop John J. O'Connor of New York told a press conference June 24 that the archdiocese may not be able to continue helping the public sector with its service programs if there is "constant harassment" against the church for its stand on homosexuality.

Repeated questions during the press conference, televised live by New York station WPIX, focused on Archbishop O'Connor's earlier comments that he would close church agencies receiving government funds rather than violate Catholic teaching on homosexuality.

June 24 was observed by homosexuals around the United States as Gay Pride Day. In New York about 20,000 marchers, many chanting "shame," paraded by St. Patrick's Cathedral.

Archbishop O'Connor said media coverage of his position accelerated discussions that had been going on with New York Mayor Ed Koch's staff over an executive order

which prohibits social service agencies receiving city funds from discriminating against homosexuals in employment.

Koch announced June 20 that the city would exempt religious organizations from the order until the courts determine its legality.

Archbishop O'Connor said he told the mayor that the church could not continue helping the public sector with its service programs if there was "constant harassment."

He said the archdiocese will have to wait and see what the court decides before determining its next step but added that he believes some mutually satisfactory agreement can be reached.

Archbishop O'Connor made similar points about sex education, saying the primary purpose of Catholic schools is to inculcate Catholic values. He said the schools might as well be closed if the government imposes a program of sex education contrary to those values.

Asked about voting for pro-abortion candidates, Archbishop O'Connor replied, "I do not see how a Catholic in conscience could vote for an individual explicitly expressing himself or herself as favoring abortion." Though some people object to voting on the basis of this single issue, he said, it is "an issue of life and death," and for a candidate to back "other wonderful things" could not make up for that.

He also said the bishops could not accept the approach of some candidates saying they are personally opposed to abortion but in their official capacity act to allow it.

One reporter asked about the possibility of excommunicating someone like New York Gov. Mario Cuomo, a Catholic who supports government funding for abortion. Archbishop O'Connor said excommunication was possible "under extreme circumstances." In any such case it would be important to determine the person's "intention," he said.

The next day in a telephone conversation with Cuomo, Archbishop O'Connor said he considered any discussion of excommunicating the governor "outlandish," according to spokesmen for the governor and the archbishop.

"The archbishop was responding to a question in a theoretical way," said Matthew Monahan, press officer for the governor.

"He discounted that excommunication notion," said Joseph Zwilling, press officer for the archbishop. "He was responding to a generic question."

The question was raised by Richard Cowden-Guido, a reporter for The Wanderer, an independent conservative

Catholic weekly.

At the press conference the archbishop, who had earlier announced that he was gathering material to support the canonization of his predecessor Cardinal Terence Cooke, said he planned to

discuss canonization with the "appropriate people" at the Vatican, where he was to receive his archbishop's pallium June 29.

Archbishop O'Connor said he believed in the "profound holiness" of Cardinal Cooke,

who died of cancer Oct. 6, 1983.

But he said the period of experimental efforts in religious orders was "pretty well concluded" and it was "time to get on with business."

Advice to Scientists: Save Frozen Embryos

Washington (NC) -- Scientists and officials "should take whatever steps necessary" to save two frozen embryos whose parents were killed in a plane crash, said an aide to the U.S. bishops' Committee for Pro-Life Activities.

"Those scientists have a responsibility," said Richard Doerflinger, legislative assistant to the committee, part of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops. "They (the scientists) are almost as much the parents as the donors of the sperm and egg are."

Doerflinger reacted June 20 to the moral and legal dilemma of officials in Melbourne, Australia, when they discovered that the parents of two embryos frozen in liquid nitrogen had been killed in a plane crash in Chile last year.

Mario and Elsa Rios of Los Angeles had traveled to Melbourne in 1981 to try to conceive a baby by in vitro fertilization, which involves fertilization of the female egg with the male sperm through laboratory procedures rather than sexual intercourse. Three of Mrs. Rios' eggs were fertilized: one was implanted in her womb and resulted in a miscarriage; the other two were frozen.

The embryos will remain frozen at the Queen Victoria Medical Center in Melbourne until a government-appointed committee can make a recommendation on the matter, probably in July.

Doerflinger said those involved must "make the best of a bad situation."

Although the church usually opposes surrogate motherhood, the next step would be to find women willing to bear the children if they can be implanted successfully, Doerflinger said. Scientists have said the embryos probably would not survive implantation because 1981 freezing techniques were not as good as those used today.

"Essentially (they are) two children that are abandoned, and they need temporary foster care to save their lives," Doerflinger said.

"Basically, it's an emergency medical procedure."

The Catholic Church opposes in vitro fertilization because it takes conception out of the context of sexual love, Doerflinger said. In addition, he said, the process encourages parents and doctors to "look with less than full respect on the lives they've produced."

The Vatican newspaper, L'Osservatore Romano, has opposed the in vitro method of fertilization because it involves masturbation and artificial insemination of humans, activities previously condemned by the church.

Catholic moralists in the United States who object to the "in vitro" method cite the bishops' norms for medical ethics, which say that "the ultimate personal expression of conjugal love in the marital act is viewed as the only fitting context for the human sharing of the divine act of creation."

Fr. Albert Shamon



Word for Sunday

Meekness And Burdens

Sunday's Readings: (R3) Mt. 11/25-30; (R1) Zec. 9/9-10; (R2) Rom. 8/9, 11-13.

A key idea in Sunday's readings is that of meekness: the king comes meek (R1); "Learn from me," Jesus says, "For I am gentle" (R3).

Why this stress on meekness? Because the Christian life cannot, is not meant to be lived alone, but yokes with Christ. If one is not meek, when Christ pulls one way, a recalcitrant person will pull another, and there will be a stalemate — no one will go anywhere. But if one is meek, one really will go places, for the yoke will be easy and make for teamwork.

Also, His yoke is easy and His burden light, precisely because they are His. How hard it is to move a table alone, but with another to help — how easy! Our Blessed Lord is telling us He is yoked to us. He pulls with us, hence His yoke is easy and His burden light. We are not alone. Emmanuel — God is with us, all days even to the end of the world.

Furthermore, His yoke is easy and His burden light because His teaching frees. "You shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free." His teaching, unlike that of the Scribes and Pharisees, does not bind people under the heavy yoke of the Law, with all its impossible observances. "They bind up heavy loads, hard to carry, to lay on other men's shoulders..." (Mt. 23/4)

The first council of the Church, the Council of Jerusalem, was a freeing council (Acts 15). Pharisaic Christians tried to impose Jewish ceremonial laws on Gentiles converted by St. Paul. But the apostles remonstrated. "Do you put God to the test by trying to place on the shoulders of

these converts a yoke which neither we nor our fathers were able to bear?" Therefore they concluded, "It is the decision of the Holy Spirit, and ours too, not to lay on (them) any burden beyond that which is strictly necessary."

Two thousand years later, the Church calls her Code of Canon Laws "Codex Canonici Juris." She did not use for law the Latin word "lex," which connotes "binding the will," but rather the word "jus," which connotes "rights" — the Church's Code of Laws is seen by her as a bill of rights, so to speak.

So Jesus' yoke is easy and a light some burden, because it is a bond of friendship with Him, because it is a freeing bond.

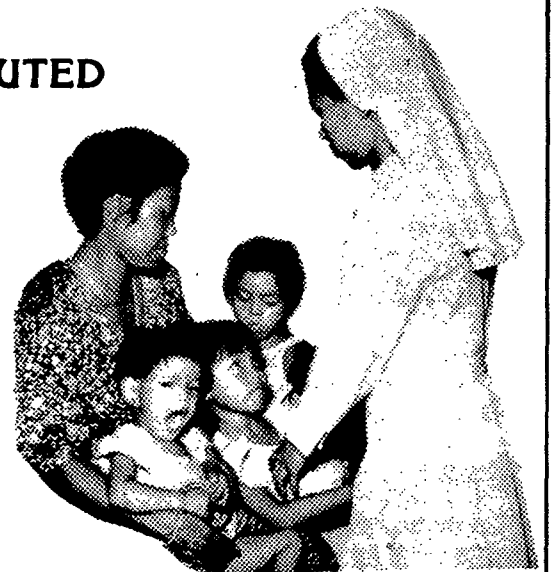
There are two yokes in the world today. One is the yoke of sin, sinful habits, of compulsions, the cravings, of never having enough. As a heavy stone in a field presses down the grass, bleaches it and saps all life from it, so this yoke of sin burdens, oppresses, saps life itself.

The second yoke is the yoke of friendship with Christ. He came, not like a warrior king, an Alexander the Great riding proudly on a mighty Bucephalus, but "meek, riding on an ass." He came to free us from the yoke of sin. He invites us to come to Him and He promises to refresh and nourish us.

He invites us — all who are desperately trying to find God, desperately trying to be good and yet who at times find life's problems terribly hard, wearying, driven to discouragement and despair.

Each time we accept the invitation, we shall discover how truly easy is His yoke, and light His burden. For we shall discover that the important thing in the Christian life is not how much we do, but how much we love — and love makes the heaviest burden light.

BLESSED ARE THOSE PERSECUTED IN THE CAUSE OF RIGHT...



In southeast Asia, east Africa, central America, refugees—most women and children—flee from persecution and terror. Struggling to survive in border camps, they look with fear and uncertainty toward the future.

But the mission Church is there with them, like this Thai Sister in a camp along the Cambodian border. To ease the pain of body and soul. To bring the hope of the Gospel's good news—that "the kingdom of heaven is theirs."

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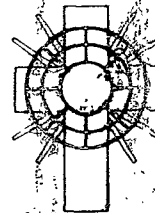
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Sailing Lessons Offered

The Gates Recreation Department is offering two sailing programs for teenagers and adults.

Recreational sailing offers an introduction to the sport, and includes time for relaxation, swimming and picnicing.

Serious students can apply for one to four person lessons on a 24-foot sloop on Lake Ontario. Fruther information is available from the department, 247-6100, extension 39 or 40.