

## National/International Report

### Bishops approve plan for follow-up on economics pastoral

By Liz Schevtchuk  
**Washington (NC)** — The U.S. bishops Nov. 13 approved a \$525,000, three-year plan for follow-up on their pastoral letter on the economy.

The follow-up plan, ratified on a voice vote at the National Conference of Catholic Bishops' general meeting in Washington, addresses both spiritual and practical aspects of the letter, and urges actions at both national and diocesan levels.

It was drafted by the Ad Hoc Committee on Follow-Up to the Pastoral Letter on the Economy, chaired by Bishop Anthony Pilla of Cleveland.

The follow-up plan was approved with little discussion and within a few minutes of the bishops' conclusion of action on the pastoral letter itself.

The plan declares that "the primary focus of our follow-up activities will be on the moral principles and the ethical framework that are expressed in the pastoral letter."

According to the plan, "while there may be a tendency on the part of some to focus solely on the policy implications of the

letter," which discusses economic questions and the role of government and other institutions, "we will continue to emphasize that the moral principles are the core of our message."

Bishop Pilla, in a written introduction to the plan, said the follow-up "is intended to help the Church take full advantage of this unique opportunity."

"In the end, this committee believes that the pastoral letter offers a very rich opportunity for the Church to teach and act on the tradition of Catholic social teaching," he declared.

Three major themes underpin the plan, he said:

- There is a "need for an ongoing commitment to follow-up," reflecting the "general agreement that the drafting and discussion of the pastoral letter has generated and will continue to generate a wide range of activities in the Church and broader society."

- "The major focus of the plan is on providing resources and assistance to the dioceses."

- Follow-up activities on the pastoral should "be integrated into other programs, agendas and institutions of the Church, rather than being added on as a separate and additional project."

Potential burdens of coping with the pastoral letter at the parish level were cited by Archbishop Edward McCarthy of Miami, who noted that pastors are also being asked to deal with other pastoral letters, background for the 1987 visit of Pope John Paul II to the United States, and numerous other responsibilities.

"I'm concerned about the forlorn and defenseless parish priest," he said.

The plan says immediate attention will be on helping the local Church with the pastoral and adds that the "ultimate goal is to assist individual Catholics in discovering the meaning of the pastoral letter and making it an integral part of their faith, their spirituality and their daily lives."

The plan recommends creation of diocesan task forces, with representatives from various chancery offices, to oversee projects and activities locally.

At the level of the NCCB and its public policy twin, the U.S. Catholic Conference, the plan calls for creation of a committee of three bishops and other resource persons to coordinate national implementation of the pastoral letter.

The first national-level activity recommended in the plan is a feasibility study, to be completed in a year, to "refine the concept, explore possibilities for funding and determine an effective organizational structure" for follow-up.

Various forms of an "ongoing mechanism" for follow-up have been proposed, including a Catholic public-policy analysis institute, public-policy papers commissioned from experts and work with Catholic colleges and universities, the plan states.

The plan also cites the widespread interest in a follow-up because the subject of the pastoral is complex.

And, according to the plan, "concern has also been expressed that without some guidance from the bishops, the future of the pastoral letter may be determined by those who do not share our values."

### Archbishops May, Pilarczyk elected to top NCCB posts

By Julie Asher  
**Washington (NC)** — Archbishop John L. May of St. Louis was elected president of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops and U.S. Catholic Conference Nov. 11 for a three-year term.

Archbishop Daniel E. Pilarczyk of Cincinnati was elected vice president, also for three years.

Archbishop May, 64, NCCB-USCC vice president for the past three years, was elected president on the second ballot with 164 votes. The nine other nominees combined received 126 votes.

Archbishop Pilarczyk, 52, chairman of the NCCB Committee on Liturgy, won a runoff against Cardinal Bernard F. Law of Boston, getting 159 votes to Cardinal Law's 116.

Archbishop May succeeds Bishop James W. Malone of Youngstown, Ohio, who was the first bishop rather than an archbishop to be elected NCCB president. His term ended at the conclusion of the bishops' Nov. 10-13 meeting in Washington.

In addition to being vice president for the

past three years, Archbishop May has been chairman of the NCCB Committees on Personnel and Administration and of an ad hoc committee formed to study implications of the proposed Equal Rights Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

Archbishop May, who was named head of the St. Louis Archdiocese in 1980, is the seventh prelate to serve as president of the NCCB and its public policy arm, the USCC, since the twin agencies were formed in 1966 to replace the now defunct National Catholic Welfare Conference.

Archbishop Pilarczyk, in addition to heading the bishops' liturgy committee, last summer headed a three-bishop panel which examined the controversy over the appointment to the NCCB of Jesuit Father Michael Buckley as executive director of its Committee on Doctrine.

Though there were allegations that Father Buckley had dissented from Church teaching on the ordination of women, Archbishop Pilarczyk's panel determined that the priest's position was "theologically sound and in

accord with Church teaching."

Archbishop May was named an auxiliary bishop of Chicago in 1967. In 1969 he was appointed bishop of the Diocese of Mobile, Ala., a newly created diocese.

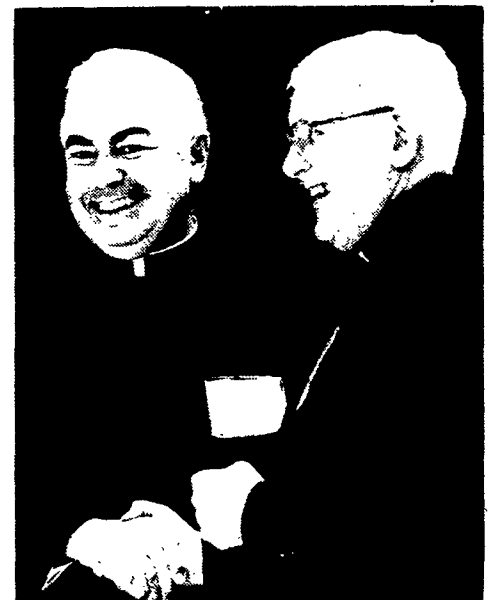
While in Mobile he was outspoken about the Vietnam War, calling for a quick end to it. He also spoke out strongly for school desegregation.

Born in Evanston, Ill., March 31, 1922, he was ordained a priest of the Archdiocese of Chicago May 3, 1947.

The other presidents have been Cardinal John Dearden of Detroit (1966-71); Cardinal John Krol of Philadelphia (1971-74); Archbishop Joseph L. Bernardin of Cincinnati, now cardinal of Chicago (1974-77); Archbishop John R. Quinn of San Francisco (1977-80); Archbishop John R. Roach of St. Paul-Minneapolis (1980-83); and Bishop Malone (1983-86).

Archbishop Pilarczyk has headed the Archdiocese of Cincinnati since 1982. Born in Dayton, Ohio, Aug. 12, 1934, he was ordained a priest of the Cincinnati Archdiocese in 1959.

In Cincinnati he was an assistant chancellor of the archdiocese, teacher and rector at the archdiocesan seminary, and archdiocesan vicar for education before being named an auxiliary bishop in Cincinnati in 1974.



NC Photo

Bishop James Malone (right) of Youngstown, Ohio, outgoing president of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops, congratulates his successor, Archbishop John May of St. Louis. Archbishop May, previously vice president of the conference, began his three-year term at the end of the bishops' annual meeting in Washington.

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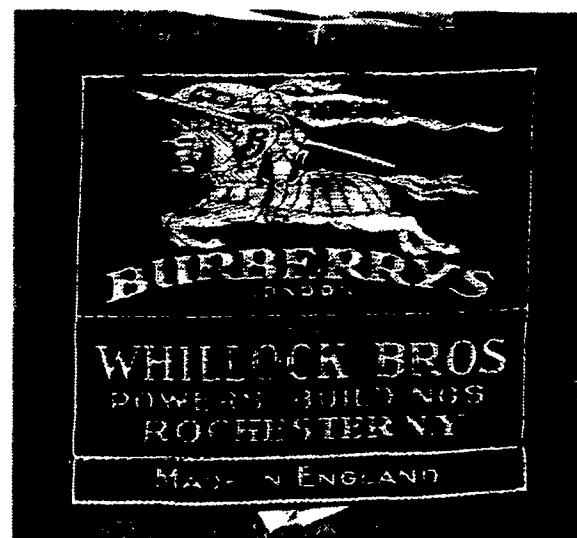
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