

National/International Report

Bishop declares 'time for armaments is over'

By Ray Armstrong

Cape Canaveral, Fla. (NC) — A "Cancel the Countdown" protest of the Trident II nuclear missile at Cape Canaveral ended Jan. 17 with 138 arrests and with Auxiliary Bishop Thomas J. Gumbleton of Detroit declaring that "the time for armaments is over."

The rally began Dec. 28 with prayers at the Kings Bay, Ga., Trident submarine base. After a peace march from the Georgia base, protests began Jan. 14 at the Cape Canaveral Air Force Station.

An unarmed Trident II missile was launched Jan. 15 in the first of a series of tests.

During a Jan. 16, prayer vigil at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, Melbourne, a crowd of 300 heard Bishop Gumbleton, Pax Christi USA president, say that working for peace "might mean letting go of our privileged place in the world — living more simply, more austere, and changing our lifestyle, like refusing to work for the defense industry."

"It might mean accepting ridicule and hostility," he warned. "Can't you hear God say to us, 'Your conversion lies in tranquility and peace — in complete trust.'"

Bishop Gumbleton reminded his audience that in the 1983 peace pastoral, "The Challenge of Peace: God's Promise and Our Response," the U.S. bishops said that to be part of the community of Jesus means to regard as normal the path of persecution and possibly martyrdom.

"We can follow the way of violence, a way of sin and death, or we can pray we will be converted," he said.

The following day more than 4,000 activists heard Bishop Gumbleton and Dr. Benjamin Spock deplore the U.S. arms buildup.

The bishop told the crowd that "the government has not realized that the time of armaments is over." The Soviets, he said, stopped testing for 18 months while the United States refused.

"Apparently, we have made a resolve to die," he said. "We are already approaching spiritual death" but he called upon the audience to "choose life not death."

He urged them to keep working to "save our bodies, our lives, our souls."

Spock, 83, who later scaled a barbed wire fence at the Air Force station, criticized President Reagan for not concluding even one arms treaty with the Soviets.

When the mile-long march moved toward the Cape Canaveral gate about 150 counter-demonstrators were waiting.

"They have no right. We need nuclear weapons to stay ahead of the Russians," said Tommy Herman, one of the pro-arms supporters. "If they don't like it here, they can move there. They're not real Americans any way, they're communists."

Contributing to this story was Dave Finnerty



NC photo
PEACE BOOST — Peace activist and author Dr. Benjamin Spock is helped over a fence at Cape Canaveral Air Force Station.

Public unaware of late-term abortions, pro-lifers say at film premiere

By Stephenie Overman

Washington (NC)

— Few Americans realize that legal abortions are performed through the ninth month of pregnancy, pro-lifers said at the premiere of a new film, "Eclipse of Reason," produced by Bernard N. Nathanson MD.



Dr. Nathanson

The film is a sequel to Nathanson's controversial "Silent Scream," which shows the effects of a suction abortion. The new film was shown Jan. 21 at a special congressional screening sponsored by Sen. Gordon Humphrey, R-N.H., and Reps. Chris Smith, R-N.J., and Alan Mollohan, D-W.Va.

Another film, to address accusations of technical manipulation made about "Silent Scream," was to be shown Jan. 22, the day of the annual March for Life.

"Eclipse of Reason" shows a dilation and evacuation abortion — the dismemberment of an unborn child within the uterus — performed during the 19th or 20th week of pregnancy, according to Nathanson.

The 15-minute film "is very strong, it is graphic," said Nathanson, a former abortionist who has joined the pro-life cause. He

said the film has been described as gory but that "regrettably it is necessary to show such a film."

Smith, who introduced Nathanson and the film, said, "It's a story that has to be told. Ignorance is not bliss." He said that such medical advances as ultrasound photography have "revolutionized the mindset that an unborn baby is an inanimate object."

Maura K. Quinlan, chief staff counsel for Americans United for Life, said that while most Americans understand that abortion is legal during the first three months of pregnancy, "few are aware that in the last three months it is available virtually on demand."

She said it is "perfectly legal" for two women, both seven months pregnant, to go to a hospital "one to deliver a premature baby and one have her baby dismembered."

Abortion supporters downplay abortions performed in the final trimester, saying they account for only 1 percent of abortions, Quinlan said. "That may not sound like many," she said, but with an estimated 1.3 million to 1.6 million abortions performed each year it means that 13,000 to 16,000 are done "at a time when the unborn child could survive. That's 250 to 300 a week."

She said 400 to 500 unintended live births occur each year, a fact that is considered a "complication" of abortion. The solution recommended, she added, is to perform

abortions by dismemberment.

Nathanson cited statistics for abortions performed in both the second and third trimester of pregnancy. He estimated that about 1.5 million abortions are performed each year, with 8 to 10 percent performed in the fourth month or later.

Late abortions "are twice as dangerous as childbirth," he said.

Nathanson cited a study by Dr. William Swartz of 700 women who had "late-gestation abortions" to show that abortions are being performed in late pregnancy. The study was presented at a conference sponsored by Planned Parenthood of San Diego and Riverside counties and the University of California, San Diego, School of Medicine, La Jolla.

Pope cites 'spiritual dynamism' of unity week

By Agostino Bono

Vatican City (NC) — The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity provides a "spiritual dynamism" which helps overcome divisions among Christians, said Pope John Paul II.

"Our prayers give fresh vigor to the movement toward unity, sustain it in moments of difficulty and keep it always directed toward its final goal," he said.

The pope spoke at his Jan. 21 weekly general audience, which fell during the Jan. 18-25 focus on ecumenism.

Through baptism, Christians share a "radical unity in Christ" but current divisions weaken the effect Christianity has in improving the world, he said.

"Only when we experience complete ecclesial communion can we bear credible witness to the new creation to which Christ calls all humanity," Pope John Paul added.

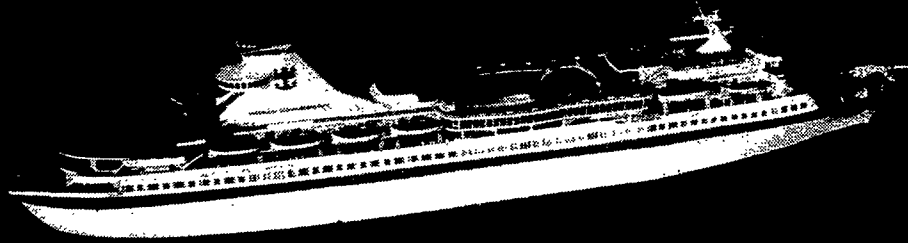
Christians who prayed together at the Oct. 27 prayer summit for peace in Assisi, Italy, were an example of how Christians should witness together, he said.

"It was almost a prefiguration of the day when we will no longer have divisions," the pope said.

"The presence at Assisi of numerous representatives of Christian communions and churches was undoubtedly a fruit of the new relationships instituted among Christians and at the same time made us aware of the possibility and the urgency of undertaking new steps toward full reconciliation," he said.

"As Christians, we prayed together to the Prince of Peace, manifesting our desire to serve the good of the whole human family," the pope added.

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