

World & Nation



Elizabeth A. Harburs NC News

Archbishop Thomas J. Murphy, new coadjutor of Seattle, addresses the congregation gathered for special ceremonies welcoming him to the archdiocese. The former bishop of Great Falls-Billings, Montana, pledged "to work together to preserve the unity which has the Spirit as its origin."

New Seattle coadjutor greeted with embrace, grateful prayers

Seattle (NC) — Prayers for unity and healing within the Archdiocese of Seattle, as well as prayers of gratitude, greeted Coadjutor Archbishop Thomas J. Murphy as he was formally welcomed to Seattle July 13.

Archbishop Raymond G. Hunthausen of Seattle prayed that God's blessings would be with his new coadjutor. As the two embraced, the congregation burst into applause.

More than 800 people, including 15 visiting bishops and members of Archbishop Murphy's family, attended the invitation-only welcoming service at St. James Cathedral.

Archbishop Murphy said that a "primary" reason he accepted his assignment as a coadjutor with the right of succession in Seattle was the "ability and opportunity to work, pray, laugh dream and even cry at times with our archbishop, Raymond Hunthausen."

Pope John Paul II appointed Archbishop Murphy coadjutor May 27. The appointment followed a recommendation from a Vatican-created commission which assessed the situation in Seattle after a 1983 apostolic visitation and the 1985 appointment of Auxiliary Bishop Donald Wuerl. Bishop Wuerl was given special authority over certain Church jurisdictions which were removed from the direct control of Archbishop Hunthausen.

Bishop Wuerl left Seattle to await reassignment after his role was terminated with the appointment of Archbishop Murphy and the restoration of Archbishop Hunthausen's powers in May.

Archbishops Hunthausen and Murphy said at a press conference July 15 that they would meet with the Vatican-created com-

mission before August 1, probably in Chicago. The commission consists of Cardinals Joseph L. Bernardin of Chicago and John J. O'Connor of New York, and Archbishop John R. Quinn of San Francisco.

The commission will set the agenda, but "we will obviously want to converse with them" about their expectations regarding the See over the next year, Archbishop Hunthausen said.

During the welcoming service, Archbishop Murphy discussed Jesus' invitation in John's Gospel to "come and see."

"I have heard the invitation shared by Jesus with those who chose to follow him," he said. "And in the process, I have been blessed; I have been enriched in ways that boggle the human mind."

The blessings, he said, have included his 20-year ministry as a priest of the Archdiocese of Chicago and his past nine years as bishop of Great Falls-Billings, Mont.

Of his appointment in western Washington, Archbishop Murphy said: "I have been invited to 'come and see' and to discover the presence of the Lord." He promised to "work together to preserve the unity which has the spirit as its origin and peace as its binding force."

Archbishop Hunthausen welcomed Archbishop Murphy as "a brother and as a friend," pledging him "our respect, our support, and our love."

Speaking as a former bishop of Helena, Mont., Archbishop Hunthausen told Archbishop Murphy: "I know that you will soon come to call this beautiful part of God's creation, this Church, 'home,' and that you will find, as I have, that there is much, much love here — and much worth loving."

Former auxiliary awaits reassignment

By Greg Erlandson

Vatican City (NC) — Pope John Paul II met privately with Bishop Donald W. Wuerl following a 25-minute session with Bishop Wuerl and other members of a Vatican-commissioned study of U.S. seminaries, the Vatican announced.

The Vatican released no further details of the July 7 meetings.

Bishop Wuerl is currently awaiting reassignment since the termination in May of his duties as auxiliary bishop of Seattle with special governing powers.

Appointed in 1985 to Seattle, Bishop Wuerl was the subject of fierce controversy in the northwest archdiocese until his assignment was ended with the naming of Archbishop Thomas J. Murphy as coadjutor to Archbishop Raymond G. Hunthausen.

Bishop Wuerl was appointed to the Seattle post following a 1983 investigation into complaints about Archbishop Hunthausen's leadership. He was expected to assist Archbishop Hunthausen in dealing with aspects of church life that the Vatican identified as problem areas.

When Bishop Wuerl's assignment was terminated at the end of May, U.S. papal pronuncio Archbishop Pio Laghi announced that "Bishop Wuerl remains at the disposition of the Holy See for another assignment."

After the bishop's meeting with the pope, he declined to say whether they had discussed another post.

Before their private meeting, the pope met Bishop Wuerl together with Cardinal William Wakefield Baum, head of the Vatican Congregation for Catholic Education, which oversees seminaries; Bishop John Marshall of Burlington, named by the Vatican to oversee the seminary study; and Msgr. Richard Pates, executive secretary of the study.

The study was first announced in 1981. A report to the U.S. bishops by the congregation on the review of free-standing theology seminaries was released last October. Studies of union theologates and college-level seminaries are scheduled to be completed this year.

Permitting Nicaraguans to stay in U.S. seen as politically motivated

By Laurie Hansen

Washington (NC) — A U.S. Catholic Conference official views the Reagan administration's decision allowing Nicaraguans to remain in the United States as an effort to undercut support for legislation providing "extended voluntary departure" to Salvadorans and Nicaraguans.

But news of the decision was welcomed in Miami where Monsignor Bryan O. Walsh, executive director of the archdiocese's Catholic Community Services, said it averted a "major community crisis" in that city.

The Reagan administration announced July 8 that Nicaraguan exiles will be permitted to remain in the United States under a liberalized immigration policy.

Had that decision not been made, Monsignor Walsh said that Miami would have had to contend with an estimated 50,000-70,000 Nicaraguans "unable to work, pay rent or buy food" as a result of employer sanctions detailed in the 1986 immigration reform law.

Because the vast majority of Nicaraguans in Miami entered the United States after Jan. 1, 1982, the eligibility cutoff date, they do not qualify for amnesty provisions in the immigration law, Monsignor Walsh.

A Justice Department statement announced that Attorney General Edwin Meese

III signed an order stating that Nicaraguans who have fled to the United States can remain here.

Nicaraguans "with a well-founded fear of persecution" from the Nicaraguan government will not be deported unless they have engaged in serious criminal activity or pose danger to national security, the statement said.

Nicaraguans will be permitted to remain in the United States "for the present" under Meese's order, which "is effective until further notice," it said.

Every qualified Nicaraguan seeking work authorization will be granted it, the statement said. It encouraged Nicaraguans whose claims for asylum or withholding of deportation have been denied to reapply.

Calling the decision "more a PR (public relations) move than a substantive move," Monsignor Nicholas DiMarzio, executive director of the USCC's Migration and Refugee Services, said in an interview that a "better route to take" would have been to back legislation proposed by Sen. Dennis DeConcini, D-Ariz., and Rep. Joseph

Continued on Page 7

Conservative newspaper circulates petition against liberal 'alliances'

By Jerry Filteau

Washington (NC) — Conservative Catholics have sent a letter of petition to Pope John Paul II, charging that "alliances" of Catholic theologians and bureaucrats who seek to undermine Church teaching "often dominate" Catholic parish, diocesan and national leadership.

Those alliances place "such an overemphasis on the laity" that essential distinctions between priests and the laity tend to disappear, the 2,000-word letter said.

Circulated by *The Wanderer* and endorsed by a Catholics United for the Faith chapter and a coalition of similar organizations, the letter also warned of "wholesale abandonment of the Church's teaching on sexual morality."

Mass is being reduced to "a mere Communion service," it said, and there is "a growing casualness or actual lack of reverence" for the Eucharist, as "a bevy of lay ministers flock to have a role" in distributing Communion.

"The need for relief is crucial and immediate," the petitioners told the pope.

The letter claimed backing from the International Alliance of Catholic Lay Associations, an ad hoc group of 29 organizations in the United States and 10 abroad.

Alphonse J. Matt Jr., editor of *The Wanderer*, an independent Catholic weekly published in St. Paul, Minn., circulated the letter with the July 9 issue of his paper. He also urged readers to sign accompanying petition forms in support of it.

Matt said that the letter was delivered to the pope in May, with an eye toward influencing the direction of this fall's World Synod of Bishops on the laity.

Specifically, the petitioners asked the pope to:

- see that the power of local "ecclesiastical bureaucracies" responsible for spreading errors "be sharply limited and defined;"
- call a new synod soon on the priesthood to restore "the proper balance between the ordained and the unordained;"
- choose as bishops only priests who "understand the reality and danger of the new conceptions" circulating in the Church;
- issue "a true catechism for the whole Church" to replace the "inadequate" local ones now in use.