

## World &amp; Nation

## Condom clause draws fire

## Several U.S. bishops take aim against AIDS statement

By Jerry Filteau

Washington (NC) — Calling last week's USCC statement on AIDS "a very grave mistake," Cardinal John J. O'Connor took the lead in criticizing the document. The statement, which had been authorized by the U.S. bishops' Administrative Board, says the bishops would — under certain circumstances — tolerate the presentation of information on condom use within educational programs designed to combat AIDS.

Among those who publicly lined up behind the New York cardinal in opposing condom education were Cardinal Bernard F. Law of Boston, Archbishop Theodore E. McCarrick of Newark, New Orleans' Archbishop Philip M. Hannan and bishops of Massachusetts, Vermont, New Hampshire, Maine and New Jersey.

The USCC Administrative Board is a panel of about 50 bishops, composed of the NCCB-USCC's executive officers, heads of the committees of the two conferences, and other elected representatives of the bishops.

The board's December 11 AIDS statement addressed a wide range of moral, medical, social, legal, pastoral and spiritual issues surrounding AIDS.

The disputed passage concerning condom information urged that all educational programs be "grounded in the broader moral vision" of "the dignity and destiny of the human person, the morality of human actions and ... the consequences of individual choices for the whole of society."

The board statement stressed the Church's teaching that insists on sexual abstinence outside marriage and fidelity within marriage as the only moral course of action.

Cardinal O'Connor predicted that many bishops across the country would publicly reject the position on condom education spelled out in the board's December 11 statement.

On the other hand, Archbishop John L. May of St. Louis, president of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops and U.S. Catholic Conference, said December 14 that the USCC Administrative Board's statement "does not call for any changes in the Church's constant teaching concerning proper moral behavior."

In his December 14 statement, Archbishop May said of condom education, "For us not

to address such aspects of the AIDS phenomenon would leave people to learn of them through factually misleading campaigns designed to sell certain products or to advocate safe sex without reference to a moral perspective."

Archbishop May's assurance, however, did not convince many prelates in New England. Cardinal Law and the 16 other bishops of Massachusetts, Maine, Vermont and New Hampshire issued a statement December 12, rejecting any toleration of condom education.

"We cannot approve or seem to approve the distribution of information regarding contraceptive devices and methods which might lead some to think that they could in good conscience ignore or contradict this teaching," the joint statement said.

The New England statement said that the Administrative Board's statement and press reports on it "have generated considerable confusion concerning the Church's position on the use of prophylactic devices as a protection against AIDS," acquired immune deficiency syndrome.

In New Jersey, Archbishop McCarrick said the board's statement "seems to open the door to a toleration of certain types of public educational programs which my own statement, issued on behalf of the bishops of New Jersey, would not allow."

The New Jersey statement to which the archbishop referred was issued November 9. It called the promotion of condoms as a means of AIDS prevention "foolish and irresponsible."

"The Catholic Church cannot approve or condone any promotion in media advertising or educational materials of condom use as a method of preventing the transmission of AIDS," Archbishop McCarrick's statement said.

In his December 17 column in the New Orleans' archdiocesan newspaper, the Clarion Herald, Archbishop Hannan wrote, "I disagree with the statement from a moral standpoint as well as from the aspect of utility."

He added that "the only real prevention for AIDS is chastity, obeying the will of God in regard to sexual intercourse."

Bishop John F. Donoghue of Charlotte, N.C., said he was opposed to the statement

for the same reasons cited by other bishops.

Several leading prelates argued that the problem was not with the statement itself, however, but with media coverage of it. Cardinal John J. Krol of Philadelphia and his designated successor, Archbishop Anthony J. Bevilacqua, issued a joint statement saying it was an "erroneous interpretation" to view the statement as in any way a relaxation of Church teaching against the use of contraceptives.

They said the misinterpretation "impels clarification" that the Church considers the use of condoms "morally wrong."

Cincinnati's Archbishop Daniel E. Pilarczyk, vice president of the NCCB-USCC, also said that any perception of the statement as a change in Church teaching stemmed solely from "media interpretation." He said that informing people of health experts' recommendations on condom use "and pointing out to ... that their recommendations are unacceptable hardly constitutes advocacy or dissemination of contraceptive information."

When the AIDS statement was released, Bishop William A. Hughes of Covington, Ky., head of the task force of bishops that

drafted the document, said the fatal nature of AIDS put it in a separate category from other sexually transmitted diseases and warranted the toleration of condom information in a pluralistic society as "the lesser of two evils."

He said that "theologians of diverse persuasion" reviewed the statement before it was published and found it "theologically correct."

The New York Times quoted drafting-committee member Cardinal Joseph L. Bernardin of Chicago as saying he was "particularly pleased with the document because, in my opinion, it brings together two crucial components; it is faithful to the Catholic doctrinal and moral traditions, and it is sensitive to the human dimensions of the issue."

When Bishop Hughes presented the document at a Covington press conference, he said the bishops on the Administrative Board approved it "without any audible dissent."

Archbishop McCarrick, who is a member of the board, said he was absent from the November meeting at which the statement was approved.

## Portland parishioners receive news that pastor has contracted AIDS

By Tony Staley

Portland, Ore. (NC) — At Father Peter Davis' insistence, his parishioners were informed December 6 that their pastor has contracted the deadly AIDS virus. According to a Jesuit spokesman, Father Davis' illness was revealed during a prayer service at St. Ignatius Parish in Portland because the Jesuit priest believes AIDS victims should not be modern-day lepers, abandoned by their friends.

The terminally-ill priest has been on leave since August. Jesuit officials said Father Davis believes he was infected through sexual contact with an adult male who is neither a priest nor a member of St. Ignatius Parish.

Father Davis' doctor and Jesuit officials say neither parishioners nor children in the parish school were in danger of contracting the disease through casual contact with the priest, including reception of Communion.

AIDS weakens the body's natural defenses and eventually leads to death. The disease is spread through sexual contact with an infected person, sharing infected needles by intravenous drug users, or by receiving a transfusion of infected blood.

Portland Archbishop William J. Levada called on people to respond to those who contract AIDS "with a compassion patterned on God's unconditional love."

Jesuit Father Brad Reynolds, press spokesman for the Northwest Jesuits, said Father Davis insisted that others know because he believes that AIDS victims are often modern-day lepers abandoned by friends and family. Father Davis does not want to follow that pattern, Father Reynolds said.

In a December 6 statement, Archbishop

Levada said "AIDS is not a curse from God. It is a disease for which, unfortunately, there is no cure. Our prayers and concerns are with Father Davis at this sad time."

"Our Catholic people have a great reservoir of compassion and sympathy," the archbishop said. "Father Davis' former parishioners will respond with that same compassion, sympathy and understanding."

Archbishop Levada stressed the importance of Catholic teachings that require celibacy of unmarried people, including priests. He said he will form an interdisciplinary task force to address AIDS education issues throughout the archdiocese.

Father Davis, 42, first became ill in August and has been on sick leave since that time. He first was diagnosed as having ulcers in his esophagus. Because of this condition, the 5-foot-11 priest lost 60 pounds and now weighs 115 pounds. In early November doctors told him that he had AIDS. He then notified his family, Jesuit leaders, other members of the Jesuit community and members of the staff at St. Ignatius.

The announcement of his condition was made at a special prayer service called by the parish's acting administrator, Jesuit Father Paul Janowiak. "Father Davis recently learned that he has a terminal illness. Father Davis has AIDS," Father Janowiak told the congregation.

Jesuit Father Frank Case, the order's provincial, told parishioners that their support gives Father Davis strength and spiritual energy. He said the priest was too weak to answer mail or to greet visitors.

Parishioners sent him cards and letters and a decorated Christmas tree.

"I know God forgives and he wants others to forgive too," Father Case said.

## Bishops

Continued from Page 1

Recognized that in a pluralistic society not all people agree with their view of human sexuality, the bishops acknowledged that some people do not always "act as they can and should" or refrain from high-risk behaviors associated with AIDS.

"In such situations educational efforts, if grounded in the broader moral vision outlined above, could include accurate information about prophylactic devices (condoms) or other practices proposed by some medical experts as potential means of preventing AIDS," they said.

"We are not promoting the use of prophylactics, but merely providing information that is part of the factual picture," they added.

"Such a factual presentation should indicate that abstinence outside of marriage and fidelity within marriage as well as the avoidance of intravenous drug abuse are the only morally correct and medically sure ways to prevent the spread of AIDS," the statement said.

They also said those who are infected have a serious moral responsibility not to put others at risk through their behavior.

The bishops also:

- Urged compassion and understanding

for AIDS victims, especially through pastoral care by Catholic parishes and dioceses, and strongly condemned an increase in violence and discrimination against homosexual men and women.

- Rejected any AIDS testing used "strictly for discriminatory purposes" and questioned the need for widespread mandatory testing. They suggested, however, that federal funds be provided for voluntary testing and confidentiality of results.

- Criticized the refusal of medical and dental treatment for AIDS patients by some health-care workers, and said Catholic hospitals in particular have an obligation to provide care to victims.

- Called for adequate private and public funding for AIDS research and education, expansion of support services for patients and family members, and effective media programs to reduce fear, prejudice and discrimination.

The bishops' AIDS task force was headed by Bishop William A. Hughes of Covington, Ky., chairman of the bishops' Committee on Education.

It included Cardinal Joseph L. Bernardin of Chicago, chairman of the bishops' Committee on Pro-Life Activities; Bishop Raymond W. Lessard of Savannah, Ga., chairman of the bishops' Committee on Doctrine; and Bishop Anthony Bosco of Greensburg, Pa., chairman of the bishops' Committee on Communication.



# Rund's

**ON THE RIDGE**  
RESTAURANT & PARTY HOUSE

**Holiday Buffet**

**\$17<sup>95</sup>**

**All You Can Eat**

**Featuring:** Snow Crab Legs  
(Limit 2 lbs.) Broiled Shrimp, Roast Chicken, Ham, U-Peel Shrimp, Crab Salad, Shrimp Salad, Potato, Vegetable and Soup.

**Including:** Full Salad Bar.

Expires 12/22/87

**COMBINATION PLATTER**

14 oz. N.Y. Strip  
Your Choice  
Broiled Shrimp  
or  
Broiled Scallops

**\$10<sup>95</sup>**

(2.00 extra-Full Salad Bar)  
Exp. 12/22/87

**LUNCHEON BUFFET**

**Featuring:** Fried Shrimp, Baked Chicken, Broiled Ocean White Fish

**\$5<sup>95</sup>**

**Including:** Full Salad Bar 11-3

Exp. 12/22/87

**SUNSET SPECIALS**

Prime Rib  
or  
Crab Stuffed Haddock

**\$5<sup>95</sup>**

Exp. 12/22/87  
**OPEN Christmas Day 1-8**  
**GIFT CERTIFICATES Available**

FULL MENU SERVED FROM 11:00 AM



# Rund's

**ON THE RIDGE**  
RESTAURANT & PARTY HOUSE

In Ridgmont Plaza — 2833 Ridge Rd. West, Greece, NY

227-2510