

et cetera

AIDS paper

Continued from Page 1

ally said. A discussion of the document by the bishops would be within that context, he said.

Archbishop May said he would "review this possibility with the members of the Administrative Board when it meets in March."

"The statement of the Administrative Board on AIDS has not been withdrawn or set aside," Cardinal Bernardin said in a separate statement issued in Chicago.

"At their next meeting in June," Cardinal Bernardin added, "the U.S. bishops may discuss the reception that the document has received in the media and elsewhere, as well as its underlying moral principles. The final decision as to its placement on the agenda of the June meeting will be made at the March meeting of the NCCB-USCC Administrative Board."

Despite the publication in New York of excerpts from his letter, Archbishop May would not release the whole text.

William Ryan, public affairs spokesman for the NCCB-USCC, said December 29 that Archbishop May intended his letter to the bishops "as a private communication to the members of the conference and did not intend that it would be released."

Joseph Zwilling, assistant director of the New York archdiocesan communications office, said the office's December 28 press release had not been requested by Cardinal John J. O'Connor, archbishop of New York. Nor had the cardinal approved the release in advance of its dissemination, Zwilling said.

Cardinal O'Connor was one of the statement's strongest critics. Shortly after the statement was made public, he told the Times that its publication was a "very grave mistake."

Zwilling said his office received a copy of Archbishop May's letter and decided to release portions of it because of numerous inquiries from journalists. He added that the communications office was unaware that the letter was not intended for public dissemination.

Another severe critic of the AIDS statement was Archbishop J. Francis Stafford of Denver, who directly challenged the theology behind the statement's toleration of condom information.

A number of bishops around the country defended the statement as doctrinally correct and pastorally appropriate.

Some criticized news stories for failing to capture the nuances of the statement, particularly the difference between providing accurate information about prophylactics in educational programs and using such programs to promote or endorse the use of prophylactics.

Some other bishops said part of the blame

lay with the statement itself, because it was vague and ambiguous.

The day after Archbishop May's December 17 letter was sent out, the bishops of Pennsylvania issued a joint statement on the confusion surrounding the AIDS statement. They said they "would presume that this matter will be brought to the attention of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops at its next plenary session."

In a two-page December 22 statement, Bishop Phillip F. Straling of San Bernardino, Calif., said he would prefer to see the

original committee that drafted the statement "rework the document following nationwide input and that it be presented to all the United States bishops at our June meeting."

Bishop R. Pierre DuMaine of San Jose, Calif., said if the original document had been presented for a decision by the whole body of bishops "I would have voted for it without reservation."

He stressed that the disagreement among the bishops over the document "is not about what the bishops must teach, but how they can best teach it."

St. Mary's Hospital exceeds 1987 Christmas basket goal

More than 60 St. Mary's Hospital staff members, volunteers, administrators and their families delivered Christmas baskets to needy families Saturday, Dec. 19. In its fourth year offering the program, the hospital expects to exceed its 1987 goal of 100 Christmas baskets, which are each equipped with enough food to last a family for one week.

Recipients of the Christmas baskets are reviewed and selected by a special committee consisting of staff members throughout the hospital. The only criteria is that potential recipients are patients of St. Mary's and are in need of assistance. All recipients are notified in advance once their eligibility has been determined.

The Christmas baskets include a ham or turkey, fresh fruits and vegetables, eggs, bread,

milk, as well as a pie, an assortment of canned fruits and vegetables, pastas and more.

Since 1984, the Christmas basket program at St. Mary's has grown tremendously. Twenty-five baskets were delivered in 1984, followed by 49 in 1985 and 69 in 1986.

Hospital staff members, physicians, administrators, trustees, volunteers, visitors and friends donate food and money for the baskets. In addition, sizeable donations are received from Rochester-area businesses.

Members of the team include Patrick Madden, president of St. Mary's Hospital, and his family; Sister Eileen Kinnarny, chairman of the board; and Mary Jean Herberger, president of the Seton branches and a member of the Women's Board and her family.

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