

## World &amp; Nation

## Capsules

## Nuns receive second warning

Washington — Two nuns who face expulsion from the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur because of their positions on abortion were issued a second formal letter threatening them with dismissal if they do not change their views.

Sister Catherine Hughes, general moderator of the order, notified Sisters Barbara Ferraro and Patricia Hussey February 17 that their refusal to comply with the demand "will result in the invoking of the procedure for dismissal" by her and her fellow top superiors.

## Walkout spurs controversy

North Little Rock, Ark. — Controversy has erupted in central Arkansas as a result of a small group of Catholics' reaction to a homily given at a North Little Rock parish by a visiting priest representing Pax Christi USA.

The homily, which focused on non-violence and decried U.S. support of the Nicaraguan rebels, prompted about six churchgoers to walk out of the church in the middle of Mass.

The incident triggered reaction from area Catholics during a local radio talk show and in letters to the Arkansas Catholic, newspaper of the Diocese of Little Rock.

The sermon was delivered January 31 by Father Bernard Servil, community outreach coordinator for Pax Christi USA.

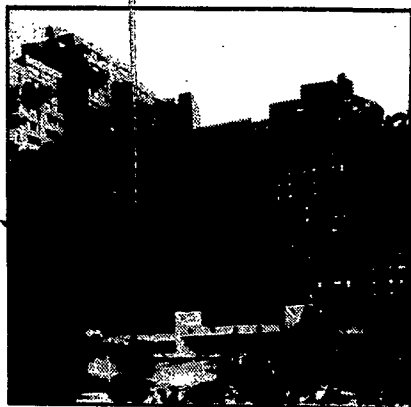
## Synod rejects experiment ban

London — The Church of England's general synod has rejected the idea of a total ban on embryo experiments.

Meeting in London February 8-11, the synod welcomed the British government's commitment to establish an independent licensing authority to regulate research and infertility services. The synod also supported the proposal that all surrogate motherhood arrangements should be left outside the protection of the law in order to discourage the practice.

However, it rejected the idea of outlawing experimentation on human embryos.

The  
Plaza Apartments  
Offer  
DOWNTOWN LIVING  
For  
SENIOR CITIZENS



## Genesee River View and:

- Subsidized rents
- Secured Enclosed Parking
- Community Activities
- Convenient transportation
- Delicatessen on premises
- Shopping
- Complete Carpeting
- Convenient to medical facilities
- On site library
- 24-hour security

Section 8 HUD rental assistance available

Studio,  
One Bedroom & Two Bedroom Apartments

The Plaza Apartments

125 St. Paul Street  
9:00-4:30 325-5232

Managed by Genesee Management, Inc.

## Arrest of leaders halts S. Africa talks

By Carmel Rickard

Durban, South Africa (NC) — After key black leaders were detained by the government, church leaders in the Natal province canceled peace talks aimed at halting politically generated violence among black groups.

The talks were to have begun February 23 as an attempt to formulate conditions for a truce to end the killings, maimings and arsons. More than 400 people have died in township violence in the last year.

Among clerics who were to host the talks was Archbishop Denis Hurley of Durban. Invitations to the talks were issued by the president of the Methodist Church in Southern Africa, the Rev. Khozo Mgojo.

The fighting is largely taking place between supporters of Zulu Chief Magosuthu Buthelezi's conservative Inkatha political-cultural group on the one hand, and the racially integrated United Democratic Front and the Congress of South African Trade Unions on the other. Buthelezi is regarded as being too cooperative with the country's white-minority government.

Each side blames the other for the violence, but outsiders generally view the conflict as a power struggle between the two sides.

Less than three weeks before the talks were to begin, security police in the provincial capital of Pietermaritzburg detained a number of township-level leaders of the United Democratic Front under South Africa's state-of-emergency regulations. No reasons have been given for their detentions, and they may be held indefinitely.

Although about 800 members of the United Democratic Front and the trade union congress are believed to be detained in the Pietermaritzburg area, no Inkatha member is known to be in detention.

An official of the United Democratic Front, Archie Gumede, said he and a delegation from his organization spoke to Mr. Mgojo February 17.

"There seemed to be no point in holding a meeting to speak about the problems of Pietermaritzburg townships when none of our leaders from those areas would be free to attend," said Gumede.

"The church leaders agreed with our point of view," he added. "They accepted our feeling that under the circumstances, this does not seem the time to pursue these talks."

Some church ministers have estimated that 60,000 to 100,000 people are in need of emergency food and other services because of the violence, which has included the torching of homes. One Anglican minister cited a need for schools for children who have fled and cannot return to their homes.

The week the peace talks were canceled, a 70-year-old man was stabbed to death two



A child lies on a mattress outside his home in a burning squatter camp Cape Town, South Africa. At least two people were killed and 350 shacks destroyed after two nights of fighting between two factions competing for sites in the overcrowded camp. More than 400 people have died in township violence during the last year.

days after he helped take an urgent application to the provincial Supreme Court to impose a restraining order on certain Inkatha leaders.

The application contained detailed statements from eyewitnesses alleging Inkatha leaders were guilty of serious crimes. The allegations were denied, and oral evidence will be heard at a later date.

On February 18 police confirmed they had found the body of an 18-year-old Inkatha youth. He had been stabbed to death, and his hands and feet had been hacked from his

body.

Concern is growing about the lack of cases going to court since the violence began last year. Both sides say police are biased, but police say they cannot find witnesses to testify.

Potential witnesses are threatened that if they testify, they and their families will be killed. A common form of dissuasion is for a group of men to parade outside the home of a potential witness, carrying a coffin on their shoulders. The usual result is for the witness to hastily leave the district.

## Cardinal hails resolution against euthanasia

By Julie Asher

Washington (NC) — Cardinal Joseph L. Bernardin of Chicago has hailed a proposed resolution in the House of Representatives as a chance for Congress to oppose physician-assisted suicide for the terminally ill.

In California, the state bishops' conference opposed a drive to place an initiative on the ballot in November to permit physician-assisted suicide.

In a letter sent February 11 to all members of Congress, the cardinal, chairman of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee for Pro-Life Activities, urged support for House Concurrent Resolution 194, introduced by Rep. Christopher H. Smith, R-N.J.

In the resolution, Smith, a Catholic, called for a greater appreciation of the inherent value of human life and for improved efforts at the state and national levels to prevent suicide.

Cardinal Bernardin said the measure would afford lawmakers an opportunity to take a stand against a "misguided campaign" spearheaded by the national Hemlock Society to promote legalized physician-assisted euthanasia and "rational" suicide.

"This resolution presents an opportunity for national lawmakers to go on record regarding what may well become one of the fundamental domestic human rights issues of the late 20th century," the cardinal said.

He pointed to the movement for legalized euthanasia in California spearheaded by the Hemlock Society and its political arm, Americans Against Human Suffering.

The proposed California initiative would make it legal for physicians — upon the request of a terminally ill patient — to give the patient an instantly lethal prescription-

drug dose.

Current state law allows a healthy person to authorize removal of life-saving measures in the event of a terminal illness. Courts have also authorized doctors to withhold food and water at the request of an incurably ill patient.

Under the California proposal, called "The Humane and Dignified Death Act," a "qualified patient" — one determined by two physicians to be suffering from a terminal condition — could issue a written directive for "aid-in-dying."

A "terminal condition" means an incurable condition that would, in the opinion of the two certifying physicians, produce death within six months.

A draft of the bill defines "aid-in-dying" as "any medical procedure that will terminate the life of the qualified patient swiftly,

painlessly and humanely."

Also, a psychiatrist would have to certify that the patient was rational, and the patient's request would have to be made in writing and renewed after a 10-day waiting period.

Cardinal Bernardin warned that if the initiative succeeds, similar proposals would be introduced in other states.

The California Catholic Conference issued a flier explaining the initiative in that state and asking voters not to be "fooled into signing."

The conference said passage of such a proposal would "open the door to killing off the vulnerable and unwanted in our society ... would overturn God's commandment" and "do violence" to physicians' vocation to foster life.

## Nicaraguan peace talks suspended

Guatemala City (NC) — Nicaraguan Cardinal Miguel Obando Bravo, acting as a mediator between the Nicaraguan government and guerrillas, suspended the latest round of peace talks February 19, saying that no progress was being made.

"Since there is no consensus on the mediator's proposal, the mediator believes there is no reason at this time to continue these conversations," the cardinal said in a statement he read to journalists in Guatemala City.

The cardinal said the Nicaraguan government "doesn't believe the Nicaraguan Resistance wants to reach a cease-fire." He said members of the Resistance "don't believe the government wants to bring democracy to Nicaragua."

He also insisted that when representatives of the two sides arrive at the next round of talks, they have the authority to make decisions on the spot. It was not immediately known when new talks would be scheduled, but both sides said they were willing, in principle, to meet again.

The previous evening, after two hours of talks had not produced results, Cardinal Obando Bravo suggested a compromise. He called on the government to allow complete freedom of expression, free all political prisoners, reconsider its military draft law and resume dialogue with opposition political parties.

The cardinal's compromise asked the contras to pull back their forces into special zones for a 30-day truce.