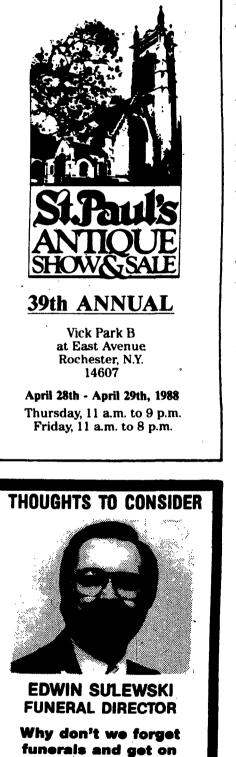
## Thursday, April 21, 1988





## World & Nation Father Curran loses license, keeps tenure

## By Jerry Filteau

Washington (NC) — The Catholic University of America's board of trustees stripped Father Charles E. Curran of his church license to teach April 12, but said the priest still holds tenure and can teach outside the university's Vatican-accredited theology department.

The board said it instructed top university officials "to enter into discussions with Father Curran concerning an alternative teaching assignment within an area of his professional competence."

It said he is barred from "teaching in the university's department of theology," where he has been a professor for 22 years, but that his "tenure with the university" has not been removed.

The board action came nearly two years after the Vatican Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith declared that Father Curran was unfit to teach Catholic theology because of his continuing dissent from Church teachings on the indissolubility of marriage and a number of moral issues.

Father Curran's battles with the Vatican go back to 1968, when he led public dissent by hundreds of American and European theologians against the teaching of *Humanae Vitae*, the encyclical in which Pope Paul VI reaffirmed church teachings prohibiting the use of artificial birth control.

Since the doctrinal congregation's declaration against him was published in August 1986, Father Curran has not been allowed to teach at Catholic University.

The priest was on sabbatical leave during the fall semester following the congregation's

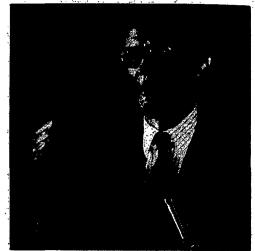
decree. Shortly before the start of the 1987 spring semester, Archbishop James A. Hickey of Washington, chancellor of the university, told Father Curran he would be suspended from teaching until final resolution of his case.

The university cancelled the three spring courses Father Curran had been scheduled to teach. He subsequently filed a lawsuit, which is still pending in the Superior Court of the District of Columbia, claiming that the university violated his civil contract by suspending him.

For the 1987-88 school year, Father Curran accepted a one-year visiting professorship in Catholic studies at Ithaca's Cornell University and, through internal Catholic University procedures, appealed Archbishop Hickey's decision to seek withdrawal of the "canonical mission" professors need to teach in CVA's theology department.

The trustees' decision to pursue an alternative teaching assignment for Father Curran represented a partial victory for the theologian. In an earlier statement just recently made public, the board questioned whether the priest could teach theology anywhere in the university in light of the Vatican decision that he is "neither suitable nor eligible to teach Catholic theology."

In a short statement released by his lawyers in New York and Washington, Father Curran said he was "gratified" that the board affirmed his rights of tenure at the university, although he was "obviously disappointed by" the decision to withdraw his canonical mission.

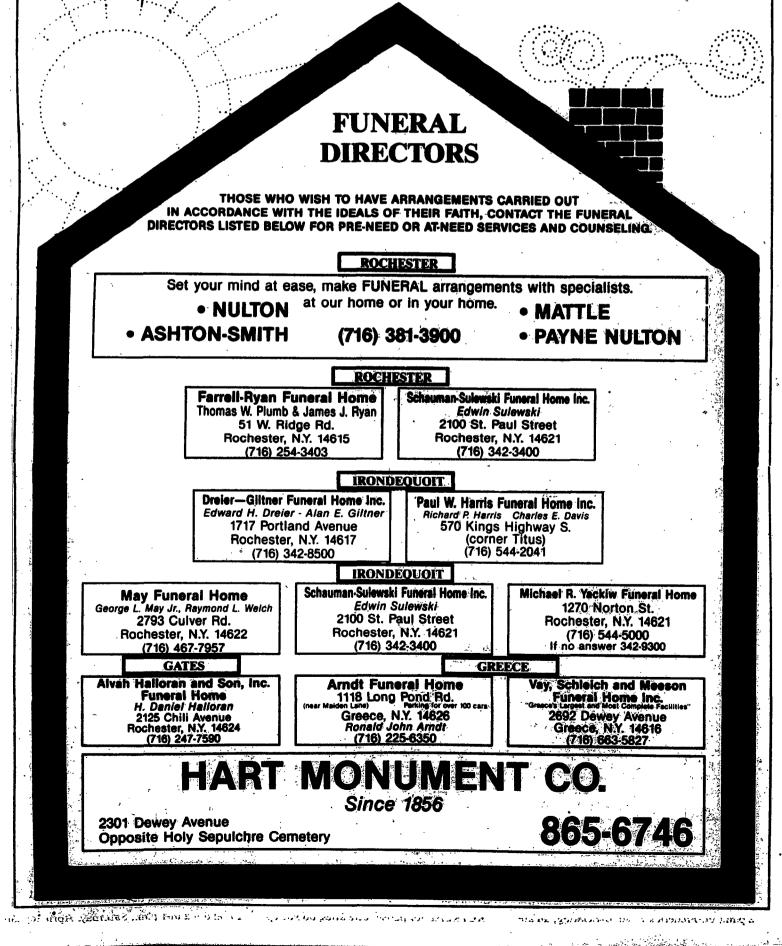


Father Charles E. Curran

"However," Father Curran added, "before the university proceedings even commenced, I offered to move out of the department of theology so long as I could continue to teach in the area of my competence. The board's action appears to acknowledge that such a resolution may now be acceptable.

"If that proves to be correct, then we should be able to move quickly to put this matter behind us and get on with our work," he said.

The board said it had authorized Archbishop Hickey, Cardinal Joseph L. Bernardin of Chicago, chairman of the board, and Jesuit Father William J. Byron, president of the university, to discuss a possible alternative post with Father Curran.



residents and national heroes die the nation has elaborate ceremonies to mark their deaths. We mourn heroes because their lives mean something to us, they are important to the morale and life of our nation. When someone we love dies we mourn also. They are important to us and we need to mark their passing with appropriate ceremonies. The ceremonies we have for the deceased help us express our feelings about the person's life and our feelings of loss. Through ceremony we express tribute and say goodbye to those who have been close to us. If we did not take the time to express our feelings at a formal ceremony we would find it more difficult to let go of the past and get on with living. We purchase all forms of insurance to protect our family & assets, not because we expect the worst to happen, but to be prepared. Doesn't it make sense

with living?

happen, but to be prepared. Doesn't it make sense then to prepare for what will happen. Let our trained counselors assist you with the many options available in planning for a worry-free future. Burial Cremation Entombment SCHAUMAN-SULEWSKI FUNERAL HOME

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