

World & Nation

Cincinnati archbishop addresses concerns about pastor with AIDS

By Deborah McCarty Smith
Dayton, Ohio (NC) — Archbishop Daniel E. Pilarczyk of Cincinnati met April 25 with members of Corpus Christi Parish in Dayton as they struggled to cope with the news that their pastor, Father Robert Apking, has resigned because he has AIDS.

Parishioners learned of the priest's illness April 21 in letters from Archbishop Pilarczyk and Father Apking, 48. Since 1979 Father Apking has been pastor of the Dayton church, which is in the Cincinnati Archdiocese.

Parishioners filled the church to discuss their concerns with a panel that included the archbishop and a Dayton physician who treat victims of Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome.

Among other questions, parishioners asked if they could start a fund to help offset the priest's medical expenses and if he could

continue to live in the rectory so they could help to care for him. The priest has moved in with relatives. Many also wanted to know if they would have "the chance to say goodbye."

Archbishop Pilarczyk said he had learned of Father Apking's illness about a month ago

Pope expresses concern about labor unrest, strikes in his native Poland

By John Thavis
Vatican City (NC) — Pope John Paul II expressed his concern about the spreading labor unrest in his native Poland, saying workers and the communist authorities should seek a Gospel-based resolution to their differences.

"Labor in Poland should be for man and should help him advance in every sense," the pope told a group of Polish pilgrims May 1, the feast of St. Joseph the Worker.

The strikes had begun in Polish steel mills

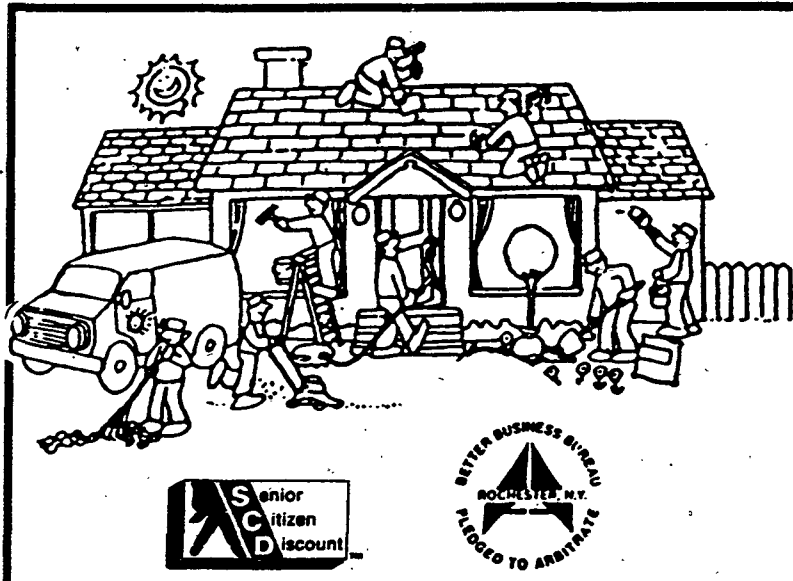
and that together the two men decided how to tell parishioners. In making the news public "we have treated parishioners like adult human beings," Archbishop Pilarczyk said.

Patrick Donnelly, vice president of Corpus Christi's parish council, told the *Catholic*

Telegraph, archdiocesan newspaper, that he had yet "to see anyone who is not supportive of Father Bob. People are coming out of the woodwork to offer to help him, the pastoral staff and parish council. It's just amazing."

The government was attempting to head off other strikes around the country by promising higher wages. It has said it will not consider legalizing Solidarity.

Archbishop Bronislaw Dabrowski, an official of the Polish bishops' conference, said May 1 that the strike was a matter of "the cost of living." To compensate for soaring inflation, the steelworkers were asking for a 50 percent pay raise on average monthly salaries of about \$105.



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